

PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2026-27 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6222
ncaa.org
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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 pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met: (Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96)

(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 (Revised: 1/10/95)

(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 (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. (Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 7/21/26 effective 8/1/26

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 • Division III

Section 10•1 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams within a regular-season that emphasizes regional competition and minimizes missed class time; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences and at-large teams.

Section 10•2 Commencement Conflicts

[*Reference: Bylaw 31.1.4.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.*]

If an institution's commencement conflicts with participation in the championship, it shall inform the NCAA championship manager in writing one week before the selection date for the governing sport committee to consider an accommodation and a change to the championship schedule.

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

- Applies to team sports only.
- The governing sport committee, in consultation with participating institutions, may reschedule the game on the nearest possible date.
- Does not apply to predetermined finals sites.
- The governing sport committee shall make a good-faith effort to accommodate participating institutions in non-predetermined preliminary-round contests with multiple teams participating at the same site.

Section 10•3 Gameday the DIII Way

Division III promotes an atmosphere that is a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics, for everyone through Gameday the DIII Way. Gameday the DIII Way establishes an expectation for championship hosts, coaches, student-athletes and spectators to focus on the common standards of safety, responsiveness, dignity and experience while participating or attending a championship event. We ask that each participant and attendee be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Gameday the DIII Way.

Section 10•4 Religious Conflicts

[*Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division III 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 before May 1 of the preceding academic year to be excused from competing on that day. The notification shall be valid for a period of two years. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team or an individual competitor to compete before the time originally scheduled.

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

Division III Men's Ice Hockey

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Will Hopkins
Associate Director, Championships and Alliances, Operations
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6779 / whopkins@ncaa.org

TBD
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances, Operations
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
TBD / TBD

Section 1•2 National Committee

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.1 and 31.1.2 in the NCAA Manual.]

The NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship is under the control, direction and supervision of the NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee, which is subject to the final authority of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee.

Current members of the committee are:

EAST REGION

Tristan Durgin, chair
Director of Sports Information
University of New England

Brian Dickinson
Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach
SUNY Brockport

WEST REGION

Jon Garver
Major Gift Officer and Corporate Partnerships
University of Wisconsin-Superior

Tyler Walsh
Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach
Gustavus Adolphus College

Jeff Fulton is the NCAA national officiating coordinator for ice hockey. Ty Halpin is the staff liaison for rules and officiating.

For additional information about the ice hockey championship, contact:

Will Hopkins
Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6779 / whopkins@ncaa.org

Tristan Durgin, chair
Director of Sports Information
University of New England
207-602-2429 / tdurgin@une.edu

TBD
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
TBD / TBD

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Friday, Dec. 11	Bid Information posted online.
Monday, Feb. 1	First ranking (publicized) (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Monday, Feb. 8	Second ranking (publicized) (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Monday, Feb. 15	Third ranking (publicized) (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Monday, Feb. 22	Fourth ranking (publicized) (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Friday, Feb. 26	Deadline to submit materials to host preliminary and final rounds of the championship.
Monday, March 1	Fifth ranking (publicized) (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Sunday, March 7	Championship selection.

Sunday, March 7	Final ranking (publicized) and Online Selection Show on ncaa.com (9:30 p.m. Eastern time).
Saturday, March 13	First round (six single sites).
Saturday, March 20	Quarterfinals (four sites at 7 p.m.).
Friday, March 26	Semifinals (3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern time).
Sunday, March 28	Championship game (3 p.m. Eastern time).

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

First Round (six sites)	March 13, at campus sites to be determined.
Quarterfinals (four sites)	March 20, at campus sites to be determined.
Semifinals and Final	March 26-28, at a site to be determined.

DATE FORMULA

The six first-round games are held the Saturday before the quarterfinals. Quarterfinals are held the Saturday before the semifinals and final. The semifinals and final are held the fourth full weekend in March (including Friday).

FUTURE DATES

2028

First Round (six sites)	March 11, at campus sites to be determined.
Quarterfinals (four sites)	March 18, at campus sites to be determined.
Semifinals and Final	March 24-26, at Middleton, Wisconsin.

Section 1•4 Equipment

PUCKS

For preliminary rounds, the NCAA will provide the practice and game pucks. One hundred practice pucks and 50 game pucks will be shipped to each host institution. The NCAA will also provide pucks for the semifinals and final.

Section 1•5 Rules

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.6 in the NCAA Manual.]

NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules shall be followed. 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•6 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Manual.]

Each participating institution should bring both home and away uniforms to the site of the competition. The higher seed will wear light-colored uniforms. Use of a third jersey is not permissible. Only primary light and dark jerseys shall be worn. For more information on uniforms, please see Rule 3-9 of the **NCAA Ice Hockey 2026-27 and 2027-28 Rules and Interpretations**.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

NCAA Division III institutions in good standing that sponsor intercollegiate men's ice hockey are eligible for the Division III championship.

The Division III championship shall comprise 14 teams. The championship playoff format involves five single first-round games and four quarterfinal games that are played on the campuses of the participating institutions. All rounds of the championship are single-elimination. The four quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals and championship game, which will be played March 26-28.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Practice Schedule

During preliminary competition, all practice times will be scheduled with the host institution and be a minimum of one hour in length on the competition ice. During the semifinals and final competition, the following schedule will be used.

Tentative Practice Schedule (Thursday)

10-11 a.m.	Semifinal 1 (higher seed)
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	Semifinal 1 (lower seed)
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Semifinal 2 (higher seed)
1:45-2:45 p.m.	Semifinal 2 (lower seed)

Tentative Practice Schedule (Friday)

8:45-9:30 a.m.	Semifinal 1 (higher seed)
9:45-10:30 a.m.	Semifinal 1 (lower seed)
10:45-11:30 a.m.	Semifinal 2 (higher seed)
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Semifinal 2 (lower seed)

Tentative Practice Schedule (Saturday - Day of Rest)

11 a.m.-noon	Semifinal 1 winner
1-2 p.m.	Semifinal 2 winner

Tentative Practice Schedule (Sunday)

8:45-9:30 a.m.	Semifinal 1 winner
9:45-10:30 a.m.	Semifinal 2 winner

NOTE: All practice times are tentative and subject to change.

START TIMES

Faceoff for preliminary-round competition shall be determined by the host institution. However, the committee reserves the right to set game times, if necessary. The committee recommends 7 p.m. (local time) for the first and quarterfinal rounds.

The national semifinals will start at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern time, Friday, March 26. The committee will determine the order of games. The committee may determine that the host will play in the late game, if applicable.

The championship will start at 3 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, March 28.

Times and sequence of games are tentative and may be changed by the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee.

TRAVEL PARTY AND SQUAD SIZE

For Division III men's ice hockey, each team is allowed a travel party size of 28. This number includes a squad size of 23.

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 28 persons. Please refer to the NCAA travel policies on **ncaa.org** for all information regarding transportation and travel parties.

NOTE: Current playing rules permit only players in uniform and eight additional team personnel (maximum of 30). to occupy the bench area. The number of participants eligible for pregame warmup is 23 (not more than 20 players and three goalkeepers).

Section 2•2 Results

During the championship and at the conclusion of the competition, the host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official results to the NCAA official website. Please email a copy of results to **ncaa-editorial@turner.com**. Please be sure to submit all information in the following manner:

- Send the information to **ncaa-editorial@turner.com**.
- Specify the sport (Division, Championship, Round) in the SUBJECT area.
- Paste the text directly into an email or send email as an attachment in a Word document.
- Please convert photos to JPEG format and attach to the email.

Rankings. The Men's Ice Hockey Committee will publish rankings on the following dates:

- Feb. 1
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 15
- Feb. 22
- March 1
- March 7 (Selections)

The committee will rank eligible teams by applying the championships selection criteria.

Section 2•3 Selections Information

[Reference: Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3 in the NCAA Manual.]

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected not later than Sunday, March 7.

NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 14-team field will consist of two selection pools: AQs and at-large berths. AQ berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2026-27 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AQ.

At-large berths will be selected on a national basis. There will be no predetermined regional allocations for at-large selections.

2027 Berths

Pool A = 10 institutions
At-large = 4 institutions

To be considered during the selection process either as an automatic berth (Pool A) or at-large, an institution must play at least 50% of its competition against Division III in-region opponents, unless a waiver has been approved by the Division III Championships Committee.

Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used as a selection criterion by the NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

For the Division III championship, a 14-team format will be used. Automatic-qualification privileges have been granted to the following conferences:

- Conference of New England
- Little East Conference
- Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference
- Middle Atlantic Conferences
- Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
- New England Small College Athletic Conference
- Northern Collegiate Hockey Association
- State University of New York Athletic Conference
- United Collegiate Hockey Conference
- Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

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 NCAA Constitution 3.2.4.4) 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.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

Definition of In-Region Competition

1. All competition within an institution's defined sport region.
2. All competition within a 500-mile radius from one institution to another.
3. All competition within an institution's membership geographical region (NCAA Bylaw 4.13.1.1).
4. All competition against conference opponents.

The NCAA uses a **mileage calculator** to confirm distances from campus to campus.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

SELECTION CRITERIA

For the 2027 championship season, the committee will utilize the NPI ranking system, which incorporates the criteria outlined below.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

DIVISION III SITE-SELECTION CRITERIA

The Division III Championships Committee has prioritized the site-selection criteria in the following order for Division III championships:

1. Protection of top four ranked teams in the bracket.
2. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations;
3. Geographical location (including such factors as rotation of sites, weather conditions, accessibility and transportation costs);
4. Attendance history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.

Any institution interested in hosting a preliminary round or final round in a non predetermined year of competition of the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "championships available for bid" and select "add bid."

All member institutions can regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email **championshipbid@ncaa.org** or contact the respective championship manager.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at **championships.ncaa.org**. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Friday, Feb. 26, 2027.

As a reminder, prospective hosts' budgets should include committee/site representative's lodging expense, game officials' lodging expense, state and city taxes/fees, if applicable, and any ticket fees. Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid by the NCAA rather than the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via RefQuest for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting a preliminary round or final round of competition of the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information (located at **championships.ncaa.org**) for the applicable competition venue. Any supporting information (e.g., facility diagram, pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in the deliberation of prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

Each institution should list and then maintain its key contacts associated with each sport and the institution. Individuals can be added via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal at **championships.ncaa.org**.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and its own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA championships. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program. As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your venue, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the Best Practices document.

To view the *Best Practices for NCAA Championships Competition Venue Safety and Security* form, click **HERE**.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "Budget" tab not later than 60 days after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Will Hopkins at 317-917-6779 or email us at **championshipbid@ncaa.org**.

SEEDING AND PAIRING

[Reference: Championship Structure in this handbook and Bylaw 31.1.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee will rank the teams using the selection criteria. The highest-ranked teams will be given consideration as host sites, assuming they meet the requirements of Bylaw 31.1.3.2.3. The committee will pair the teams regionally, based on geographic location of all participants and final seeding. Teams located more than 500 miles from one another will only be paired if it is not possible to pair them with opponents located within 500 miles. Please refer to **Appendix A** for the Division III men's ice hockey bracket.

Appendixes

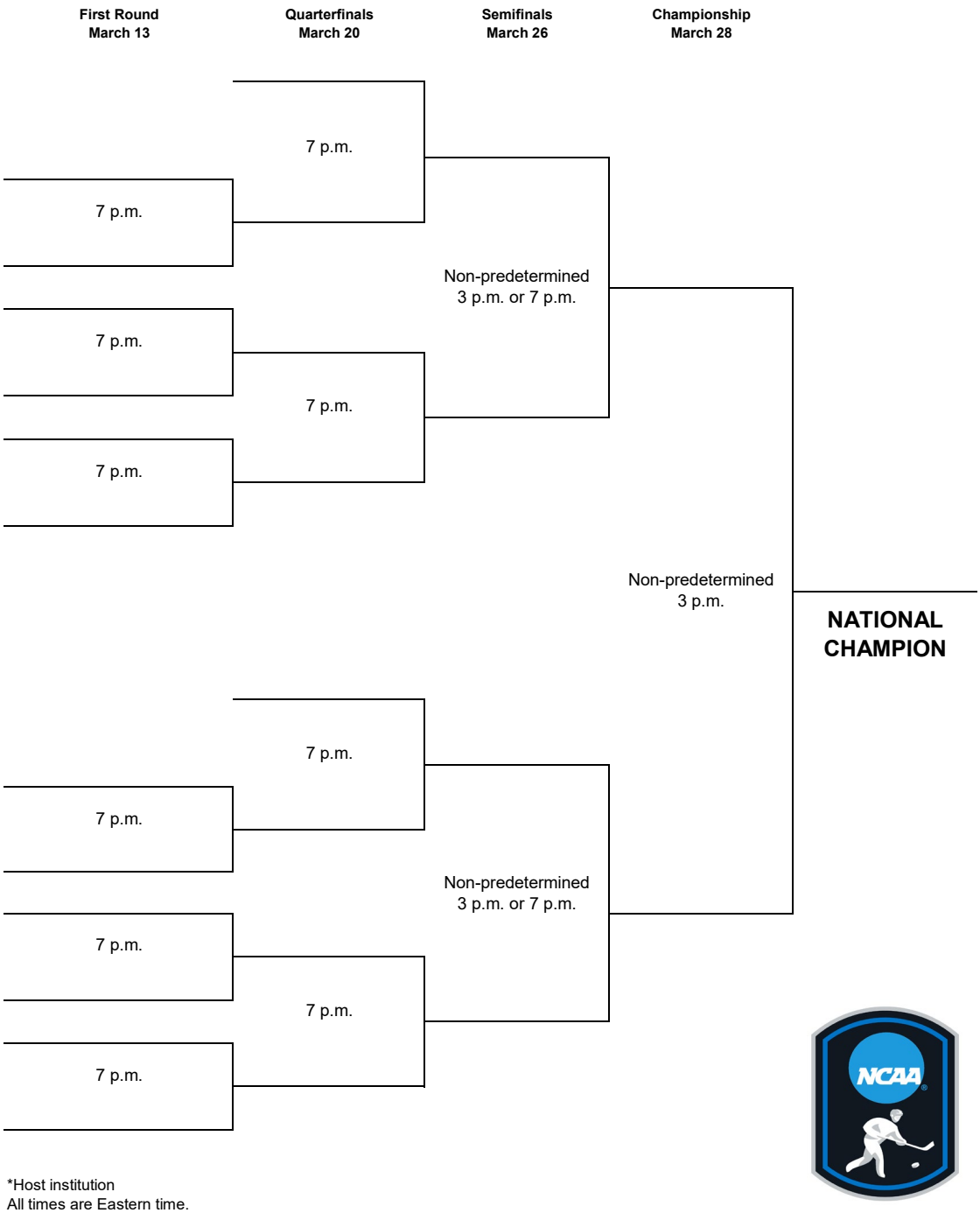
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Appendix A • Bracket

2027 Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship



*Host institution
All times are Eastern time.
Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

The Conference of New England (10)

Curry College
Endicott College
University of New England
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
Nichols College
Roger Williams University
Salve Regina University
Suffolk University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

Little East Conference (10)

Babson College
Keene State College
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
New England College
Norwich University
Plymouth State University
University of Southern Maine
Vermont State University Castleton
Western Connecticut State University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (8)

Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Rivier University
University of Saint Joseph (Connecticut)
Salem State University
Westfield State University
Worcester State University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

Middle Atlantic Conference (9)

Albright College
Alvernia University
Arcadia University
King's College (Pennsylvania)
Lebanon Valley College
Misericordia University
Neumann University
Stevenson University
Wilkes University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

New England Small College Athletic Conference (10)

Amherst College
Bowdoin College
Colby College
Connecticut College
Hamilton College
Middlebury College
Trinity College (Connecticut)
Tufts University
Wesleyan University (Connecticut)
Williams College

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

State University of New York Athletic Conference (10)

Buffalo State, State University of New York
State University of New York at Canton
State University of New York at Cortland
The State University of New York at Fredonia
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
State University of New York at Morrisville
State University of New York at Oswego
Plattsburgh State University of New York
State University of New York at Potsdam
Skidmore College

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

United Collegiate Hockey Conference (9)

Albertus Magnus College
State University of New York at Brockport
Chatham University
Elmira College
State University of New York at Geneseo
Manhattanville University
Nazareth University
St. John Fisher University
Utica University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

WEST REGION

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Augsburg University
Bethel University (Minnesota)
Concordia College, Moorhead
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Saint John's University (Minnesota)
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
The College of St. Scholastica

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (10)

Adrian College
Aurora University
Concordia University Wisconsin
University of Dubuque
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Marian University (Wisconsin)
Milwaukee School of Engineering
St. Norbert College
Trine University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (6)

Beloit College
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic
University of Wisconsin-Superior

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champ