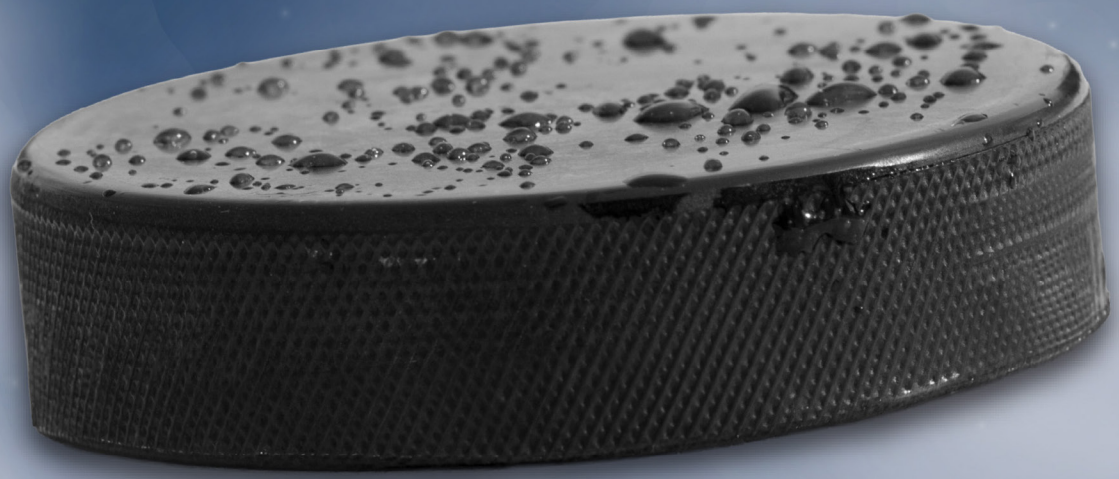
2027 DI MEN'S FROZEN FOUR®

WASHINGTON D.C.

PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2026-27 MANUAL



NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2026-27 academic year, the Association will sponsor 94 national championships — 43 for men, 49 for women and two for both men and women. Of the men's championships, four are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, 10 are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

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

Sections one through nine apply to policies applicable to all 94 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1•1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3•2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

championships can be improved for future NCAA student-athletes. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via QR code found on the back of NCAA-issued championship credentials.

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

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

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

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

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaw 22.4.1 in the NCAA Division I Manual, 17.1.10 Bylaw in the NCAA Division II Manual and 12.5.3 Bylaw 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 pregame and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pregame or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met.

(a) 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

(b) The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) 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 four square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Religious Conflicts

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

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

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

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

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

Division I Men's Ice Hockey

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Section 1 • General Administration

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Section 1•2 Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship Subcommittee

Current members of the committee are:

WEST REGION (NCHC)

Josh Berlo
Vice Chancellor for Athletics and RC Operations
University of Denver

WEST REGION (BIG TEN)

Josh Richelew, chair
Sport Administrator
University of Michigan

WEST REGION (CCHA)

Luke Strand
Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach
Minnesota State University, Mankato

EAST REGION (HOCKEY EAST)

Blake James
Director of Athletics
Boston College

EAST REGION (ATLANTIC HOCKEY)

Bill Riga
Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach
College of Holy Cross

EAST REGION (ECAC HOCKEY)

Tim Troville
Senior Associate Director of Athletics
Harvard University

Jeff Fulton is the NCAA national officiating coordinator for ice hockey, and Steve Piotrowski is the NCAA secretary-rules editor.

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. Fargo Regional (Fargo, ND) Hartford Regional (Hartford, CT) Loveland Regional (Loveland, CO) Springfield Regional (Springfield, MA)
Thursday, March 25	Fargo and Springfield regionals first rounds.
Friday, March 26	Hartford and Loveland regionals first rounds.
Saturday, March 27	Fargo and Springfield regional finals.
Sunday, March 28	Hartford and Loveland regional finals.
Tuesday, March 30	Administrative conference call with four semifinal teams.
Thursday, April 8	National semifinals (Washington, D.C.).
Saturday, April 10	National championship game (Washington, D.C.).

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Fargo Regional (March 25 and 27)	SCHEELS Arena
Hartford Regional (March 26 and 28)	PeoplesBank Arena
Loveland Regional (March 26 and 28)	Blue FCU Arena
Springfield Regional (March 25 and 27)	MassMutual Center
2027 Men's Frozen Four (April 8 and 10)	Capital One Arena

DATE FORMULA

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

FUTURE DATES

2028

Regionals (March 23-26)	Allentown, PA; Fargo, ND; Rochester, NY; and Sioux Falls, SD
Men's Frozen Four (April 6 and 8)	United Center, Chicago, IL

2029

Regionals (March 22-25)	TBD
Men's Frozen Four (April 5 and 7)	TBD

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. Eighteen (18) league games, or working quarterfinal or beyond in the conference format, consider an official to be a representative from that league. League games are between two teams in the same league. Conference championships and nonconference 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	RefQuest+ 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. 15	Initial recommendations due from conferences to NCAA national coordinator and staff liaison.
Feb. 19	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 21	Bracket publicly announced; national coordinator notifies coordinators and officials of selections.
March 22	National coordinator confirms travel arrangements have been made and all officials have received documents with instructions for championship.
March 25-28	Division I regionals.
March 30	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 pretournament 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 Oversight Committee, Championship Subcommittee 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.
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 $630 per game ($740 for Frozen Four); linesmen will be provided with a fee of $330 per game ($525 for Frozen Four). The alternate referee shall receive a fee of $200 per game ($250 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 $110 ($115 for Frozen Four) 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 25-28.

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:

Fargo	March 25: TBD Central time	March 27: TBD Central time
Hartford	March 26: TBD Eastern time	March 28: TBD Eastern time
Loveland	March 26: TBD Mountain time	March 28: TBD Mountain time
Springfield	March 25: TBD Eastern time	March 27: TBD Eastern 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), Thursday, April 8.

The national championship game (live on ESPN) will start at 6:30 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. Division I institutions that wish to participate in the Division I championship must schedule a minimum of 20 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, Central Collegiate Hockey Association, ECAC Hockey, Hockey East Association and National Collegiate Hockey Conference. The committee will complete the bracket by selecting 10 at-large teams.

Institutions are encouraged to watch the selection announcement, Sunday, March 21.

NOTE: Information regarding the broadcast will be available via **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 sport 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):

- NCAA Percentage Index (NPI) [win percentage (25%) and strength of schedule (75%)];
- Overtime won/lost weighting;
- Home/away weighting; and
- Quality wins bonus.

Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used by the Men's Ice Hockey Committee for selection purposes.

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. The committee may adjust matchups within a band (i.e., 1 seeds = teams 1-4; 2 seeds = teams 5-8; 3 seeds = teams 9-12; and 4 seeds = teams 13-16) by no more than two spots when there is minimal separation in the Pairwise total, in order to create better attendance/atmosphere at a regional site.

2. Place the home teams. Host institutions that qualify will be placed at home.

3. 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 may 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.

Appendixes

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Appendix A • Bracket

2027 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship

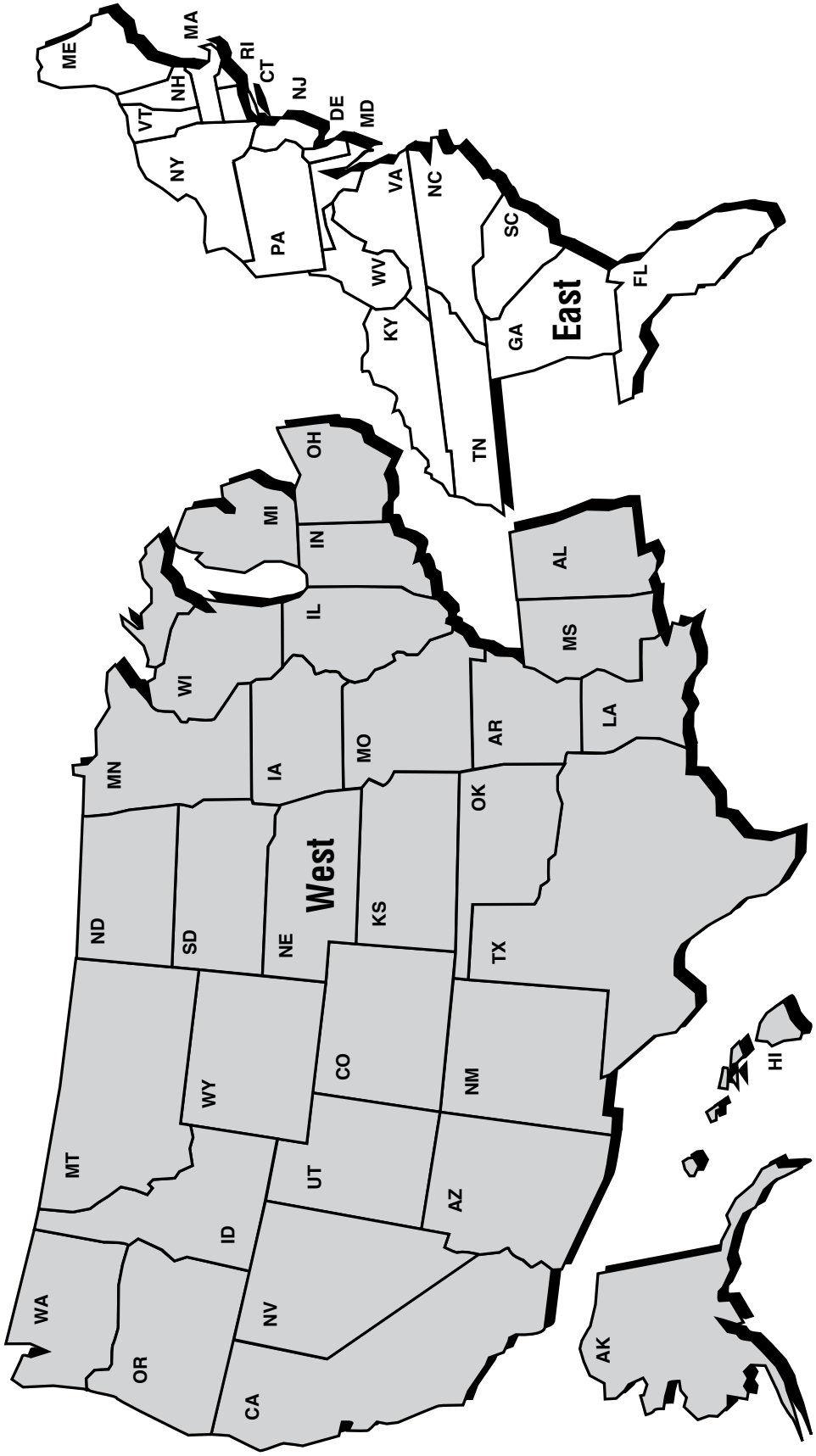
Regional Semifinals	Regional Final	Semifinals	Championship	
March 25-26	March 27-28	April 8	April 10	
1 Day, March Date - TBD TBD	Venue Name City, ST Day, March Date - TBD TBD	Capital One Arena Washington, DC 5/8:30 ESPN2	Capital One Arena Washington, DC Time TBD ESPN	NATIONAL CHAMPION
Day, March Date - TBA TBA				
4 Day, March Date - TBA TBA	Venue Name City, ST Day, March Date - TBD TBD			
Day, March Date - TBA TBA				
3 Day, March Date - TBA TBA	Venue Name City, ST Day, March Date - TBD TBD	Capital One Arena Washington, DC Time TBD ESPN2		
Day, March Date - TBA TBA				
2 Day, March Date - TBA TBA	Venue Name City, ST Day, March Date - TBD TBD			
Day, March Date - TBA TBA				

Fargo Reg. Seeds	Hartford Reg. Seeds	Loveland Reg. Seeds	Springfield Reg. Seeds
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4

All times are Eastern time.
Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Regions



Appendix C • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

Atlantic Hockey Association (9)

Bentley University
Canisius College
College of the Holy Cross
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

Independent (2)

Long Island University
Stonehill College

WEST REGION

Independent (3)

University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Lindenwood 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

Central Collegiate Hockey Association (9)

Augustana College
Bemidji State University
Bowling Green State University
Ferris State University
Lake Superior State University
Michigan Technological University
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Northern Michigan University
St. Thomas University (MN)

AQ – Conference Tournament

National Collegiate Hockey Conference (10)

Arizona State University
Colorado College
University of Denver
Miami University (Ohio)
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Nebraska Omaha
University of North Dakota
St. Cloud State University
St. Thomas University (MN)
Western Michigan University

AQ – Conference Tournament