



2021 DIVISION I MEN'S
ICE HOCKEY
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2020-21 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

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 eight 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. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

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, etc.).

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.20 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.17 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.17 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in NCAA championships. If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host championship concussion management plan will be activated.

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

A concussion is a brain injury that may be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head. Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness or other obvious signs. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the previous one (hours, days or weeks) can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having more severe and/or long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

For further details, please refer to the [NCAA Sport Science Institute website](#) for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.1.5 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 4•2 Drug Testing

[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I), 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division II) and 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division III), 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 4•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 4•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 4•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, etc.) 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 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

Section 5 • 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 access the online form and submit a nomination, go to ncaa.org.

Section 6 • 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 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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

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

It is essential that all research efforts be coordinated by a single entity within the national office structure in order to ensure maximum efficiency and quality, avoid unnecessary duplication of effort on the part of staff and membership, allow the NCAA to prioritize research efforts given the limited time and resources of our members and adhere to federal guidelines on the responsibilities of researchers to properly protect research participants from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, "research" is defined as any systematic collection of data for the purpose of drawing generalized conclusions.

Any proposal to conduct research must be submitted to the NCAA research staff for review at least six weeks before the project begins. Research to be conducted during NCAA championships or related events, and which involves competing student-athletes or attendees, is also subject to review. This includes all research, including that conducted by or under the direction of any employee, contractor or paid consultant of the NCAA. It also includes any research conducted by other persons, but funded totally or in part by the NCAA. Any research that detracts from the student-athlete experience or requires physical activity may not be permitted at the championships (preliminary rounds and finals sites). The NCAA retains sole discretion as to whether to allow such research.

Examples of activities considered research include: Conducting surveys of athletics administrators, college presidents, faculty, coaches and student-athletes; leading an organized focus group; funding an outside study under the auspices of the NCAA; conducting market research at championship events; secondary analysis of data originally collected by the NCAA from people for other purposes; any systematic collection of data from the membership or other entities; etc.

Section 9 • Division I

Section 9•1 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).

Division I Men's Ice Hockey

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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 committee are:

EAST REGION (ATLANTIC HOCKEY)**Derek Schooley**

Men's Ice Hockey Coach
Robert Morris University

EAST REGION (ECAC HOCKEY)**Mike Schafer**

Men's Ice Hockey Coach
Cornell University

EAST REGION (HOCKEY EAST)**Jeffrey Schulman**

Director of Athletics
University of Vermont

WEST REGION (BIG TEN)**Michael Cross**

Assistant Athletics Director
Pennsylvania State University

WEST REGION (NCHC)**Mike Kemp, Chair**

Associate Athletics Director
University of Nebraska Omaha

WEST REGION (WCHA)**Bob Daniels**

Men's Ice Hockey Coach
Ferris State University

Frank D. Cole is the NCAA national officiating coordinator for ice hockey, and Jeff Fulton is the NCAA secretary-rules editor. Andy Supergan is the NCAA staff liaison for playing rules.

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Sunday, March 21	Championship selections and pairings announced, 7 p.m. Eastern time (ESPNU HD).
Monday, March 22	Administrative conference calls with 16 participating teams. Albany Regional (Albany, New York), 10 a.m. Eastern time. Bridgeport Regional (Bridgeport, Connecticut), 11:30 a.m. Eastern time. Fargo Regional (Fargo, North Dakota), 1 p.m. Eastern time. Loveland Regional (Loveland, Colorado), 2:30 p.m. Eastern time.
Friday, March 26	Bridgeport and Fargo regionals first round.
Saturday, March 27	Bridgeport and Fargo regionals finals, Albany and Loveland regionals first round.
Sunday, March 28	Albany and Loveland regionals finals.
Tuesday, March 30	Administrative conference call with four semifinal teams.
Thursday, April 8	National semifinals (Pittsburgh).
Saturday, April 10	National championship game (Pittsburgh).

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Bridgeport Regional (March 26-27)	Webster Bank Arena
Fargo Regional (March 26-27)	Scheels Arena
Albany Regional (March 27-28)	Times Union Center
Loveland Regional (March 27-28)	Budweiser Events Center
2021 Men's Frozen Four (April 8 and 10)	PPG Paints Arena

DATE FORMULA

Regionals (4)	Friday-Saturday OR Saturday-Sunday, two weeks before Frozen Four
Frozen Four	Thursday and Saturday after the first Sunday in April

FUTURE DATES

2022

Regionals (March 25-27)	Albany, NY - Times Union Center Allentown, PA - PPL Center Loveland, CO - Budweiser Events Center Worcester, MA - DCU Center
Men's Frozen Four (April 7 and 9)	TD Garden, Boston

2023

Regionals (March 24-26)	Allentown, PA - PPL Center Bridgeport, CT - Webster Bank Arena Fargo, ND - Scheels Arena Manchester, NH - SNHU Arena
Men's Frozen Four (April 6 and 8)	Amalie Arena, Tampa, FL

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2024

Regionals (March 29-31)

Maryland Heights, MO - Centene Community Ice Center
Providence, RI - Dunkin' Donuts Center
Sioux Falls, SD - Denny Sanford PREMIER Center
Springfield, MA - MassMutual Center

Men's Frozen Four (April 11 and 13)

Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul, MN

2025

Regionals (March 28-30)

Allentown, PA - PPL Center
Fargo, ND - Scheels Arena
Manchester, NH - SNHU Arena
Toledo, OH - Huntington Center

Men's Frozen Four (April 10 and 12)

Enterprise Center, St. Louis

2026

Regionals (March 27-29)

Albany, NY - Times Union Center
Loveland, CO - Budweiser Events Center
Sioux Falls, SD - Denny Sanford PREMIER Center
Worcester, MA - DCU Center

Men's Frozen Four (April 9 and 11)

T-Mobile Arena, Las Vegas

Section 1•4 Equipment

NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules shall be followed.

Section 1•5 Rules

NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules shall be followed.

OFFICIATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Must have participated in an NCAA conference clinic or preseason meeting.
2. Must be recommended by a Division I conference.
3. Form must go to the conference's representative on the committee as well as the national coordinator.
4. It is highly recommended that officials work a minimum of 20 Division I games at the position for which they are recommended (referee or linesman).
5. Conference must confirm that all recommended officials are physically capable to officiate.
6. Fifteen (15) league games consider an official to be a representative from that league. League games are between two teams in the same league. Conference championships and non-conference games assigned by a league do not count toward this number.
7. All officials must agree to and pass an NCAA background check.
8. All officials must complete the online NCAA rules exam.
9. All officials must complete the online NCAA rules and officiating clinic.

TIMELINE

September/October	Conference/NCAA clinics.
Sept. 1	Arbiter hub opens.
Nov. 1	Deadline for NCAA Background Check Form to be received at NCAA. Deadline to complete NCAA online clinic and rules test.
Jan. 27	Initial recommendations due from conferences to NCAA national coordinator and staff liaison.
Feb. 20	Final recommendations due from conferences to NCAA national coordinator and staff liaison.
March 21	Teams selected for championship; national coordinator submits recommendations to committee.
March 22	Bracket publicly announced; national coordinator notifies coordinators and officials of selections.
March 23	National coordinator confirms travel arrangements have been made and all officials have received documents with instructions for championship.
March 26-28	Division I regionals.
March 31	Men's Frozen Four recommendations submitted to Division I committee; officials notified of assignment by national coordinator when approved.
April 7	Officials must arrive at Men's Frozen Four site by 2 p.m. local time for pre-tournament meeting.
April 8 and 10	Men's Frozen Four.

Officials. Officials for all championship competition are selected by the Ice Hockey Committee based on recommendations submitted by the NCAA national ice hockey coordinator of officials and NCAA conferences/associations.

Policies. A sports 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 sports committee or games committee, 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.

Background checks. All officials must complete and pass the NCAA background check to be considered for assignment.

Selection and assignment of officials. Selection and assignment of officials for all tournament games will be made by the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

1. NCAA Division I conferences that sponsor ice hockey will be asked to recommend referees and linesmen believed to be capable of officiating in the NCAA tournament. All recommendations will be considered by the committee without bias; however, the committee will be the final decision-making authority as to the selection and assignment of officials for all NCAA tournament games.
2. Division I supervisors of officials (or the conference administrator responsible for ice hockey) and conference game officials are required to participate in the NCAA rules clinics conducted annually in the fall. These clinics are generally in conjunction with the conference clinics. [Note: Failure to comply with this requirement could subject a conference, institution or individual to one or more of the following: (a) no officiating assignment(s) in the NCAA tournament; (b) maximum assessment of \$500 per offense; and (c) withdrawal of automatic qualification from the involved conference, or, for independent institutions, possibly not being considered for at-large selection.]
3. The two-referee, two-linesman system shall be used in all NCAA competition. A conference that does not use this system during regular-season and conference tournament competition shall not have its officials selected for NCAA contests, unless approved previously by the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee, and the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee. Neutral conference officials will be assigned by the committee. Linesmen will be joined by conference. Referees from a neutral conference and linesmen from another neutral conference may be assigned to a game.
4. No official shall be assigned to any session unless the official agrees to refrain from entering into any officiating commitment the day before the tournament game date. The official also must agree to be at the site of the game by 4 p.m. the afternoon before the competition, remain in the immediate vicinity and be readily available to the committee representative until the completion of the assignment(s) at that site. One official from each crew must contact the Ice Hockey Committee representative immediately upon arrival and notify the representative in case of any unforeseen delay. It may be necessary for officials to travel to more than one regional in the same tournament.

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5. Participating teams shall not be advised of the officials assigned to their competition until 90 minutes before the game. Accordingly, officials shall not be contacted by or make contact with the host institution or any of its representatives; all contact shall be through and with the Ice Hockey Committee representative staffing the competition or the national coordinator of officials.
6. Officials shall be responsible for making their own transportation arrangements to the site of competition and for their local ground transportation while at the site. If air transportation is used, the official must make such arrangements through the NCAA travel service, Short's Travel Management (866-821-8547). Airport parking is considered part of the officials' per diem. Parking at the hotel on-site, if needed, will be reimbursed. The Ice Hockey Committee representative shall advise officials of hotel accommodations arranged by the NCAA, and officials shall notify the representative when they arrive at the site or of any unforeseen delay in arrival. The NCAA will establish a master account with the hotel to which officials' rooms, tax and parking (if applicable) shall be charged.
7. The Ice Hockey Committee representative shall meet with the officials upon their arrival to review their responsibilities the night before competition.
8. Officials' fees and expenses shall be as follows: Referees shall receive a fee of \$565 per game (\$680 for Frozen Four); linesmen will be provided with a fee of \$285 per game (\$405 for Frozen Four). The alternate referee shall receive a fee of \$250 per game (\$270 for Frozen Four) and alternate linesmen shall receive a fee of \$135 per game (\$180 for Frozen Four). The video replay official shall receive a fee of \$160 per game (\$165 for Frozen Four). In addition, officials for the championship may claim actual transportation expenses, but they may not exceed jet coach fare or the approved NCAA rate per mile. The Video Ice Level Coordinator shall receive a fee of \$150 per game.
9. A minimum of two tickets shall be made available for officials to purchase for any tournament session in which they officiate.
10. The alternate official shall be in uniform. If transportation and housing are required, the alternate officials shall be reimbursed according to the regular tournament formula for expenses. If the alternate official officiates a game, the fee will be the same as for the replaced official.
11. Game officials shall wear an NCAA patch on their uniforms while officiating in NCAA tournament play. Conference or other association patches are not permitted.
12. Officials shall be housed in separate quarters from teams and/or their followers, and shall not fraternize or socialize with them.
13. All officials shall arrive at the game site two hours before faceoff time.
14. Officials will not participate in any tournament-related activities before, during or after the game, except officiating the contest.

Evaluation of officials. At each regional site, evaluations will be submitted by the NCAA evaluator, committee members and liaisons (if applicable). After each game, the head evaluator will meet with the game officials and share a critique of the performance. This will be based on the evaluation form developed by the NCAA.

Considering these evaluations and conference neutrality, the committee member, liaison and evaluator on site will assign officials for the next day's competition at the regional site. The liaison and evaluator will communicate the decision as soon as possible to the officials.

For Frozen Four selections, all evaluations during the regional round will be considered. The national coordinator will make recommendations for assignment to the committee based on evaluations and potential conference matchups at the Frozen Four. The committee will hold a conference call to discuss these recommendations and make adjustments as the committee sees fit. Officials again will be notified as soon as possible of their assignment.

Section 1•6 Uniforms

Each participating institution should be prepared to bring both home and away uniforms to the site of the competition. The home team shall wear light or white jerseys.

LOGOS

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

Division I Additional Requirements

The logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel set forth in 12.5.4 shall apply during the NCAA championships to all personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers) who are on the team bench for practices and games or who participate in news conferences. Also, the logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel as set forth in 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.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

NCAA member institutions that sponsor Division I men's ice hockey are eligible for the Division I championship. The Division I championship will include 16 teams.

The championship playoff format involves four predetermined regional sites with four teams assigned to each site. Regional competition will be conducted March 26-28.

The four regional winners advance to the Men's Frozen Four, which will be conducted April 8 (semifinals) and April 10 (final). The entire championship will use a single-elimination format.

START TIMES

Game times for the regionals are:

Bridgeport	March 26: TBD Eastern time	March 27: TBD Eastern time
Fargo	March 26: TBD Central time	March 27: TBD Central time
Albany	March 27: TBD Eastern time	March 28: TBD Eastern time
Loveland	March 27: TBD Mountain time	March 28: TBD Mountain time

All regional games will be broadcast live on an ESPN network (television and/or online).

Regionals. There shall be three hours, 30 minutes between the start times of the games. A game will not start before its originally scheduled time. There shall be a minimum of 53 minutes between each game.

Semifinals. There shall be three hours, 30 minutes between the start times of the games. A game will not start before its originally scheduled time. There shall be a minimum of 53 minutes between each game.

The national semifinals will start at 5 p.m. Eastern time (live on ESPN2 HD) and 9 p.m. Eastern time (live on ESPN2 HD), Thursday, April 8.

The national championship game (live on ESPN2 HD) will start at 7 p.m. Eastern time, Saturday, April 10.

Times and sequences of games are tentative and are subject to change by the NCAA.

TRAVEL PARTY

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 37. Please refer to the NCAA Travel Policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found on the NCAA website at ncaa.org. The NCAA is not responsible for the expenses of persons beyond these limits.

Participating teams are limited to 19 skaters plus not more than three nor fewer than two goalies on the bench for competition. Participating teams are limited to a squad size of 24 eligible student-athletes. Replacements are permitted up to the starting time of the game; after the game begins, no replacements shall be permitted for any reason. The bench size is 28.

Section 2•2 Results

The RPI will be posted on ncaa.com beginning in mid-February.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

Selection Requirements. For 2020-21, teams will not be required to have an overall won-lost record of .500 or better to be considered during the at-large selection process. Division I institutions that wish to participate in the Division I championship must schedule a minimum of 13 games against Division I opponents.

Bylaw 31.3.3.1 – Countable Competition. For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Constitution 3.2.4.5) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet approved one automatic berth each for the Atlantic Hockey Association, Big Ten Conference, ECAC Hockey, Hockey East Association, National Collegiate Hockey Conference and Western Collegiate Hockey Association. The committee will complete the bracket by selecting 10 at-large teams.

Institutions are encouraged to watch the selection announcement, Sunday, March 21, on ESPNU HD at 7 p.m. Eastern time. (Note: Information regarding the broadcast will be available via the NCAA website at ncaa.com.)

For information regarding the geographical boundaries of the East and West regions, please refer to [Appendix B](#).

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]:

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

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Men's Ice Hockey Committee has received approval from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the Men's Ice Hockey Championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- Head-to-Head Results
- Results vs. Common Opponents
- Quality Wins
- Home/Away Weighting

Due to the very limited number of inter-conference games played this year, the committee has determined that the statistical value of the Pairwise and RPI is not what it is in a typical year. As a result, the committee will not be using a strict Pairwise comparison as the sole determinant for at-large selection and seeding; however, the various criteria listed above that have made up the Pairwise and RPI will be the primary basis for consideration by the committee in its selection and seeding process.

Due to the unusual nature of this year's selection process, the committee will institute the use of two regional advisory committees comprised of six members each. Three national committee members from each region, as well as an additional coach from each conference in the region, will serve on the regional advisory committees. The representatives were provided to the committee based on recommendations from the conference commissioners. These committees will assist in the observation and evaluation of teams and provide recommendations to the national committee.

SEEDING AND PAIRINGS

The following steps are taken during the selection meeting:

In setting up the tournament, the committee begins with a list of priorities to ensure a successful tournament on all fronts, including competitive equity, financial success and the likelihood of a playoff-type atmosphere at each regional site. For this model, the following is a basic set of priorities:

1. Once the six automatic qualifiers and 10 at-large teams are selected, the next step is to develop four groups from the committee's rankings of 1-16. The top four teams are No. 1 seeds and will be placed in the bracket so that if all four teams advance to the Men's Frozen Four, the No. 1 seed will play the No. 4 seed and the No. 2 seed will play the No. 3 seed in the semifinals. The next four are targeted as No. 2 seeds. The next four are No. 3 seeds and the last four are No. 4 seeds.
2. Step two is to place the home teams. Host institutions that qualify will be placed at home.
3. Step three is to fill in the bracket so that first-round conference matchups are avoided, unless it corrupts the integrity of the bracket. If five or more teams from one conference are selected to the championship, then the integrity of the bracket will be protected (i.e., maintaining the pairing process according to seed will take priority over avoidance of first-round conference matchups). To complete each regional, the committee assigns one team from each of the remaining seeded groups so there is a No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 seed at each regional site.

Note: The seeding and pairings criteria are subject to change per the policies of the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee.

CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE

A series of four regional conference calls will be conducted on Monday, March 22, with the participating teams, directors of athletics, coaches, sports information directors, local organizing committees and the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee to review the administration of regional competition.

A similar conference call will be conducted at 10 a.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, March 30, with the semifinalist teams and institutional personnel as noted above to review the administration of the championship competition.

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Appendix A • Bracket



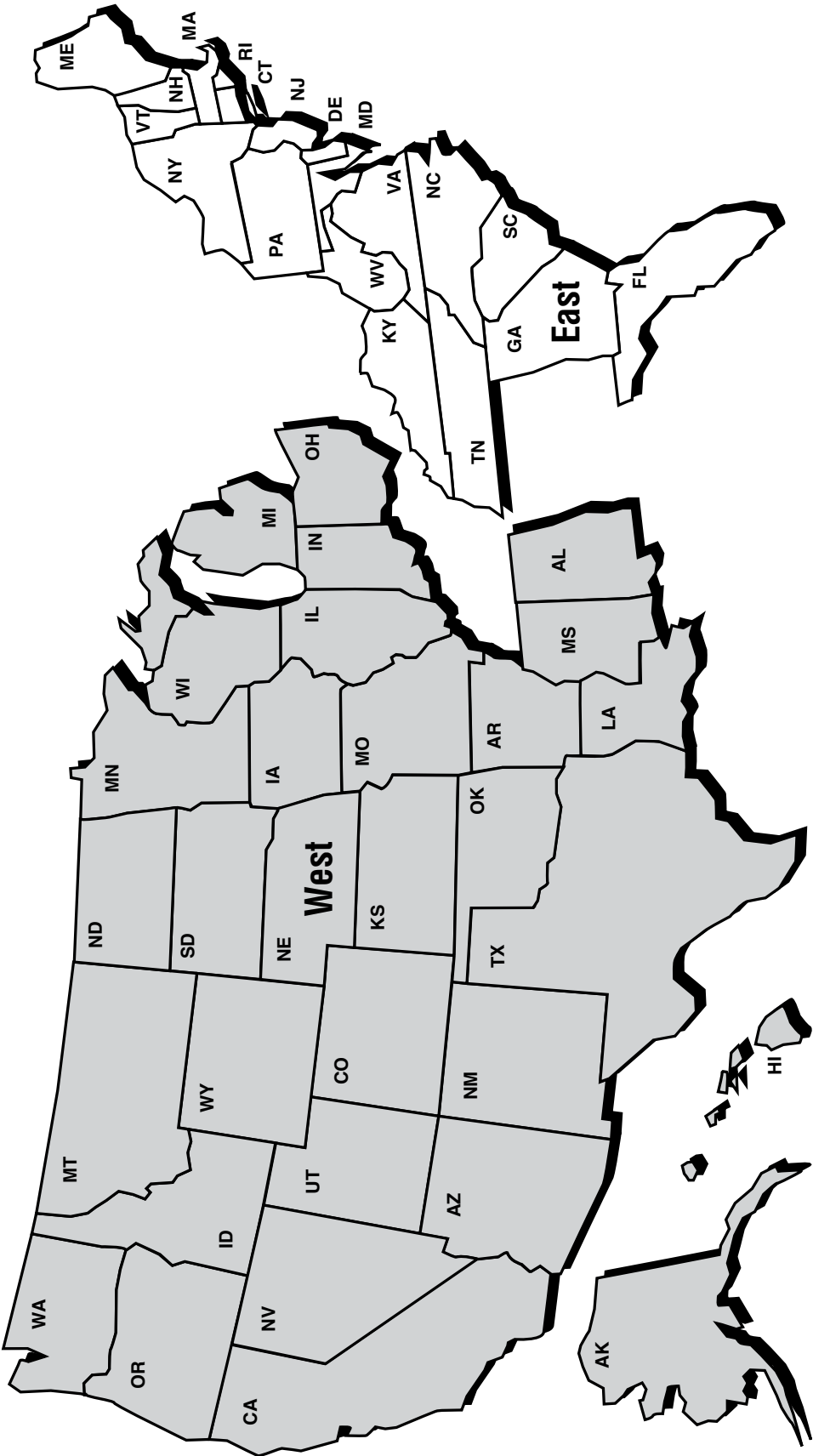
2021 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship



All times are Eastern time.
Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Regions



Appendix C • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

Independent (1)

Long Island University

Atlantic Hockey Association (11)

American International College

Bentley University

Canisius College

College of the Holy Cross

Mercyhurst University

Niagara University

Robert Morris University

Rochester Institute of Technology

Sacred Heart University

U.S. Air Force Academy

U.S. Military Academy

AQ – Conference Tournament

ECAC Hockey (12)

Brown University

Clarkson University

Colgate University

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Harvard University

Princeton University

Quinnipiac University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

St. Lawrence University

Union College (New York)

Yale University

AQ – Conference Tournament

Hockey East Association (11)

Boston College

Boston University

University of Connecticut

University of Maine, Orono

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Massachusetts Lowell

Merrimack College

University of New Hampshire

Northeastern University

Providence College

University of Vermont

AQ – Conference Tournament

WEST REGION

Independent (1)

Arizona State University

Big Ten Conference (7)

University of Michigan
 Michigan State University
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
 University of Notre Dame

Pennsylvania State University
 The Ohio State University
 University of Wisconsin-Madison

AQ – Conference Tournament

National Collegiate Hockey Conference (8)

Colorado College
 University of Denver
 Miami University (Ohio)
 University of Minnesota Duluth

University of Nebraska Omaha
 University of North Dakota
 St. Cloud State University
 Western Michigan University

AQ – Conference Tournament

Western Collegiate Hockey Association (10)

University of Alabama in Huntsville
 University of Alaska Anchorage
 University of Alaska Fairbanks
 Bemidji State University
 Bowling Green State University

Ferris State University
 Lake Superior State University
 Michigan Technological University
 Minnesota State University, Mankato
 Northern Michigan University

AQ – Conference Tournament