HOST OPERATIONS 2025-26 MANUAL

Division I Women's Lacrosse

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INTRODUCTION

This manual outlines the responsibilities of an institution/conference hosting this round of an NCAA championship. It is essential that each host institution/conference staff become familiar with the information and policies included in this manual.

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host institution/conference, competition site, committee and the NCAA. The primary objective of each individual involved in the administration of the championship shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, institutional staff member and championship attendee.

DEFINITIONS

Championship: Postseason competition conducted by the NCAA in a particular sport, in which eligible student-athletes and teams of active member institutions compete to determine the division champion (or National Collegiate champion in sports that do not have a separate division championship) in that sport.

Governing Sports Committee: The NCAA membership committee responsible for developing policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the championship under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the applicable division's governance structure and the requirements, standards and conditions prescribed by NCAA Bylaw 31.

Host Institution/Conference: An active NCAA member institution and/or conference selected to serve as host for a championship. The host shall administer the finances of an NCAA championship in accordance with the institutional/conference championship budget, as submitted during the selection process and approved by the governing sports committee.

Local Organizing Committee: A local organization formed in the city where a member institution/conference proposes to host an NCAA championship, to provide to the NCAA services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship. The host institution/conference must be a part of the leadership of the local organizing committee.

NCAA Championships Manager: The staff member(s) representing the NCAA championships and alliances staff assigned to serve as administrator(s) for a championship.

ROLE OF NCAA

The NCAA championships and alliances staff, working in conjunction with the NCAA sport committees and other NCAA partners, will lead the planning efforts, management and execution of all NCAA championships and events. The NCAA will oversee all aspects of the championship and its related activities, including facility operations and space allocations, hotel accommodations, media and team operations, hospitality functions and social events, in venue entertainment, fan and sponsor events, broadcast programming, youth events, as well as many other aspects.

The NCAA will work closely with the host institution/conference, competition venue and local organizing committee to ensure that the championship provides a positive and rewarding experience for student-athletes and fans.

ROLE OF GOVERNING SPORT COMMITTEE

The NCAA's core purpose, values and envisioned future provide the framework for all actions in the committee's administration of the championship and its stewardship of the game. Within the framework and spirit of its charge, the governing sport committee will balance the principle of student-athlete well-being with its efforts to maximize exposure for intercollegiate athletics and revenues from the championship through policies and activities that are subject to the final authority of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

ROLE OF HOST INSTITUTION/CONFERENCE

The support, commitment and involvement of the host institution/conference, its key staff members and local media are essential elements in hosting a successful NCAA championship.

The host institution/conference is the local entity responsible for making arrangements for the competition. By submitting a bid, each host institution/conference has agreed to provide services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship as prescribed by the bid specifications.

The responsibilities of the host institution/conference are defined herein. The games management, media and marketing activities associated with the competition are to be administered and approved by the NCAA staff on behalf of the governing sport committee.

The host institution/conference will work in collaboration with the NCAA staff to preserve the mission of the championship. The NCAA believes that the most successful host institutions/conferences are those that emphasize service, promotion and marketing of the event, and fiscal responsibility and commitment to the NCAA's core values-leadership, inclusion, communication, collaboration and accountability.

As a core value, the NCAA and its championship host institution/conference must be committed to championing diversity, equity and inclusion across its functions, staff, partners, stakeholders and communications platforms. Host institution/conference should embrace the NCAA's stated interest of sustaining a welcoming, safe and supportive culture across all dimensions of diversity, including race, age, sex, class, national origin, creed, educational background, religion, gender identity, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and work experiences. The host institution/conference plays a central role in fostering, growing and preserving an inclusive culture on-site at NCAA championship events.

NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE

The list of current committee members may be accessed here: **web1.ncaa.org/committees/#/reports/roster?committeeCode=1WLAOC**

For additional information about the Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship, contact:

Caleb Kolby Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances Phone: 317-697-4743 Email: **ckolby@ncaa.org**	**Lindsey Thomas, chair** Senior Associate Athletics Director University of Florida Phone: 352-317-6141 Email: **lindseyt@gators.ufl.edu**

NCAA STAFF

Championship Administrator Caleb Kolby Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances Phone: 317-917-6180 Email: **ckolby@ncaa.org**	**Administrative Support** Markell Staton Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances Phone: 317-917-6502 Email: **mstaton@ncaa.org**

Section 1 • Preliminary-Round Host Timeline/Checklists

CHECKLIST FOR PRELIMINARY-ROUND HOSTS

Week of Game

_____ 1. Receive notification of visiting teams from NCAA.

_____ 2. Email participant manual to the athletics directors and head coaches of the visiting institutions. The manual should include hotel information, ticket prices, practice times and locations, directions, etc.

_____ 3. Obtain names and addresses of appointed officials from the NCAA. Follow up with officials and provide directions, hotel information and confirm date, time and location of pregame meeting and game.

_____ 4. Obtain necessary certificate of insurance, per NCAA Bylaw 31.7.4.

_____ 5. If selected for drug testing, submit the drug-testing budget immediately after notification and make other preparations. If notification is received, implement drug-testing procedures, including competition site and personnel requirements, as detailed in information from Drug Free Sport, LLC If drug testing is confirmed for your site, you will be notified as early as possible during the week.

_____ 6. Obtain name of and follow up with NCAA site representative assigned to the game to determine hotel needs, provide directions, etc.

_____ 7. Field arrangements.

_____ a. Proper markings, including coaching and substitution/penalty areas, in accordance with NCAA rules (see the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules book) and policies.

_____ b. Check goals and nets. Remove goals after warmup.

_____ 8. Receive notification from NCAA promotions staff regarding online order of promotional materials. Place order immediately.

_____ 9. Arrange for the following equipment at game site: adequate public-address system, two watches, two compressed air horns, shot clocks and back-up shot clocks, PEARL game balls provided by the NCAA game ball supplier, scoreboard, pencils and a properly displayed American flag. NCAA banners shall be displayed to create a championship atmosphere. Arrange for the singing or playing of the national anthem.

_____ 10. Arrange for halftime refreshments for teams and officials.

_____ 11. Arrange for drinking cups, ice and water for players at each bench during both practices and games. The NCAA will provide cups, water coolers and water bottles at the quarterfinal and final sites only. DASANI water or BODYARMOR powder is preferred at first- and second-round sites, but it is acceptable to use a different unmarked product instead. Please note NCAA policy on commercial identification on cups and coolers.

_____ 12. Have names of teams on scoreboard (if possible); if not, use "Home" and "Visitor."

_____ 13. Assign locker rooms for the teams and have dry-erase boards and markers, soap and towels in each room. Venues must provide a locker room for each participating team for pregame and postgame preparations. If the locker room is not accessible for halftime, the host institution must provide an adequately sized walled tent with lighting and seating. If the tent is not on a permanent surface, a floor should be provided. All locker room arrangements must be submitted with the bid submission for the women's lacrosse committee's review. Any alternate locker room arrangements should be discussed with the participating teams on the participating team call.

_____ 14. Assign a locker room for the officials for pregame, halftime and postgame purposes; supply soap, towels and hospitality. Two locker rooms should be provided if requested by the head official.

_____ 15. Arrange for an adequate number of competent and experienced ball runners and dress them in neutral clothing that is bright in color and contrasts with the participating teams' and officials' uniform colors and devoid of any commercial identification, team name or logo.

_____ 16. Assign scorers, timers, statisticians and announcer. It is recommended there be one scorer and two official timers (one designated for each competing team) and a recorder for penalty administration, goals, assists, etc. Spell out duties of each official.

_____ 17. Arrange for the following security needs:

_____ a. Officials (pregame, halftime and postgame).

_____ b. Teams.

_____ c. Bench area (pregame, halftime and postgame).

_____ d. Spectator areas.

_____ e. All entry gates.

_____ 18. Arrange for medical and athletic training coverage.

_____ 19. Arrange for pregame music. Ensure that music does not contain any inappropriate or profane lyrics.

_____ 20. Have a practice field (of the same surface as the game field) available the day before (or night, if game is under lights). All teams should be allowed equal practice on the game field. Ice and water must be available at practice sites and athletic training facilities must be accessible to all teams.

_____ 21. Tournament director shall greet the visiting teams on their arrival at the practice field.

_____ 22. Teams must provide their own practice balls.

_____ 23. Advise teams of the athletic training supplies, equipment, modalities and facilities that will be available or provided.

_____ 24. Check game and 90-second possession clocks.

Game Days

_____ 1. Make available new PEARL balls; game balls to be sent (12 dozen to sites with four teams; eight dozen to sites with three teams; and four dozen to quarterfinal sites).

_____ 2. Tournament director shall greet the visiting team on its arrival at the stadium.

_____ 3. No complimentary tickets allowed (except for children two years of age and younger if facility policy permits). Provide credentials (use NCAA logos) to each team based on the official travel party policies.

_____ 4. Have site representative file expenses via the online Travel Expense System.

_____ 5. If scheduled at your site, implement postgame drug-testing procedures as instructed by the NCAA national office and the on-site crew chief.

Postgame

_____ 1. Submit online financial report to the NCAA within 60 days. Host should keep the following items on file in the event an audit is conducted:

_____ a. Hotel bills (officials and site representative/committee).

_____ b. Miscellaneous receipts, if applicable.

_____ 2. Conduct game within expenses indicated on your proposed budget. Expenditures in excess of your budget must be approved in advance by the NCAA national office.

_____ 3. Submit reconciliation and settlement sheets directly to Event 1 within 10 days after the competition.

_____ 4. Communicate process for tournament host and officials' evaluations and distribution of participant awards.

_____ 5. Hosts shall stat all games using StatCrew, Presto, StatInput, etc. A packed file for the game must be sent to Michelle Watsky (**mwatsky@ncaa.org**) at the NCAA national office immediately after the game.

_____ 6. Administer a postgame press conference after each game. An NCAA or neutral backdrop should be presented. A moderator should be provided to help facilitate questions from the media or participating SIDs.

CHECKLIST FOR SITE REPRESENTATIVE AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR (PRELIMINARY ROUNDS)

_____ 1. Inspect playing area (benches, scorer's table, audio equipment, public-address system, national anthem, field markings and goals, coaching and substitution/penalty areas, crowd control, locker rooms and player entrance).

_____ 2. Review schedule of all activities for the competition. Ensure practice times are fair and applicable to the host and visiting team (i.e., enough time from the end of the practice until the start of the game).

_____ 3. Review schedule for pregame activities (welcome, introductions, etc.).

_____ 4. Review game times.

_____ 5. Review uniform colors and bench assignments.

_____ 6. Review video review operations at the site. Review location, process and technology.

_____ 7. Check that PEARL balls have arrived and are available.

_____ 8. Ensure that participant awards (medallions) (for squad size of 38) have arrived and determine method for distributing them to the nonadvancing teams postgame (preferably in the locker room).

_____ 9. Review procedures for ticket sales and parking.

_____ 10. Review procedures for security (escort for officials and teams).

_____ 11. Review policy on crowd control, including section on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products. Also, security to prevent fans from accessing the field postgame.

_____ 12. Review medical and athletic training arrangements.

_____ 13. Review policies regarding photographers (e.g., permissible areas, no flashes).

_____ 14. Review procedures governing videotaping and filming. Equipment shall be tested prior to taping. If possible, have backup equipment available.

_____ 15. Ensure that teams followed game tape exchange policy and confirm that videos have been sent.

_____ 16. Review policies and plans for postgame interviews and designate an interview area (winning coach and student-athletes interviewed first).

_____ 17. Review procedures for sending results to the NCAA national office.

_____ 18. Review automated reimbursement procedures for site representative (instructions included in site representative manual).

Section 2 • Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Beer, wine and prepackaged/premixed beverages (in the latter case, with alcohol by volume of not greater than 15%, such as most hard seltzers) may be sold and dispensed at NCAA Division I, II, and National Collegiate championship and ancillary events, provided that the host, venue and/or concessionaire:

- Comply with, and certifies in writing the compliance with, the NCAA Championship and Ancillary Event Alcohol Sales Policy, as amended by the NCAA from time to time, which addresses such matters as:
    - Permissible types of alcoholic beverages;
    - Eligibility for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages;
    - Indemnity, warranty and insurance obligations; and
    - Verification.
- Agree to (i) keep and maintain, or cause its designated vendor or concessionaire to keep and maintain, complete and accurate records of all (a) alcohol-related incidents (e.g., expulsions, arrests) and (b) sales transactions related to the sale of concessions at the NCAA Championship and related ancillary events, including gross revenue, cost of goods, allocable overhead, and applicable taxes; (ii) no later than sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the event, provide the NCAA with a report setting forth in reasonable detail such information, together with the corresponding dates of transaction, including (a) alcohol-related revenue generated on each day of the event, (b) the direct cost of selling alcohol at the event (including the cost of goods), and (c) the indirect cost of selling alcohol at the event (including overhead and increased security needs at the event venue site); and (iii) permit the books, records, and accounts of host, venue and vendor/concessionaire pertaining to the sale of concessions at the event to be inspected, audited and copied by NCAA or its agents at any time during normal business hours upon giving reasonable notice to host, venue and vendor/concessionaire.
- Agree to pay the NCAA an amount of twenty percent (20%) of the gross revenue generated from the sale of alcohol during the event (and any approved ancillary events), less the pro rata applicable sales tax and credit card fees (without deduction of any operating, costs of goods, indirect, or other expenses, such as overhead, marketing, fulfillment, general and administrative, interest, or other expenses), with such agreement to be reflected in a written agreement between the NCAA and the applicable parties (host, venue, and/or concessionaire) executed prior to, or simultaneously with, the NCAA's official selection of the host for the applicable championship.
- Following the championship conclusion, provide the NCAA with certain information regarding the concessions activity—including gross sales, direct costs, and applicable taxes—for food, nonalcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages sold during the event.
- Execute, as part of the bid submission, the applicable policy and agreement documents maintained in the NCAA Championships Bid Portal.

General

The NCAA shall determine in its sole discretion whether alcohol will be sold or distributed at the ancillary events.

The venue, LOC/host and/or caterer shall be responsible for any permits unless otherwise directed by the NCAA.

Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags, signs) with commercial slogans or identification or other unauthorized markings are not permitted inside the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s), inside surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used, or outside on practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue property unless expressly approved in advance by the NCAA. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, T-shirts, caps, etc. (except products sold or authorized by the NCAA or its vendors) may not be distributed on these premises. Demographic or other studies may not be conducted unless approved in advance by the NCAA.

An economic impact study can be executed at an NCAA championship to examine the effect of the championship(s) on the local economy. In some cases, the NCAA will conduct an on-site study and will provide the data to the host once the study is completed. In other cases, the NCAA will support the hosts' efforts to execute a study. This can be done using the hosts' own approach/tools or the NCAA's Economic Impact Study "In-a-Box" tool."

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Tobacco products shall not be advertised, sold or dispensed at any championship event sponsored by or administered by the NCAA. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the venue; this includes cigars.

Section 3 • Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III prohibits private places of public accommodation (e.g., sports arenas) from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the ADA. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

If the host institution/conference receives a request for an accommodation, which may require input from the NCAA, the host institution/conference shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to address the request.

Section 4 • Awards

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NCAA shall provide all awards for participation in an NCAA championship. The championship manager will provide a manifest of the awards being shipped to your site. You should inventory each box and award ensuring the appropriate quantity and label for the event.

The championship manager will also describe how the awards will be distributed during the championship event.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

Preliminary Rounds

MTM, Inc., the NCAA national office awards supplier, will send official NCAA participant medallions for the nonadvancing team to the tournament director prior to competition. When the awards arrive, the tournament director should inventory all awards to be sure they are undamaged, are correctly inscribed and are in the appropriate quantities. The awards boxes should then be retaped, closed and secured in a limited-access area

Due to the financial burden on a host institution, to be consistent with NCAA policy, and to provide each student-athlete participating in NCAA preliminary-round competition the same experience, **other mementos will NOT be permitted at preliminary rounds.**

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION ENHANCEMENT TEMPLATE

To celebrate and enhance the student-athlete experience at the championship site, the NCAA will work with the LOC to implement a unique and fun way to recognize the champion at the end of competition during the awards. These enhancements should help increase the excitement of the awards presentation and the level of championship branding exposure in photos for student-athlete's memories when looking back on their experience.

This should not add any additional time or delay to TV taking the winning celebration.

When considering what enhancements could work at your championship site, please consider your site and playing surface, whether your championship is indoor or outdoor and weather elements could be a factor, how many teams or individual student-athletes you may have participating in the awards presentation and your budget.

In most cases, enhanced staging and unique signage opportunities are great options for both indoor and outdoor sports. These items can be freestanding or attached to another item easily. Other ideas to consider would be logo cut outs, confetti, streamers, pyrotechnics/fireworks, a short video recap of championship performance(s), champion(s) or coach interview, utilizing pep bands or using an emcee or notable sport representative (i.e., Olympic Medalist) for the presentation.

These items can be covered through the operations budget, as well as the LOC budget. If you need assistance with ideas or ordering the preapproved items, please contact Nathan Arkins at 317-917-6790 or narkins@ncaa.org. Otherwise, please work directly with your primary signage contact at the NCAA on overall ideas, approvals, production and implementation with the operations staff.

CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM PROGRAM

The NCAA has partnered with select NCAA licensees to celebrate the national champions of each NCAA championship. Each team champion shall receive a national champions T-shirt and hat to commemorate the experience of winning a national title. A detailed explanation of the logistics of the locker room program will be provided in the championship-specific section of the manual. However, listed below is a summary of steps that should be followed when implementing the locker room program at all final championship sites.

- The product is for team champions only. Individual championships are not a part of the locker room distribution.
- Please remove all hangtags and stickers (if needed) on the merchandise before being distributed.

- The merchandise should be distributed to the winning team only immediately after the handshake as soon as the game has officially concluded. Extra product (if any) should be given to the team's equipment manager.
- All winning team inquiries about obtaining additional locker room product should be directed to Jared Hunt with Event 1 for T-shirts (**jared.hunt@unrivaledteamwear.com**) and Jackie Rivas or Matt Boeke at Zephyr for hats (**jacqueline.rivas@blue84.com** and **matt.boeke@blue84.com**). Please contact David Clendenin, director of licensing, at the NCAA national office should you have any questions (**dclendenin@ncaa.org** or 317-917-6496).

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Finals

MTM, Inc., the NCAA national office awards supplier, will send official NCAA awards to the tournament manager approximately two weeks prior to the championship. When the awards arrive the tournament manager should inventory all awards to be sure they are undamaged, are correctly inscribed and are in the appropriate quantities. The awards boxes should then be retaped, closed and secured in a limited-access area.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

ELITE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD PRESENTATION

The NCAA Elite Scholar-Athlete award was created to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete 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 to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships. Award winners must meet certain criteria including being a sophomore or above, participating in their sport for at least two years at their school, being an active member of their team, and being a designated member of the squad size at their championship. The member school is responsible for submitting its student-athlete who has the highest GPA and meets all other requirements. Olivia Baumhoer or another member of the NCAA communications staff will determine the winner of this award for each championship and provide the name of the recipient to the NCAA championships manager. The winner's name should not be released to the public until after the student-athlete is publicly recognized. If appropriate, the championships manager can share the information with the coach of the winning student-athlete to make sure of that person's attendance. However, the coach should not inform the student-athlete. Baumhoer or a member of the NCAA communication staff will typically send a template of a release and the logo to the sports information director of the winner's school the morning of the announcement to allow the school time to prepare. In addition, the information will be given to the NCAA social media staff to prepare a graphic which will post shortly after the announcement.

Each championship should provide an appropriate forum to adequately recognize and celebrate this award winner among student-athletes and fans at the championship. In addition, information about this award winner may be included in local press releases about the championship and in public address and/or video board announcements during the championship.

Award Presentation

When determining the most appropriate time to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete award, the NCAA and host staff should evaluate the time and venue that will create the greatest impact and amount of exposure for the award winner while also appropriately honoring and celebrating the winner's accomplishments. The presentation should be semi-formal in nature and not be rushed or overshadowed by other presentations or events surrounding it. The award winner should be visible, the announcement clearly audible. In addition, the award presentation should receive the full attention and respect of all of those in attendance. The standard award script is listed below:

At this time, we would like to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete award. This award was instituted to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring individuals who has 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 to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.

The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award for Division X (sport) with a GPA of X.XXX in (major, is student-athlete and institution).

Presentation at the Student-Athlete Banquet

This award has traditionally been presented at the student-athlete banquet for most NCAA championships. In many cases the student-athlete banquet provides the best forum for the award presentation and greatest exposure for the winner as it is the one time when all championship participants and administrators are gathered in one place with a controlled, semiformal environment complete with a sound system and set program. Presenting at the student-athlete banquet also alleviates any potential conflicts with the winning student-athlete's participation in or preparation for an NCAA championship event. Guidelines for presentation of this award at the student-athlete banquet are:

- The award should be presented by either the banquet emcee, the NCAA committee chair or the NCAA championships manager.
- The award should be presented near the end of the program and be clearly recognizable as the premier award being given (see student-athlete banquet page for sample run of show).
- The award should be presented after attendees have had a chance to finish their meals.
- If video screens are available, the video slide or footage of the winning student-athlete provided by Van Wagner may be run as the individual is introduced.
- The coach of the winning student-athlete should be informed to help ensure the winner's attendance.
- If a photographer is at the student-athlete banquet or championship, a photo of the recipient receiving the award should be taken. This may be used in-venue during competition days to showcase the academic achievement of the student-athlete or provided to the student-athlete as a memento. The host sports information director should arrange to provide the winner's SID with a copy of the photo.
- If the award winner is recognized primarily at the student-athlete banquet, public address and video board announcements should be made whenever possible and applicable at the actual championship for additional exposure to fans who do not have access to the banquet

In-Venue Presentation

The NCAA and host staffs are encouraged to look for opportunities for the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winner to be presented their award in the championship venue during a time when most participants and fans are in attendance. While this may not be appropriate for championships that are spread out over multiple venues or large areas, or have multiple games in one day that disperses the crowd chronologically – it should be explored for championships in which the majority of fans are gathered during a predetermined time frame and can provide their undivided attention to the award presentation. The presentation must also not conflict in any way with the student-athlete's participation or preparation for the championship. Examples could be:

- In a championship with two semifinals played on one day, the award winner could be recognized during the semifinal in which the individual is participating, so that the school's fans are in attendance (video board and/or public address recognition).
- If the award winner is not participating or completes competition in the championship rounds of a sport but is still in attendance, the student-athlete may be recognized during breaks between events, weight classes, heats or during a scheduled break in the game.
- The award winner could be recognized during a scheduled opening or closing ceremony at which all participating student-athletes are in attendance and fans are encouraged to attend.

Other In-Venue Recognition

If the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winner is not introduced live inside the competition venue, public address and/or video board announcements recognizing the winner should be played during the championship to recognize this individual. Van Wagner will provide the following standard PA announcement sometimes accompanied by a video board slide. The championships manager or champs engagement representative will need to provide Van Wagner the name of the winning individual and a headshot photo if a video board is used for the championship.

The Elite Scholar-Athlete award, an award founded by the NCAA, recognizes the true essence of the student-athlete 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 to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.

The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award for the (year/championship), with a cumulative grade-point average of (GPA) in (major of study), is (winner and school: *Jane Doe of State University*).

Press Release

On the day of/or prior to the winner of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award being publicly recognized, the NCAA communication staff will send out a template of a standard press release to the sports information director of the winner's school and to the NCAA championships administrator. For selected championships, a press release will be written by a member of the communications or media coordination staff and be provided to national media by the NCAA public relations staff. If appropriate, this press release may also be provided to the host for distribution to local media.

Social Media

The NCAA X account (formerly known as Twitter) will promote the winners after the on-site announcement has been made. Olivia Baumhoer will work with social media staff members to make sure they have the appropriate information, including photo to make the graphic and the timing of when to post.

- The host or NCAA championships manager should ensure a photo of the presentation is taken and emailed to **socialmedia@ncaa.org**

For more information on the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winners, log on to **ncaa.org/elitescholarathlete**.

PARTICIPATION

Finals

Participation awards are permissible (one per participant) as long as they meet the conditions outlined in Bylaws 16.1.4.2 and 16.1.4.3 and are provided by the NCAA selected student-athlete participation awards licensee. The NCAA championships and alliances group will be responsible for selecting the participation awards that will be provided. All participation awards will be distributed at the site of the championship. Hosts should work with the championship manager on award logistics.

Section 5 • Band/Spirit Squads and Mascots

ADMISSION

Bands and Spirit Squads. A maximum of 25 band members, including the director, 12 uniformed spirit squad members, and one costumed mascot will be admitted free of charge. Each institution's administrator must submit a typed list to the tournament director and committee liaison prior to the competition.

Electronic Amplification. Bands may not use electronic amplification equipment.

Playing Restrictions. Bands, or any component thereof, are allowed to play during timeouts, after goals (must cease at draw), halftime, between games, and before and after the competition, up to the beginning of the next game's warmup time or up to the start of the awards ceremony.

In the event there is more than one band, time will be divided equally between the two and coordinated accordingly on site, with the visiting team playing first. The band MAY NOT interfere with the announcer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The host institution is responsible for arranging the playing of the national anthem.

NOISEMAKERS/NONPERMISSIBLE ITEMS

The tournament director and facility staff are responsible for enforcing the NCAA's policies described on each ticket back or distributed at the point of purchase. The facility shall encourage patrons to return nonpermissible items to their automobiles.

Artificial noisemakers of any kind, megaphones used for distraction, air horns, electronic instruments, inflatable noisemakers, etc., are not permissible. The facility staff is responsible for confiscating prohibited items at the entrance points or removing such items from the facility. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification, but they shall not be used as a distraction.

WARM-UP MUSIC

The host institution shall provide appropriate pregame warm-up music for all games.

Section 6 • Broadcasting/Internet

All first- and second-round games of the women's lacrosse championship will be streamed on ESPN+. Host institutions will need to provide feeds to ESPN and will need to meet the minimum specs as outlined by the NCAA and ESPN.

Host institutions must meet those requirements to host first- and second-rounds competition. It is highly encouraged that the event manager discuss these requirements with its technical department to make sure the expectations can be met.

Quarterfinals will be broadcast and produced by ESPN. Hosts must meet minimum requirements and provide requested information when the bid is submitted. If the facility cannot meet minimum specifications, the hosts may not be able to host the quarterfinal round if a resolution cannot be found.

The semifinals and final will be produced by ESPN. The NCAA, ESPN and the host of the final site will work together jointly in planning calls to produce the broadcast and provide logistics to the broadcast partner.

Section 7 • Championship Presentation/Fan Engagement

FAN FESTS

The NCAA prohibits host institutions/conferences from conducting special ancillary entertainment activities for fans in conjunction with the championship. Should another entity (e.g., convention and visitor's bureau) elect to stage such activities, the following policies shall apply:

- All plans must be approved in advance by the NCAA.
- NCAA marks, logos, name or references to the championship or tickets may not be used.
- No activity connected with the championship may be sponsored by an entity that is not an NCAA Corporate Champion/Corporate Partner (CC/P).
- Such an activity may not take place on property controlled by the competition venue.

No entity may contact NCAA CC/Ps directly. All such contact shall be directed through the NCAA staff.

NCAA MARKS

The NCAA owns and controls all rights and interests in its name, logo, seal, trademarks and service marks. Use of these marks is prohibited without advance written approval by the NCAA. Host institutions/conferences should review information outlined in NCAA Bylaw 31.6.1. Only official NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners (CC/Ps) and licensees are permitted to use NCAA marks and logos in commercial advertising and promotions, unless written approval is provided by NCAA Marketing. All and any proposed commercial advertising and promotions, if not by a CC/Ps, must be reviewed by NCAA Marketing staff prior to approval and production.

Electronic Messages. No host or venue specific electronic messaging or video board advertising may be displayed during NCAA championships, other than those messages promoting the championship and information provided by the NCAA and Warner Media/CBS. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the championship site. All messages must be approved in advance by the championship staff liaison.

IN-VENUE ENTERTAINMENT

Video Board Content and Public Address Scripts

NCAA championship hosts are required to utilize NCAA provided public address announcer scripts, runs-of-show and video board content. Host and participating team messaging or video board content is not allowed. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the championship site, recognitions and sponsorships. Any enhancements that you would like to propose for the event must be approved in advance by the championship manager.

The NCAA will provide video board content to sites that have such capabilities. The video board content is important to the overall championship experience for student-athletes and those in attendance. Please work directly with your NCAA championship liaison to identify if there is a Van Wagner producer assigned to you (final sites) or if content should be downloaded from the Van Wagner box site directly (preliminary rounds).

Questions related to video board content logistics should be directed to:

Brandon Anthony – Senior Producer
Van Wagner
Telephone: 925-354-5721
Email: **banthony@vanwagner.com**

Break in Action Contests or Promotions

NCAA championship hosts are encouraged to explore in-venue entertainment options during the championship to keep fans engaged, excited, and to enhance the atmosphere for both the fans and student-athletes. Various potential areas of in-venue entertainment and the guidelines associated with them are shared below. Please discuss any forms of in-venue entertainment you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for approval.

Hosts should consider continuing nonsponsored, regular season halftime/quarter break/timeout contests and promotions or creating new, unbiased/nonsponsored versions of these promotions to use during NCAA championships. Entertainment can also include local performance groups or youth scrimmages. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must not include any commercial recognition (unless approved/provided by an NCAA corporate champion, partner or official equipment supplier and signed off by a member of the NCAA Corporate Relations staff)
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- Must not negatively impact the championship playing surface in anyway.
- No connection or resemblance to gambling.
- Participants must be randomly selected.
- No bias toward or against any participating team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the contest or promotion.
- NCAA championship merchandise purchased by the host (e.g., extra volunteer apparel, committee or contributor gifts, items or certificates purchased from Event 1) make good prizes for these contests as prizes with commercial recognition would not be permitted.

National Anthem Singers

Hosts are encouraged to explore their resources to bring in local, regional or even nationally-recognized celebrities or groups to sing the national anthem (e.g., recording artists with strong local ties, military, local individuals, choir groups or bands). Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- No bias toward or against any participating team (e.g., performers should not wear the apparel of a participating team).
- Performance should not come at a cost and will not be reimbursed by the NCAA.
- A brief description and "thank you" for the performing group or individual may be incorporated into the script, but no commercial recognition, sponsorship, sales or recruitment messages should be included.
- Anthem should take two minutes or less to perform, however please build extra time into the script for introduction and placement of the color guard (if applicable), and introduction/applause for the performer.
- Highly recommend a pre-event rehearsal with the performer(s) and others involved.

Enhanced Team Introductions

Examples of this could include using special music, smoke machines, flame units, on-field fireworks, team banners/flags, youth athletes forming a tunnel or holding hands with student-athlete as they are introduced, etc. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- No bias toward or against any participating team and should be equally executed for all participating teams.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Should be discussed with the NCAA point person in advance.

Musical Entertainment

Participating school bands will be scheduled into the overall championship presentation when they are available. When they are not, the host institution marching band, other school bands or local bands may be appropriate for entertainment during pregame, halftime or other breaks in the action or for greeting fans in the stadium entrance or other congregating area.

Affiliated Award Recognitions

If appropriate, award winners for the given sport who are in attendance but not competing at the time of the scheduled recognition may be awarded on-field during NCAA championships (e.g., Elite Scholar-Athlete award, coaches' association player of the year). Sponsored awards should not be incorporated without approval from an NCAA corporate relations staff member.

Military Involvement

Military involvement in NCAA championships may include national anthem or break performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, etc. Please work with the NCAA corporate relations and game presentation team to finalize military involvement, as some elements may be influenced by partnership agreements. *Please see Military Involvement below for full description and guidelines.*

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

The NCAA is supportive of inviting the military to participate at NCAA championships if their involvement enhances the championship experience for student-athletes and fans while at the same time honoring the military in an appropriate and unobtrusive manner. At many NCAA championships, local or national military groups have been arranged by the host to perform pregame, during halftime or other breaks in the action. These performances have included, but are not limited to, national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, presentation of large flags, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, eagle releases around the national anthem, reunions of troops returning from overseas with their families, honorary recognitions, etc. Please discuss any forms of military involvement which you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person who would, in turn, discuss with the NCAA Corporate Relations and Game Presentation teams as some elements may be influenced by partnership agreements.

Guidelines

- Involvement from military groups often requires substantial government paperwork. Fly-overs and parachute jumps will also require FAA approval to be handled by the host. Please allow adequate lead team to coordinate.
- Involvement from national touring military groups such as the Air Force Wings of Blue or Army Golden Knights may require costs of travel such as hotel rooms, per diems, rental vehicles and even air travel if a military transport cannot be arranged.
- Host connections with local military bases will be most cost-effective in arranging military involvement.
- No messages about military recruitment should be incorporated into on-field performances.
- General messages paying tribute to all military personnel and thanking the particular military unit which has performed are encouraged (e.g., "Let's give a big round of applause for tonight's performance from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band… and for all of the American military service personnel who they proudly represent.").
- Request for any type of presence on-site (e.g., booth space, interactive elements, inflatables, giveaway items or space within an NCAA fan festival) is not permitted unless discussed with your NCAA point person who would in turn discuss with the NCAA corporate relationships team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the presentation.
- Please discuss with your NCAA point person if providing complimentary access to watch the championship before or after their presentation is appropriate and possible.
- When several military groups are in attendance and recognized during one game/session of a multiday championship, you may want to consider a theme night "Military Appreciation Day/Night." This should be discussed with your NCAA point person. Marketing should also be involved if you do a theme night.

STUDENT-ATHLETE TEAM ARRIVALS/TEAM WALKS

At many NCAA championships, a red-carpet arrival or team walk featuring the participating teams and their band and/or cheer squads can be a significant fan enhancement. A red-carpet arrival/team walk allows fans to feel a greater connection with the student-athletes through brief personal interaction that provides lasting memories for young fans

and may help create a greater overall impression of the championship for both fans and participating student-athletes, if conducted properly. Listed below are some elements to consider before deciding to conduct a red-carpet arrival/team walk, a list of guidelines for a red-carpet arrival/team walk, and a checklist of items needed for the event.

Elements to Consider

- Number of fans – will there be an adequate number of fans to support a red-carpet arrival/team walk and make it a positive experience for the participating student-athletes.
- Timing and location – is there a time and place available in which there will be an adequate number of fans, space and the event will not conflict with the student-athletes' preparation for or participation in the championship (e.g., before each semifinal match concludes, during a highly attended ancillary event surrounding the championship or only before the championship game).
- Equitable participation – will all participating teams have equal opportunities to participate (it is permissible to have a red-carpet arrival/team walk only on championship night with the two final teams only versus semifinal day and championship day).
- Team's experience – this should be a positive experience for all participating student-athletes, and it should not interrupt their team's normal schedule for a competition. It should be communicated to the teams that a 5-15-minute window between teams is needed. Depending on the schedule of the teams you can predetermine the arrival times or if they do not have any other commitments prior to the arrival at the venue, you can allow the teams to pick their arrival time as long as they are between the 5- and 15-minute window of separation, giving them more control of their schedule and not interrupting their normal game day routine.
- Fan's experience – consider the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walks for the fans as well. Consider using one of the main entrances or going through a fan fest location (if applicable) to the venue so that even if they did not know a red carpet/team walk event was happening, they still might see it and participate.
- Visibility and promotion – is the red-carpet arrival/team walk in a place that will be highly visible and accessible to all fans and/or can it be adequately promoted through social media, ncaa.com, e-blast, push notifications and/or signage? Ask each participating team to send out the red-carpet arrival/team walk times to their ticket holders and on their social media platforms as well.
- Timing of buses – Consider the route that the buses will need to drive in order to arrive on the correct side of the street and the time it will take them to get from the hotel to the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk.

Guidelines

- The host staff will have primary responsibility for coordinating and managing the red-carpet arrivals/team walk, as well as all staff, volunteer, equipment and logistical needs associated with them.
- The host staff should work with the NCAA staff point person to determine if red carpet arrival(s) or team walk(s) are appropriate, for advice, approval, look and collateral.
- The host should arrange for a walkthrough of the event with the NCAA point person as well as security, the facility rep, bus drivers, team hosts the event sponsor and/or fire marshal when appropriate.
- If a team has a band and/or spirit squad, communicate to the team that they should also participate in the red-carpet arrivals/team walks. If only one team has a band, ask the other team for a copy of their fight song to play over a speaker, if sound is available at the red-carpet arrival/team walk area.
- Select a time when the most fans can be accommodated and student-athletes will be least inconvenienced, consider what time the venue opens to the fans and what time the teams would normally choose to arrive.
- Student-athletes should wear game apparel or matching team issued warmup gear.
- Student-athletes should be escorted by staff, volunteers or security to the security check-in area or their locker room.
- Red carpet arrivals/team walks should have stanchions or barricades to create a safe environment for the student-athletes. Security should also be considered.

- No local sponsorship of student-athlete red carpet arrivals/team walks will be permitted.
- A sound system which can be used in conjunction with the red-carpet arrivals/team walks can be effective in communicating which team is arriving, providing fans with additional championship events and for keeping fans entertained with music and/or team statistics.

Checklist

- Carpet – red, blue or black are all acceptable if the venue has one of these colors on hand, otherwise rent red carpet when the budget allows. Carpet is always preferred, but not essential to making this a successful event.
- Stanchions or other form of a barrier between the student-athletes and fans.
- Red carpet arrival/team walk sign or entrance way (e.g., balloon arch), if appropriate.
- Staff or volunteers.
- Security, if appropriate.
- Lighting elements if it is going to be dark out, depending on the time of the arrivals.
- Tents over the carpet if it is raining, unless the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk is already under a covered location, consider cancelation plan (notifying the teams and fans if the weather is not conducive to hold the red-carpet arrivals/team walk).
- Announcements for emcee – instructional, NCAA branding, NCAA corporate champion or partner recognition, team stats, if appropriate.
- Radios or cell phone numbers for communication. Essential for either the team host or bus driver to notify someone at the red-carpet arrival/team walk location of the arrival time changes, if appropriate.
- Other entertainment (e.g., DJ/music, local drum line) to keep fans entertained before and in-between team arrivals, if appropriate.

STUDENT-ATHLETE BANQUET - FINAL SITE

In lieu of a formal banquet, the women's lacrosse committee will work with the hosts to provide additional gifts and mementos for the travel party of the four participating teams. The committee will discuss this decision each year.

Section 8 • Championship Structure

GAME MANAGEMENT

Game Times.

Preliminary Rounds. Unless otherwise approved by the women's lacrosse committee, start times for all preliminary-round games shall be as follows:

First- and Second-Round Games

Friday, May 8

- Single-game sites – between 2 and 7 p.m.
- Doubleheader sites – between noon and 7 p.m. with 45 minutes allotted between games that includes 35 minutes of warmup for teams in game two.

Sunday, May 10

- Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (The championship subcommittee will determine time slots for each first and second-round game.)

Quarterfinals

Thursday, May 14

- Noon, 2:30, 5 or 7:30 p.m. Eastern time. (ESPN will determine time slots for each quarterfinal as they will be on ESPNU.)

Final Site

- Semifinals: May 22; Finals: May 24
- Game times for the 2026 semifinals are 3 and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time, with the championship game at noon Eastern time.

NOTE: All game times are subject to change.

Pregame Time Schedule. Sample pregame schedules are provided via the host shared folder and directly from NCAA staff. Copies should be provided to the officials and teams prior to competition. Teams at the final site will receive a separate pregame timing sheet specific to the final site timing.

Parking. A parking area for the participating teams and tournament officials (i.e., key host institutional personnel, NCAA committee members/site representative and officials) should be designated. Parking passes will be provided by the host institution.

Games Committee.

Members. For preliminary rounds, the games committee shall include the director of athletics of the host institution (or designated administrator, other than a member of the women's lacrosse coaching staff), the NCAA site representative (who shall serve as chair) and a designated administrator from the visiting school. The NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee will designate the NCAA site representative for each site.

Members. For the final site, members of the women's lacrosse committee, as well as a representative of the host institution, shall comprise the games committee. The chair of the women's lacrosse committee will chair the games committee, and the NCAA representative will work with the committee in an advisory capacity.

Games Committee Duties. The games committee actively will supervise the conduct of each championship session.

Ball Persons. It is the responsibility of the host institutions for all rounds of competition to provide an adequate number of ball retrievers where appropriate. Ball persons will be dressed in a uniform style and color, devoid of any commercial identification, team name or logo. Ball persons shall have sufficient prior experience and an appreciation for the importance of their role at this NCAA competition. The tournament director will emphasize to the ball persons the importance of the event and their duties and responsibilities. Specifically, they will be instructed to remain neutral, serve both teams equally and refrain from throwing balls on the field during timeouts, halftime and before or after games. Ball persons should be at least 12 years of age.

Facility Readiness. The field should be set up for competition at least two hours prior to each game. The facility must be fully set for competition by Wednesday (logos, etc.).

SECURITY/CROWD CONTROL

Crowd Control. Adequate uniformed security personnel must be provided for the team benches, teams' and officials' locker rooms, working press area, postgame interview room, hospitality areas, and any other area for which a credential is required or where crowd control is necessary. The committee liaisons will discuss with the tournament director specific plans in this regard (e.g., number of security personnel necessary in each area). The tournament director is responsible for reviewing all credentials with security personnel.

The responsibility for crowd control rests with the tournament director or designated representative of the host institution. The directors of athletics of the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their students and other fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. The stadium public-address announcer should read the sportsmanship statement that will be provided to all host sites at least once during each championship session.

Artificial noisemakers, air horns and electronic amplifiers shall not be permitted, and such instruments shall be removed from the spectator areas. Bands, or any component thereof, shall not play while the game is in progress. The tournament director is responsible for enforcing these provisions.

Spectators shall not be permitted to enter the field area before, during or after a contest.

Severe Weather Policy. In case of severe weather, the host institution's regular severe weather policy will be followed during all practices and games. Institutions with any questions in establishing such a policy should refer to the NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook, Guideline 1-E, Lightning Safety. Every effort shall be taken to complete the game in the same day that it is regularly scheduled; however, if conditions dictate that the game cannot be completed, the games committee will convene and take appropriate actions. Only then may a game be postponed or suspended until the next day. If a game is delayed, the appropriate warmup time should be decided by the games committee on-site. During the quarterfinals, semifinal and or finals round, ESPN liaison must be included in the discussion.

For NCAA tournament play, all games must be played to completion. If a tournament game is suspended and played on another day, it will be played from the point of interruption. A specific weather policy will be provided directly to teams, hosts and site representative with steps to follow if weather is planned or is impacting game operations.

Threats. In the event a threat is received and time permits, the games committee should meet to discuss the potential problem; a decision would be made to implement the host institution's or facility's predetermined plan; make announcements, if necessary, and implement plans.

Team Bench Areas. A uniformed security officer should be stationed in the bench area to protect players from spectators, if necessary, and to accompany the teams to and from the locker room.

Lacrosse Sticks. Spectators are permitted to bring sticks in the stadium. However, each host should provide instruction to game day staff regarding the observation of people using these sticks in a manner that may disrupt other spectators.

MEETINGS

The host institution is responsible for making arrangements for and scheduling the meetings outlined below, and for notifying the participants in the participant manual.

The NCAA site representative, assisted by the tournament director, should chair the meetings.

Administrative Meeting. Administrative meetings previously held on-site have been replaced by participating team videoconferences held prior to each preliminary round. There will no longer be on-site administrative meetings.

Officials Meeting. The host institution will coordinate a time for the games committee to meet with the officials. This meeting shall take place at least two hours prior to game time.

PRACTICES

The committee believes it is important to adhere to the following practice and warmup schedules and procedures in order to establish consistency for coaches and student-athletes. The practice and warmup schedules and procedures should be provided in advance to the competing teams (i.e., included in the participant manual).

Any deviation from the schedule must receive approval from the women's lacrosse committee chair and the NCAA championship administrator.

Establish a security plan for controlled access to and from the competitive areas.

NCAA Bylaw 17.1.7.10.2.1 (Exception – Championship Practice). At any conference or NCAA championship, student-athletes from the team representing the host institution shall be permitted to miss class time to attend practice activities conducted the day before the competition.

Practice access to all designated host-site fields by visiting teams is limited to the day before and the day of competition, weather permitting. If this is not possible, a practice field with appropriate women's lacrosse lines of the same surface as the game field must be available to all teams the day before the game. If inclement weather is occurring, access to an indoor practice area should be arranged for all teams at the site. Host institutions may have access to designated host-site game fields two days prior to championship games provided the site is the team's normal practice facility. Host institutions must provide a 90-minute window of practice time for all games in the tournament. All practices held the day before games will be closed to all but credentialed media and credentialed participants. All practices the day of the game will be closed (including to credentialed media). The host institution is required to provide one set of goals for each team on the practice field; two sets of goals are strongly recommended.

On game days, each team will be guaranteed a minimum of 60 minutes on the game field for its pregame warmup before the team introductions and national anthem, weather permitting.

Practice Balls. Each team must provide its own practice balls for preliminary rounds. Practice balls are provided at the finals site.

Scoreboard. The scoreboard clock should be used to time practice sessions.

Host Personnel. An institutional representative must greet the visiting team(s) on arrival for all practice sessions. An adequate number of host management personnel should be assigned to ensure practices remain closed. They are responsible for ensuring that only those authorized by the coach (excluding media) are allowed in closed practices.

PARTICIPANTS INFORMATION

Preliminary-round hosts shall prepare a manual for the participating teams' directors of athletics, head coaches, sports information directors and athletic trainers. The following information should be included: lodging information; practice times; game times; uniform color; tickets; locker room locations and amenities; video review usage and process (if occurring); parking for teams and fans; videotaping; directions; restaurant information; and names and contact information of the host's key personnel (athletics director; tournament director; sports information director and athletic trainer).

In addition, hosts should obtain arrival date/time/flight information from the visiting teams.

Section 9 • Commercialism/Contributors

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Activation of Corporate Champion and Corporate Partner Program. The NCAA may request/require that certain areas of the competition site be made available for use by NCAA Corporate Champions or Corporate Partners (CC/Ps) for the purpose of marketing/promotional events/activities. If such requests are made, the host institution will provide requested space or similar accommodations.

Local Organizing Committee Hospitality. If approved by the NCAA, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has the option to host specified events during the championship. Commercial identification of any kind at any LOC function is prohibited unless specifically approved by the NCAA. The NCAA must approve all uses of NCAA logos, names, or other graphics (including school logos). The LOC shall submit detailed proposals (e.g., location, date, time, food and beverage, entertainment, budget), to the NCAA for review and approval at least 60 days in advance of the event. Any such events conducted are conducted at the LOC's expense.

Other Functions. To enhance the experience for participating institutions, fans, and alumni during NCAA championships, the NCAA (in conjunction with a third-party agency) may facilitate an official hospitality program in or outside of the competition site.

PREMIUMS GUIDELINES

Competition Venue shall provide to the NCAA a set of guidelines, similar to those outlined below, that identify items that are not permitted in the venue no fewer than 120 days prior to the first NCAA championship related event. The NCAA will then utilize and share that information with its NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners.

Laser Pointers. Laser pointers of any kind are not allowed.

Noisemakers. Artificial noisemakers of any kind including but not limited to, air horns, electronic instruments, inflatable noisemakers, etc., are not permissible. Facility personnel are responsible for confiscating prohibited items at the entrance points or removing such items from the facility. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification, but they shall not be used as a distraction.

Promotional Items. Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags) with commercial slogans or identification, other than those from NCAA corporate champions and partners, are not allowed on the premises. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, T-shirts, caps, etc., except products sold/distributed by the NCAA or its agents, may not be distributed on the premises.

Signs, Flags, Banners. Large signs, flags or banners are not permissible. It is the facility personnel's responsibility to confiscate all prohibited articles. Items that can be held by one individual, reflect good sportsmanship and do not block the view of other ticketed patrons may be permitted. In no case may a sign, flag or banner be affixed to the facility.

Video Camera/Still Camera Policies. Ticketed patrons shall not bring video equipment into the facility on game days. Still cameras with a lens no longer than four inches are permissible on any day.

NCAA CORPORATE CHAMPION AND CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM

The NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners Program (i.e., corporate sponsors of the NCAA), managed by the NCAA along with TNT Sports and CBS Sports, authorizes the exclusive rights to license NCAA trademarks, tickets and taglines in commercial promotions with respect to the NCAA championships.

The host shall not solicit or permit involvement by any corporations or entities whose products may be in competition with any of the NCAA corporate champions or corporate partners. All proposed commercial involvement must receive prior approval of the NCAA.

NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners are dedicated to emphasizing the role of athletics in higher education, support all NCAA Championships and are granted a wide variety of benefits, including certain category exclusivity around use of NCAA logos, trademarks, designations and championship tickets.

For more information and a current list of corporate champions and partners, please click on the following link:
NCAA Corporate Champions & Partners

LOCAL CONTRIBUTOR PROGRAM

Currently, local non-CCP corporate entities are not permitted to utilize the NCAA's registered marks, logos, tickets, name or references to the championship in a promotional/commercial manner. If a host institution/conference has an interest in using value-in-kind contributors, the contributor plan must be approved in advance by the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff. The LOC is permitted to involve a local contributor in the championship only as a sponsor of LOC activities or as a ticket package purchaser (pending NCAA approval of said local entities and approval of the arrangement).

Local contributors may only be referred to as "local contributors of the LOC." Local contributors may not use the word "official," "official sponsor of" or "corporate champion/partner" in any manner. Local contributors will not receive any in-venue or on-site recognition/branding/exposure, with the exception of small signage in private hospitality locations; in the souvenir (print or digital) game program, and/or additional digital advertisement space. In being recognized, these local contributors must be referenced as supporters of the local organizing committee, and not of the NCAA. Any recognition, branding and/or exposure creative must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for review and approval.

Local contributors may be provided an opportunity to purchase an advertisement in the souvenir game program, provided the corporation is not a competitor of any NCAA Corporate Champion. All advertisements must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for advance approval. As noted above, local contributors who purchase an NCAA-approved ticket package may not receive recognition of any kind without the advanced approval of the NCAA staff.

NCAA TRADEMARKS

NOTE: These general guidelines do not include merchandise designs. All product designs must be submitted through the NCAA's licensing program administered by The Collegiate Licensing Company. Inquiries should be directed to the NCAA licensing staff.

1. ALL uses of NCAA trademarks or logos must be submitted to the NCAA for approval.

2. Downloads of NCAA logos may be obtained through the **NCAA Digital Library**.

3. The NCAA's position on inclusion of ® and ™ marks is first and most prominent use.

   The location of the trademark and how it is used is the primary factor in determining if a trademark symbol should be included in text. If the protected logo location is prominent and the primary focus on the page or product design, an ® or ™ in the text is not necessary. However, if the logo location is placed lower on the page or is secondary to the message being delivered, an ® or ™ in the text or header (first use only) should be inserted.

   In the case of NCAA Women's Final Four, an ® is required after NCAA and after Women's Final Four. The NCAA owns "NCAA" and "Women's Final Four", but "NCAA Women's Final Four" is not a registered mark in itself: NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

   To further expand, if the NCAA primary logo, which displays the registered mark, is used in a prominent position; NCAA Women's Final Four would require an R-ball only after the Four because the NCAA has already been identified as a registered mark. NCAA Women's Final Four®.

4. In radio and television advertising, NCAA should only be pronounced as N-C-A-A or N-C-double-A. It should not be referenced as "N-C-two-A" or in any other fashion.

5. Official names cannot be changed or abbreviated unless specifically trademarked (Final 4).

6. There may be no registration of or use of NCAA marks within internet domain names unless advance approval from the NCAA is secured and ownership of the URL is maintained by the NCAA. Such use of NCAA marks in Internet directories is prohibited; however, members may use an NCAA mark within a member URL, provided such NCAA mark does not appear in the domain name portion of the URL. By way of example, members may use the following URL: **memberx.edu/ncaa**.

Identification of commercially named venues on NCAA materials

- For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the location of an NCAA championship, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships can be printed, in text-only, on any and all pertinent materials bearing NCAA marks (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics).
- The logo of a commercially named venue cannot be used on any materials bearing NCAA logos or trademarks.
- The venue's name and information (without use of logos) will also be included on the dedicated website that the NCAA will provide to sell tickets.

NCAA logo use by commercially named venues

For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the sale of NCAA tickets, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships is permitted to display (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics) the championship site-specific logo as recognition of the event being held in its facility. The NCAA logo must be in the form of a link to a dedicated web page that will be established and/or assigned by the NCAA championship administrator to sell the NCAA tickets.

The following conditions apply to this NCAA logo use:

- The NCAA championship site-specific logo can be used by the venue to communicate the NCAA event as one of the variety of upcoming events at the facility. The NCAA logo must be used only once and only as a part of a group of other logos of events being held at the venue.
- The one-time logo use is limited to the site's "home web page" or "event web page."
- The NCAA logo must be placed in a location on the venue's web page so that there is clear and defined separation between the NCAA logo and any other commercial logos (including that of the commercially named venue). [This is because NCAA Corporate Champions/Corporate Partners and WBD/CBS have graphic exclusivity in the use of NCAA logos and marks.] Logos of the venue's or the website's advertisers/sponsors may be used on the home/event web page even with the NCAA's championship site-specific logo on the same page if those commercial entities are clearly separated from the NCAA logo (e.g., are on a different colored background and are located at the bottom of the website page).
- The venue is not permitted to claim to be "the home," a host or co-host of any session of the NCAA championship.
- The logo provided by the NCAA championship staff cannot be modified in any way.
- ALL uses of NCAA logos must be submitted to the NCAA staff for approval.

NCAA trademarked protection language

NCAA trademarks benefit from consistent "source identification" to the public through basic legal language attributing ownership.

The legal statement should be used on "printed" materials of all types for all NCAA trademarks, except where there is agreement by key staff stakeholders that aesthetic or space limitations prevent legal language. The legal statement is NOT required when the NCAA blue disk or the word NCAA is used alone and part of NCAA-produced materials without any of the conditions below.

- Printed items that display logos of other business entities/organizations (i.e., corporate champions/corporate partners, network partners, official suppliers, official licensees, local organizing committees and NCAA members).
- Printed items that are produced to be "used" by other business entities/organizations including NCAA members and host institutions.
- Printed items produced for advertisement/promotional purposes (i.e., magazine and newspaper ads, NCAA souvenir publication ads, posters, newsletters).

The NCAA requires protection language as outlined below. This does not have to be prominently displayed language and is expected to be included as some form of "mouse print."

The examples below are written only to represent the most typical examples. If you are unsure of exact wording for a specific example, please contact Ashley Murray at **amurray@ncaa.org**.

For blue disc and/or secondary (word) mark, please use:

- NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark, please use (for example):

- NCAA and March Madness are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- NCAA, NCAA Sweet Sixteen and Road to the Final Four are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark used with other authorized business entities, please use (for example):

- The NCAA, March Madness, Men's Final Four and Women's Final Four are trademarks owned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

NCAA Licensed Trademarks:

College World Series and Women's College World Series: The NCAA is the exclusive licensee of these marks, registered by Major League Baseball, in connection with the NCAA Division I Men's Baseball Championship and the Division I Women's Softball Championship.

All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

Helpful Links:
NCAA Trademarks
NCAA Digital Library
NCAA Corporate Champions and Partners | ncaa.com

OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/LICENSEES AND SUPPLIERS

The NCAA licensing program is designed to ensure the quality and consistency of all of the NCAA's Championship Event merchandise, protect the intellectual property of the NCAA and our member schools, and generate revenue to enhance programs that support NCAA student-athletes.

Any premiums and/or other merchandise that bear NCAA marks, brackets, taglines or other NCAA references must be produced by an official NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier. There may be royalties or other related costs associated with such items. If the NCAA is unable to identify a current NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier to provide a specific piece of merchandise, the NCAA will work to sublicense (on a short-term basis) a company that can provide the specific item.

For a list of NCAA licensees and official equipment suppliers, **NCAA Licensing - ncaa.org**.

ADVERTISING/SIGNS/"LOOK AND DÉCOR"

a. **Advertising/Banners/Signs/Displays.** The host shall not permit advertising, marketing identification, banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the general public seating/viewing area of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) (i.e., any place that can be seen from the playing surface, seats or within broadcast view), including the scoreboard and the playing surface prior to or during the conduct of the championships, other than NCAA, media partner or NCAA corporate champion/partner branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scoreboards, LED scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements) approved by the NCAA. Any permanently affixed (or previously leased) advertising banners, signs, cup holders, select equipment bearing corporate marks (e.g., TVs, computer monitors, stats monitors or displays), product/exhibit displays (e.g., car displays, branding exhibits/kiosks) shall be covered with décor elements or other NCAA directed elements by the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) and at the expense of the venue(s) as specified by the NCAA, including costs of production and installation and strike. The NCAA must be notified within a minimum of 60 days

if any signage has changed after the site visit or before the championship. Similarly, for any surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used by the NCAA for official events, no advertising, marketing, identification, banners, signs, decals, sampling, distribution or displays of any kind shall be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within those areas unless authorized by the NCAA. Professional and collegiate signage/marks/pennants/banners/retired numbers/etc. may continue to be displayed. NCAA staff representatives have the discretion, during their site visit or when on-site in advance of the tournament, to have the building staff remove a sign/banner. All usage of marks must follow NCAA brand guidelines and must be approved by NCAA staff in advance.

b. **Alcohol/Tobacco/Gambling.** All alcohol, tobacco and gambling advertisements/corporate identification within broadcast view or viewable by game attendees in the competition venue bowl must be covered at the expense of the host or venue. Any alcohol advertising that is deemed by the NCAA as not viewable from within the bowl does not need to be covered, whether in the concourse or in ancillary venues; tobacco or gambling advertising in the concourse must be covered. All other advertisements/corporate identification in the noted areas must, at a minimum, not be backlit unless otherwise authorized by the NCAA. This would apply to preliminary rounds and the championship rounds for all the 90 championships.

c. **External Signs.** All exterior venue corporate signage, other than professional franchise identification, must be covered as specified by the NCAA and must be covered with décor elements as specified by the NCAA at the expense of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s).

d. **Commercially Named Venues.** Commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) may display no more than two preexisting interior signs consisting only of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s)' name at the top of the venue, with placement designated by the NCAA. The competition, practice and ancillary event venue(s) signage design and placement must be approved by the NCAA. If the commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) is an existing NCAA corporate champion or corporate partner, the NCAA, in its sole discretion, may allow additional branding of the commercially named venue(s).

e. **Covering Existing Signage/Product Branding.** In regard to any signage that is to be covered in accordance with these bid specifications, the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s) shall not limit or prohibit the ability of the NCAA to use signage or other elements of its own third-party designees in covering such existing signage/product branding.

f. **NCAA Corporate Champion and Partner Branding/Recognition.** The NCAA shall have the right to display branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements, inflatables, projections, kiosks, decals, window clings, lighting, street teams, logos) for the Association, its corporate champions and partners, and media partners inside and outside of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s). These locations, include but are not limited to the concourse, within the competition bowl and venue exterior without limitation.

g. **Official Stickers and Stencils.** The NCAA shall provide the competition venue with the appropriate stickers/field stencils for the approved playing surface markings for the championship.

h. **Fan Promotion Materials.** If facility approves, patrons are permitted to bring in small signs and non-noisemaking items. Items may include any (non-CCP) commercial identification.

i. **Digital Inventory.** At no charge, the NCAA will have full access to, and control of, any and all LED and other digital signage inventory, both internal and external to the competition venue. This includes TV monitors, video screens, video walls, LED fascia, and all internal and external signage, digital or otherwise. This includes any and all digital inventory to be made available at the time of the championship, inclusive of any inventory that may be added by the venue after this bid document is signed.

Section 10 • Critical Incident Response/Emergency Plan

PREPARATION

The facility liaison and NCAA championships administrator/site representative shall review with the local law-enforcement agencies their procedures for circumstances requiring emergency evacuation of the facility or interruption of the competition. Facility management is reminded of its responsibility to provide sufficient security and/or law-enforcement personnel to ensure that access to the competition and surrounding areas is restricted to student-athletes and credentialed individuals.

Each host will be asked to provide the following:

- Develop contact lists.
  - NCAA.
  - Local authorities and critical incident response team.
- Review emergency protocol prior to the start of the event.
- Identify chain of authority.
  - Incident commander (second in command).
  - Decision-making personnel/team.
- Identify incident command center.
- Identify incident communication plan.
- Review evacuation plan – review plan with facility manager.
- Review emergency response plan for typical emergencies.
- Review emergency response plan for national disasters.
- Review emergency response plan for terrorist actions.

In the event of a critical incident, contact the NCAA site representative/championship administrator immediately before any decisions are made.

Interruption of Competition. If competition is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the committee, it shall be continued from the point of interruption at a time determined by the committee. If necessary, the remaining competition schedule also shall be adjusted by the games committee. The committee should review the following procedures for interruption of a game:

Scorer's Table. Assure that the official time of the game along with all statistics, substitutions, cardable fouls, timeouts, ball possession, score and on-field players at the time of suspension are accurately recorded.

Student-Athletes and Coaches. These individuals should proceed to their respective benches, on instruction from the NCAA staff, committee members or site representatives, retire to the locker rooms or to another locale to await further instructions.

Power Source/Public Address. Facility management should protect the power source and the public-address system. If an alternate public-address location is available (i.e., away from the competition area), it should be used so communication is not interrupted.

Responsibility. Building security and/or law-enforcement personnel shall be responsible for the restoration of order in the event unauthorized individuals occupy the competition area or if competition is otherwise disrupted. The NCAA suggests that law-enforcement personnel attempt to communicate with the leaders of the group occupying the competition area (if applicable) to ascertain whether the situation can be rectified in the short term. Under no circumstances are student-athletes, coaches, officials or NCAA representatives to become involved in the removal of such persons.

Communication. A senior member of the facility management and the senior law-enforcement officer at the site must proceed immediately to the scorer's table with means of portable communication to and from other facility staff and security officers. The public-address announcer should keep spectators informed of the conditions, if possible. Teams and officials must be kept informed throughout the delay.

Meeting. The committee chair, NCAA staff and game-management staff (facility manager, game management liaison and senior law-enforcement officer) should assemble immediately at the scorer's table to assess the situation.

Normal Conditions. The committee shall determine when conditions have returned to normal.

Resumption of Competition. As soon as possible, competition shall be resumed from the point of suspension with adequate warmup time allotted. If necessary, the games committee has the authority to limit attendance to credentialed individuals, those on each institution's pass list, other individuals designated by each institution's director of athletics and required facility operations personnel. Also, the games committee has the authority to reschedule the competition in a nearby facility (e.g., on campus or elsewhere in the city) provided the alternate facility meets the necessary NCAA specifications.

Spokesperson. The committee chair or his or her designee, working with the facility management, the NCAA and, when appropriate, city, county, state and federal law-enforcement agencies, will serve as spokesperson in the event of an emergency.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

The NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group to develop Best Practices for all NCAA championships. The SSAG developed these Best Practices based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own experience and knowledge. All hosts and competition venues are strongly encouraged to refer to the Best Practices located **here** when developing a safety and security program.

The suggestions outlined in Best Practices for Venue Safety and Security are based on practices that are employed by competition venues across the nation. The need and ability to implement them at each facility and event will vary. Properly trained and equipped personnel constitute the primary element of implementing a successful safety and security program.

Best Practices for championships competition venue safety are intended for guidance purposes only; they are not a requirement under NCAA or other regulations or legislation. In addition, because of the wide variety of designs and sizes of competition venues; and composition and profile of particular events, not all Best Practices will be reasonable or applicable.

The Best Practices should not be viewed as a complete or primary source of information for developing or implementing the safety program for the competition venue hosting an NCAA championship. Rather, facility managers and local public safety personnel should consider the current national threat level, nature of specific threats and the full range of resources available when responding to changes in the threat condition levels.

Please submit your final safety and security plan, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team Contact information form. Items must be submitted once the opportunity to host has been awarded.

WEATHER

If weather conditions could alter the approved schedule, the tournament director and/or site representative must contact the NCAA championship administrator before any decisions to change the schedule are finalized and communicated to participants. Be prepared to summarize the weather situation and have a recommendation for an alternate schedule.

Lightning and Weather Detection Service

The NCAA has made arrangements to provide a lightning-detection and weather-monitoring system to all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. This system will assist the event management staff and the NCAA site representatives in case of inclement weather during the championship. A tournament staff member should be dedicated to weather monitoring. This service is provided so that all sites will have the resources available to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, spectators and event management staff.

Section 11 • Drug Testing

The NCAA is dedicated to fair and equitable competition throughout each round of NCAA championships and strongly supports the drug-testing program established by its membership, to safeguard the health and safety of the participating student-athletes.

Comprehensive drug testing details for hosts are located **here**.

Section 12 • Facility, Equipment and Space Requirements

The NCAA will provide certain championships equipment (sidelines hydration, competition playing equipment, etc.) on a sport-by-sport basis that must be used in all championship activity. Each championship will receive information from the NCAA pertaining to any equipment that will be provided.

FACILITY USE

The competition venue must be exclusively available for practice and competitive sessions throughout the competition.

Facility Use Dates. Game and practice facilities must be reserved and given first priority for the tournament commencing at 8 a.m. the day prior to the game. Alternate facilities must be available in severe weather situations.

Time Clocks. The game clock should be operational at practice sessions to aid in communicating the allotted time.

Possession/Shot Clock. A visible game clock and 90-second possession clock are required. Penalty timing should be included on the videoboard/scoreboard if the venue has the capability. If the venue does not have capability, that should be made known on the participant call for everyone's knowledge.

Backup Possession Clock/Shot Clocks. Backup possession/shot clock should be readily available and install should be timely and efficient. It is preferred to have two backup possession clocks, with one being mandatory.

Backup Game Clocks. A backup clock is mandatory and should be synchronized with the visible clock. The official clock must be operational from the scorer's table. An air horn and secondary timepiece (for timeouts) also must be available at the scorer's table.

If the game clock is operated from the press box, then either the tournament director or the sports information director shall communicate the procedures regarding scoring, penalty clock and overall timing with the head official. In addition, the sports information director shall ensure the staff at the on-field scorer's table have the correct reporting forms along with lineups.

Banners. Any banners other than the approved NCAA and television and radio banners may not be posted on the arena walls without the permission of the women's lacrosse committee. Hand-held team banners are permissible as long as they do not interfere with the competition or spectators' views and they do not contain any commercial identification. Banners advertising equipment or manufacturers are prohibited.

Benches. Benches or chairs should be set up on either side of the scorer's table. At the finals site, the women's lacrosse committee will designate the bench areas for the teams.

Field Markings. The field surface shall be lined in accordance with NCAA Women's Lacrosse. It is the preference of the women's lacrosse committee that there be women's lacrosse lines only and when not available, the women's lacrosse lines be the most prominent color on the field.

Football Goal Posts. Any football goal posts shall be removed from each end of the playing field.

Horns. Two working air horns must be at the table at all times.

Games Committee Area. A room in the facility shall be designated for use by the games committee and/or women's lacrosse committee.

Locker Rooms/Assignments.

First and Second Rounds. Up to four equitable, spacious locker rooms with showers must be available for teams. Be sure to double-check that hot water is available. Locker room space for a minimum of seven game officials also must be available. Signs with the teams' names must be affixed to each respective locker room door. The host institution will determine the locker room assignments; the home team will be permitted to use its original locker room. At minimum, venues should provide a locker room for each participating team for pregame and postgame preparations. If the locker room is not accessible for halftime, the host institution must provide an adequately sized walled tent with lighting and seating. If the tent is not on a permanent surface, a floor should be provided. All locker

room arrangements must be submitted with the bid submission for the women's lacrosse committee's review. Any alternate locker room arrangements should be discussed with the participating teams on the participating team call and any requests for adjustments should be made immediately to ensure the hosts can accommodate the request.

Quarterfinals. Two equitable, spacious locker rooms with showers must be available for teams. Be sure to double check that hot water is available. Locker room space for a minimum of four game officials also must be available. Signs with the teams' names must be affixed to each respective locker room door. The host institution will determine the locker room assignments; the home team will be permitted to use its original locker room. At minimum, venues should provide a locker room for each participating team for pregame and postgame preparations. If the locker room is not accessible for halftime, the host institution must provide an adequately sized walled tent with lighting and seating. If the tent is not on a permanent surface, a floor should be provided. All locker room arrangements must be submitted with the bid submission for the women's lacrosse committee's review. Any alternate locker room arrangements should be discussed with the participating teams on the participating team call and any requests for adjustments should be made immediately to ensure the hosts can accommodate the request.

Final Site. A minimum of four spacious locker rooms, with showers, must be available for teams. Locker room space for a minimum of eight game officials also must be available. Signs with the teams' names must be affixed to each respective locker room door. The lacrosse committee will determine the locker room assignments. Usually these assignments are made based on an institution's seed.

Parking. The host will provide complimentary parking spaces in prime locations to be used at the sole discretion of the women's lacrosse committee. Each institution will receive four parking passes.

Scoreboard. It is preferred that signs with the names of the competing teams be posted on the scoreboard, rather than "home" and "visitor." A backup scoreboard should be available (e.g., flip cards) in case of a problem with the main scoreboard. Penalty timing should be included on the videoboard/scoreboard if the venue has the capability. If the venue does not have capability, that should be made known on the participant call.

Video review location. The video review location should be clearly marked and reviewed by the officials and teams at the site. The technology needed for the officials and teams should be reviewed prior to the day of the game. Teams should be informed of what equipment is needed to ensure working access to the broadcast feed. At minimum, hosts should provide a location that is close to the field, private from the participating teams, with a staffed operator (not from the coaching staff) and one monitor or iPad for the official to utilize for the review.

Scorer's Table. The table must be skirted and elevated to offer a clear view of the entire playing field. It is imperative that the personnel at the scorer's table be able to communicate with the press box. If possible, the table should be elevated.

Preliminary Rounds. There should be enough seats at the field table for at least seven individuals, including the official scorer, three statisticians, clock operator, one representative from each school, NCAA representative and table official.

Final Site. There should be enough seats at the field table for 15 individuals including the following: official scorer, statistician, clock operator, one representative from each school, three NCAA representatives, an NCAA championship administrator and an alternate official. It is imperative that the personnel at the scorer's table be able to communicate with the press box. Name cards shall be provided at each seat location.

DECORATING AND ADVERTISING

Signage. There may be no commercial advertising, signs or displays of any kind, including those of NCAA corporate champions/partners, hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the stadium proper (i.e., any area from which the field can be seen, including the scoreboard) during any session of the tournament.

Exceptions. The following are exceptions to this policy: approved NCAA and radio/television banners and permanent, previously existing contracted advertising displays that were accepted by the NCAA at the time the site was selected. However, such displays shall not be illuminated and should be covered if at all possible.

Television/Radio Banners. At televised games, only the NCAA and television and radio banners may be hung (one banner per network). The banner may not be located in any location opposite the main television cameras. No local / school radio banners are allowed.

Alcohol and Tobacco. No advertisements denoting, publicizing or promoting the sale of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, gambling publications or services, or any professional sports organizations or teams shall be hung, installed or displayed anywhere within the main seating area during the championship, unless the host is obligated to do so under contract(s) entered into prior to submitting its bid proposal to the NCAA.

Institutional Signage. Institutional signage does not need to be covered.

Directional Signs. Directional signs should be posted in all areas used by the participants and the media (e.g., locker rooms, hospitality).

Electronic Messages. No electronic board advertising of any kind or messages promoting non-NCAA events in the facility may be displayed during practice or competition. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the facility. The following kinds of messages are permissible: announcements of results from other NCAA competition; reminders that NCAA merchandise and concessions are on sale on the concourse; or any public-services announcements or promotional messages specifically provided by the NCAA. All other messages must be approved in advance by the championship administrator or the NCAA site representative.

Video Boards. If electronic video replay screens are available, they may be used at the facility's expense. Replays of any game official's calls are not permissible; however, replays of goals scored are permissible. Video boards may not display advertising. For the finals site, the NCAA will provide programming.

Table Banner. The NCAA will provide one banner for the scorer's table. The NCAA staff will consult with the tournament director to determine the dimensions for the banners. No other ornamentation or signage is allowed on the scorer's table. Cover the scorer's table with drape or other appropriate material if the banner does not cover the entire table.

NCAA SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Athletic Training Room. Provide athletic training room stocked with towels and other necessary equipment, and staff it with appropriate personnel prior to and during the games and all practice sessions.

Backdrop. At preliminary rounds, the area behind the media dais should use pipe and drape with an NCAA banner displayed. If the hosts do not have an NCAA banner, a digital or neutral-color background can be used. Host institutions should not use their own team backdrop for opposing team press conferences. At the final site, the NCAA will provide the backdrop.

Entrances. Entrances must be staffed by an adequate number of persons. Signage should be posted to clearly identify all entrances (i.e., team, media, player-guest tickets, band/spirit squad).

Player-Guest Entrance. A gate must be identified to admit patrons holding player-guest tickets.

Supplies. Each locker room must be clean and adequately supplied with towels, toilet paper, water and ice during all competition. The site representative/committee will inspect the locker rooms prior to the first practice.

Workroom. The media workroom should be equipped with an adequate number of telephones, electrical outlets and other necessary supplies. NCAA logos should be displayed appropriately.

PARKING

There should be enough parking spaces adjacent to the championship venue for the site representative/committee, team personnel, officials, NCAA staff and media. In addition, designate an area for team buses to drop off and pick up passengers.

SECURITY

Security personnel (police, ushers or other attendants) should be stationed at the entrances to the game field during both practice and competition sessions to screen personnel.

The only individuals with credentials permitted on the game field during actual competition will be the following:

a. Game officials.

b. Timers, official scorer, statisticians, etc.

c. Official travel party.

d. NCAA staff and women's lacrosse committee.

e. Tournament director/event management staff/host personnel.

f. Athletic trainers/physician.

Refer to CREDENTIALS for additional details.

In order to ensure the safety of and best competitive atmosphere for the competitors, field credentials should be provided to only participants, officials and other authorized personnel. No one should be allowed to enter the field without a credential. (Refer to CREDENTIALS.)

Section 13 • Financial Administration

AUDIT

Sites will be randomly selected for financial and box office audits following the championship.

The NCAA will make every effort to notify sites selected for audits within 30 days after the approval of financial reports, but reserves the right to audit a site up to one year after the championship. Receipts, facility settlements, expense reimbursements and honorariums are subject to change until the audits are reviewed and accepted by the NCAA. If selected for audit, the documentation requested could include the following: box office audit reports or sales summaries; ticket purchase invoices or statements; unsold tickets; invoices, contracts or timesheets supporting all expenses; general ledger; bank statements; check copies and reconciliations, competition venue rental agreement and any other documentation to support details reported on the host financial report. In addition, overages between budgeted and actual numbers will be reviewed.

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

As part of the site-selection process, each prospective host must submit a proposed budget for approval by the NCAA. All receipts and expenses associated with the conduct of the championship competition shall be included in the proposed budget. This includes lodging expenses for officials and site representatives, if applicable. The proposed budget must be submitted before the selection date in accordance with the schedule set by the sport committee and approved by the NCAA prior to the first date of competition of the championship. Additionally, best efforts should be made by the host to reasonably forecast expected ticket sales from the hosted event due to attendance driving a number of host expenses.

The host institution is responsible for adhering to championship expenses as approved by the NCAA, including (but not limited to) competition site rental, maintenance, insurance, printing of tickets, ushers, maintenance personnel, ticket sellers, ticket takers, minor officials, police and security, promotion, publicity, advertising, meetings, banquets, medical staff. Other expenses not included in the original proposed budget must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

It is also incumbent upon the host to understand and remit all necessary taxes related to the sale of championship tickets made by both the NCAA and the host at their given state and locality. All consideration must be given by the host for certain relief of taxes with respect to the NCAA's not for profit status under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, certain championships may be required to provide a letter of attestation regarding tax status provided by an outside CPA/accounting firm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Host institutions must complete the online financial report, which includes accurately reporting all revenues and expenses, within 60 days after the final date of competition at the site (if applicable). An automated email will be generated notifying the host of the final, approved settlement payable/receivable amount. Remittance of any amount due to the NCAA should be made to the NCAA upon approval of the financial report by the NCAA staff and receipt of the automated email noted above. If requested, the host may be required to provide all supporting documentation to validate the revenues and expenses of their site. As a best practice, hosts are encouraged to upload all appropriate receipts, ticket audits and other supporting documentation to their host report on the "Summary" tab as documentation supporting each line of their revenue and expense figures.

Financial reports showing net receipts are not considered complete until payment is received at the national office. Institutions that fail to meet the 60-day reporting period will be assessed the following penalties: 60-90 days past due (25% reduction in honorarium), 91-120 days (50% reduction in honorarium) and 121 days or more (100% reduction in honorarium). If the financial report results in the NCAA paying the host, the NCAA will make best efforts to reimburse the host within five business days of the report being approved by the NCAA finance and accounting department.

DRUG TESTING EXPENSES

The budget for drug testing expenses should only be completed and returned to Drug Free Sport if the host has been notified that drug testing will occur. The drug-testing budget and expenses are separate from the financial report form. The drug-testing budget form is an appendix in the **drug testing manual** (ncaa.org/Student-Athlete Programs/Health and Safety).

PARTICIPANTS

The NCAA will reimburse the competing institutions for transportation and per diem expenses in accordance with the NCAA travel policies. Once the championship is completed, participating institutions should submit reimbursement through the **Travel Expense System (TES)** to the travel department within 30 days of the competition. Please note that if you host a championship, the submission of per diem and/or transportation reimbursement is in addition to the host budgeting and approval process defined above.

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

The NCAA representative's hotel room and tax shall be paid (via direct bill) by the host institution and submitted on the financial report. All other expenses (i.e., per diem, travel) will be paid directly by the NCAA.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation. The NCAA shall pay for the rental of cars for a predetermined number of game officials and the NCAA committee representative(s). The championships staff will approve the individual to get a rental car and the individual will need to call Short's Travel to book.

Local Transportation for Teams. For team sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation, must arrange ground transportation through Short's Travel. Individual sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation receive mileage reimbursement in accordance with the travel policy.

Air Transportation for Teams. If a school is eligible for air transportation, all air travel must be booked through Short's Travel.

Hotel Room Block for Predetermined Site. If at an NCAA predetermined championship site, On Location will assist with the management of those hotel room blocks.

NCAA Championship Travel Policies

Section 14 • Health & Safety Considerations

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 with event staff and personnel including, among others, those relating to concussion management, catastrophic injury prevention, inclement weather and independent medical care, consulting with institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel as necessary. These requirements and related information can be found in applicable division manuals, sports playing rules and the materials located on the **NCAA Sport Science Institute website**. A nonexhaustive list of some of the key health and safety considerations is provided below. More detailed information on each of these topics can be found in the ***Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes,*** the **NCAA's Guidance for Medical Care and Coverage for Student-Athletes at Away Events** and the ***NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook***.

- Blood-Borne Pathogens and Other Biohazards.
- Catastrophic Incidents and Emergency Action Plans.
- Cleaning and Disinfection.
- Inclement Weather, Air Quality and Other Environmental Considerations.
- Independent Medical Care.
- Medical Facilities.
- Medical Disqualification, Removal and Return to Activities.
- Medical Staff: Resources, Communications, Training and Responsibilities.
- Medical Supplies and Equipment.
- Medical Treatment (including for, among others, the following emergency conditions):
    - Asthma.
    - Burners (Brachial Plexus Injuries).
    - Cardiac Emergencies.
    - Cervical Spine Injuries.
    - Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury.
    - Diabetic Emergency.
    - Head and Neck Injury.
    - Heat Illness and Heat Stroke.
    - Hypothermia.
    - Mental Health Emergencies.
    - Rhabdomyolysis.
    - Sickle Cell and Other Exertional and Nonexertional Collapse.
    - Skin Infections.
- Prescription Medications, Banned Substances and Drug Testing.
- Protective Gear and Equipment.
- Sexual Violence.
- Visiting Team Care and Coverage.

In addition, and as a supplement to the legislative and policy requirements and related guidance described above, the following health and safety considerations and expectations will also apply to all championship events.

Ambulance Service

Planned access to an ambulance shall be provided by the championship host. If it is determined that an ambulance should be provided on site, the championship host shall obtain the ambulance service and the incurred cost is reimbursable by the NCAA. Any ambulance used must be equipped in accordance with all applicable government regulations and industry medical and safety standards.

Coaches, Officials, Event Staff and Spectators

Host institutions should consult as necessary with applicable institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel to determine and appropriately plan for the management of emergency and other health and safety incidents involving individuals other than student-athletes that may occur at the championship event or venue.

Medical Staff Credentials and Access

Travel party credentials for participating institutions will include credentials for medical personnel; provided it is the responsibility of the participating institution to include medical personnel in their normal credential numbers. Institutions may include medical staff beyond travel party limits provided they pay for the additional numbers with institutional funds. Competition site access can be secured by acquiring session tickets through purchase or an institutional pass list.

Any medical staff traveling with participating teams will have access to their team participants with the assistance of host medical staff, should an injury occur. If medical staff are not to be seated with the team during any championship event for any reason, they should communicate to host medical staff their seat locations and host medical staff should be prepared to provide all participant medical staff with the necessary credentials to access and provide necessary escort to the team locker room or athletic training room in the event of an emergency. Typically, an access point from the stands supervised by security will allow access by medical personnel to student-athletes.

Portable Immersion Tubs

Portable immersion tubs (hot or cold) are permitted at championship events only where use is a component of an established emergency or other health and safety plan and managed under the direction of sports medicine staff, an athletic trainer or physician in accordance with all applicable institutional and government health regulations and requirements.

Section 15 • Hydration Product

FIRST- AND SECOND-ROUND SITES NOT RECEIVING BODYARMOR-BRANDED EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCT

The host institution may use items other than **BODYARMOR**-branded equipment. These items, however, must not display any commercial marks (e.g., logos and graphics of commercial products such as Gatorade), or such marks must be covered completely (this requirement applies on the sidelines and in competition areas, media areas or any other back-of-house areas).

If the host must provide and/or purchase product for any NCAA championship use (e.g., student-athlete banquet, committee tent/suite, hospitality areas, media areas), the host must purchase and provide only Coca-Cola products (e.g., Dasani, BODYARMOR, Coca-Cola, Sprite). Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice; however, equipment carrying any branding other than BODYARMOR, as referenced above, must be absent of any commercial marks.

QUARTERFINAL AND FINAL SITES RECEIVING BODYARMOR-BRANDED EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCT

Equipment Information

The NCAA will provide certain championships relevant equipment (sidelines hydration product, sidelines hydration equipment, etc.) on a sport-by-sport basis that must be used in all championship activity. The purpose of the product and equipment is to hydrate student-athletes for competition. Each championship will receive information from the NCAA pertaining to any product and equipment that will be provided. After the championships, each host site will be required to provide the NCAA with a completed inventory sheet (template provided by the NCAA) and pictures for proof of performance.

Cups, Coolers and Water Bottles

Drinking cups, water coolers, ice chests, cooler carts and water bottles should be provided for each scheduled practice or competition. Participating teams shall place any premix fluid replacement in the NCAA-issued coolers and water bottles when applicable. Only cups, cans, coolers or water bottles may be used during championships that are provided by the NCAA. If applicable, the host may retain the coolers, cooler carts and ice chests after the competition. Reoccurring host sites are strongly encouraged to use the same equipment the following year unless otherwise notified by the NCAA. Participating teams may retain the water bottles and bottle carriers after the competition.

Hydration Program

Coca-Cola will provide a bottled water product (e.g., Dasani), BODYARMOR powder, and when applicable, BODYARMOR in bottles. Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice in the NCAA-provided equipment. Equipment carrying any branding other than BODYARMOR, however, will not be permitted on the sidelines during NCAA championships.

If a championship also receives BODYARMOR-branded squeeze bottles, they should be provided to student-athletes. Non-BODYARMOR-branded squeeze bottles brought by teams/student-athletes will not be allowed.

If the host must provide and/or purchase product for any NCAA championship use (e.g., student-athlete banquet, committee tent/suite, hospitality areas, media areas), the host must purchase and provide only Coca-Cola products (e.g., Dasani, BODYARMOR, Coca-Cola, Sprite).

Competitors of NCAA Corporate Champion Coca-Cola may not provide product (beverages, water, isotonics) for any NCAA championship, even if the competition offers product for free or at a reduced cost. The championship budget will cover the purchase of Coca-Cola beverage products.

Use of NCAA-Provided Coolers from Previous Years

The host may use previously supplied equipment from the NCAA, specifically BODYARMOR equipment with approval from the NCAA; however, unless approved by the NCAA (which is often possible), they must be used in areas not within television or photographer view [they may not be used on the sidelines or within the competition area(s)].

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact Caleb Kolby (317-917-6180; **ckolby@ncaa.org**).

Section 16 • Insurance

LIABILITY

If event is held on-campus:

Host institution must maintain and provide proof of at least $1 million of Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. Certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of CGL coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

If event is held off-campus:

Host institution must maintain and provide proof of at least $1 million of Commercial General Liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. Certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of CGL coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

Venue must maintain and provide a minimum of $1 million in Commercial General Liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. NCAA must be named as an additional insured.

NOTE: All insurance must be provided by an insurance company with an A.M. Best Rating of A-, VII or higher.

Section 17 • Lodging

NCAA NON-PREDETERMINED PRELIMINARY-ROUND COMPETITION

For all NCAA non-predetermined preliminary round competition, unless otherwise stated, the host institution/agency or the NCAA (see sport specific section for details) shall make reservations for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s) and advise them of the arrangements.

Hotel Expectations – General

Ensuring a positive student-athlete experience at NCAA championships includes securing lodging for visiting teams at the appropriate level of quality at a reasonable distance from the competition venue.

Top teams should continue to have the right to host, provided a qualified bid is submitted by the established deadline. When the expectations for student-athlete experience fall short, sport committees will provide direct feedback to hosts. Host institutions have a responsibility to remedy identified issues prior to being considered for hosting opportunities in the future, regardless of sport. Failure to meet these expectations could impact the institution's opportunity to host in the future, even if their seeding merits it.

Location

Hotels are expected to be located within 30-45 minutes of travel time from the venue, with a preference for 30 minutes. Hotels beyond 45 minutes, but no more than 60 minutes, may be considered by the sport committee as part of an acceptable bid, but additional information and rationale is required with the bid. Hosts should also ensure that the locations of the hotels for all visiting teams are equitable to the greatest extent possible. Hosts should indicate the quality of hotels in the bid submission on both the hotel letter of agreement and in the bid portal so committees have an additional understanding before awarding bids.

Room Rates

Room rates, as with hotel quality and location, should be comparable for all visiting teams. Hosts are expected to secure room rates that are in line with the per diem rate (i.e., $150 regular/$205 high-cost city for the 2025-26 academic year).

Lodging Types

Hotels with internal doors and beds (i.e., no pullouts) are the only permissible lodging options. Full-service properties are preferred while limited-service properties can be acceptable if they meet quality and amenity requirements as specified by the respective sport committee.

Hotel Letter of Agreement

A letter of agreement between the host and the officials/site representative and team hotel(s) must be uploaded into the bid portal stating that the requisite number of rooms are being held (refer to bid checklist for the letter of agreement template). The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athletes.

Release Policy

Participating institutions are expected to stay at the hotel assigned by the host and are responsible for confirming with the hotel the number of rooms they will require and the rooming lists. If an institution prefers to stay in another hotel, the institution must use the rooms for persons accompanying the official travel party or will be charged a financial penalty as follows:

The participating institution is expected to pay the penalty to the impacted hotel prior departing from the locale.

NCAA PREDETERMINED PRELIMINARY-ROUND COMPETITIONS AND FINAL SITES

For select NCAA predetermined preliminary-round competition and final sites, On Location acting on NCAA's behalf shall contract hotel accommodations for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s). Hotels are expected to be located within 30-45 minutes of travel time from the venue, with a preference for 30 minutes. Hotels beyond 45 minutes, but no more than 60 minutes, may be considered by the sport committee. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athlete(s). Teams must stay at an NCAA contracted hotel unless otherwise noted. Hosts are no longer required to secure the rooms. On Location, the official hotel management provider of the NCAA, will solicit, negotiate and contract all hotel rooms at these sites.

Participating institutions are expected to stay at the hotel assigned by the host and are responsible for confirming with the hotel the number of rooms they will require and the rooming lists. If an institution prefers to stay in another hotel, the institution must use the rooms for persons accompanying the official travel party or will be charged a financial penalty as follows:

1. If the event is one to three nights, the institution will be required to pay for one night.

2. If the event is four or more nights, the institution will be required to pay for two nights.

The participating institution is expected to pay the penalty to the impacted hotel prior departing from the locale.

For select individual-team sports, the NCAA will secure risk-free hotel accommodations with favorable concessions and contract terms on the participating teams and individuals' behalf. Teams are encouraged but not required to use NCAA-secured hotels.

MERCHANDISING

The hotel understands that the NCAA exclusively will have first right of refusal to sell products licensed by the NCAA for merchandising at the selected hotels, unless otherwise noted in the hotel agreement. If the NCAA executes this right, the hotel agrees to provide space in its lobby, tables, electricity, dedicated phone line and a secure storage location for such sales at no charge to the NCAA merchandising agent. The NCAA guarantees that the merchandise will be displayed in a neat, professional manner.

In return, the NCAA merchandising agent will pay to the hotel a percentage of the net sales from the hotel location. Net sales are defined as gross sales minus sales tax and credit card fees. The percentage rate will be a predetermined, nonnegotiable rate included in the contract between the two parties, except as specified in the following sections.

Section 18 • Marketing

CONTACTS

The host institution should designate a marketing contact or marketing team for the championship. This person should be familiar with marketing strategies that have worked in the community where the championship will be held to sell tickets and drive attendance. It is the primary responsibility of the marketing contact to work closely with the NCAA championships marketing contact to create and implement the championship marketing plan. While many host institutions may have a marketing contact in the athletics department, this individual may also be from the local organizing committee, convention and visitor's bureau, sports commission or a combination thereof. Contact information for the designated marketing contact(s) should be submitted through the key contact portion of the Championships Bid Portal.

EXPECTATIONS

- Know the marketing budget. The NCAA championship tournament manager on your campus or the NCAA championship manager can communicate your marketing budget.
- Develop marketing goals. The primary focus should be driving ticket sales and attendance at the championship by developing inclusive promotion and awareness opportunities and utilizing diverse targeting strategies.
- Map out the time frame to market the championship.
- Determine how to best use the marketing materials provided by the NCAA.
- Establish grassroots initiatives to implement in your local and regional communities by creating and promoting messaging that resonates with people of all race, sex, class, national origin, creed, education background, religion, gender identity, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and which appeals to diverse communities.
- Explore opportunities with traditional media (print, radio and television) in your area.
- Track marketing efforts and analyze results postchampionship to share with your NCAA marketing contact.

MARKETING PLAN

Host institutions/conferences shall establish a marketing plan in coordination with the NCAA championships marketing contact. The marketing should reflect the host's commitment to creating an environment where all guests feel welcome and see themselves represented throughout the championship experience. All marketing plans, marketing budgets and collateral must be approved by the NCAA championships marketing contact prior to implementation. A marketing plan template is located in Appendix B.

MARKETING COLLATERAL

NCAA Marketing Portal. The NCAA Marketing Portal is a comprehensive tool designed to help hosts create marketing products which will generate awareness, drive ticket sales and promote attendance at championship events. The **NCAA Marketing Portal** can be accessed at **ansira.com/cn/ncaachampspromotions**.

Championship hosts should customize and download all necessary artwork to promote the championship from the website. Hosts should use imagery from the artwork provided, produce the items locally and obtain reimbursement for production costs, up to the reimbursable allocation provided for the championship round you are hosting.

Each NCAA Championships host marketing contact and tournament manager will receive an email with the marketing website address, username and password. Please contact **ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org** if you are unable to locate this information.

Customizable artwork templates and marketing resources available on the NCAA Marketing Portal include, but are not limited to:

- PRINT
  - Poster
  - Flyer
  - Print ad
  - Table tent
- DIGITAL
  - Email blast
  - Banner
  - Social media graphics
  - Video board
- OUTDOOR
  - Billboard
  - Banner
- RESOURCES
  - Marketing best practices
  - Social media guidelines
  - Special artwork requests

If you have artwork needs and/or sizing which may not be available on the NCAA Marketing Portal, you may submit a special request through the website. Any additional questions can be directed to **ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org**.

All requests must be approved by the national office staff before you proceed. Artwork requests and approvals will be managed through the website. If you do not have a local print vendor, we have listed NCAA preferred vendors on the website.

Collateral should not be created outside of the NCAA Marketing Portal. The website ensures proper usage of NCAA logos and trademarks, as well as ensures consistent branding across each championship round and all 90 NCAA Championships.

NOTE: A limited number of Division I predetermined hosts will create all marketing collateral by coordinating directly with the NCAA Championship Marketing contact; they will not have access to the NCAA Marketing Portal.

Television/Video and Radio Ticket Spots. The marketing website allows hosts of select predetermined championship sites to download TV, video and radio spots for immediate use. Questions regarding the availability of these spots for your championship event should be directed to your NCAA championship marketing contact.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Host institutions/conferences may use already established social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) as a place to promote the hosting of an NCAA championship. However, host institutions/conferences should use marketing messages and assets supplied from or approved by the NCAA (links, web banners, flyers, updates, etc.). If the championship does not have an official NCAA social media page, a host is NOT permitted to create a social media page. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the established pages, as necessary. Please refer to **ncaa.org** for a listing of official NCAA social media accounts.

APPLICABLE MARKETING BYLAWS

NCAA Division I Bylaws - Pertaining to NCAA Championship Promotions

12.5.1.1.1 Promotions Involving NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs. (Adopted: 8/7/03)

12.5.1.8 Promotion of NCAA and Conference Championships. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of a student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships. A student-athlete's name or picture may appear in a poster that promotes a conference championship, provided the poster is produced by a member that hosts a portion of the championship or by the conference. (Adopted: 1/11/89, Revised: 8/7/03)

12.6.1.8 Reciprocal Marketing Agreements – Sports Other Than Football and Men's Basketball. In sports other than football and men's basketball, an institution's marketing department may enter into a reciprocal contractual relationship with a professional sports organization for the specific purpose of marketing and promoting an institutionally sponsored sport. (Adopted: 4/29/04 effective 8/1/04, Revised 2/17/12)

13.4.3.3 NCAA or Conference Championship Posters. An institution hosting an NCAA or conference championship may produce a poster promoting the championship and send it to a high school coach and/or his or her educational institution. It is not permissible to send such a poster to a prospective student-athlete.(Adopted: 10/28/99, Revised: 4/6/00, 1/10/05 effective 8/1/05)

13.4.3.3.1 NCAA or Conference Championship Promotional Materials. The NCAA or member conference [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA or member conference (e.g., host institution, host conference, or local organizing committee)] may produce and provide championship-promotional materials to any individual or group, provided the materials: (Adopted: 1/10/05)

(a) Are solely for the purpose of promoting the championship event rather than the host institution, and use factual information (e.g., date, time, location, identification of host school/conference, ticket information, photos of previous championships);

(b) Are not sent exclusively to prospective student-athletes;

(c) Are available to the general public; and

(d) Do not promote the institution's athletics program.

13.1.8.5 NCAA Promotional Activities Exception. An institution's coach may participate in NCAA promotional activities (e.g., autograph sessions, fan festivals and opening ceremonies) at NCAA championship events, provided contacts with prospective student-athletes are not prearranged and recruiting activities do not occur. (Adopted: 4/28/05)

NCAA Division II Bylaws - Pertaining to NCAA Championship Promotions

12.5.1.1.3 - Promotions Involving NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs. (Adopted: 1/12/04)

12.5.1.7 - Promotion of NCAA and Conference Championships. The NCAA [or third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of a student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships. A student-athlete's name or picture may appear in a poster that promotes a conference championship, provided the poster is produced by a member institution that hosts a portion of the championship or by the conference. (Adopted: 1/11/89, Revised: 1/12/04)

12.6.1.2 - To Intercollegiate Event. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and may be publicly identified as such. **[D]** (Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 8/5/04, 10/28/10, 6/22/11, 1/14/12)

13.4.3.2 - NCAA or Conference Championship Promotional Materials. The NCAA or a member conference [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA or member conference (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may produce and provide championships promotional materials to any individual or group, provided the materials: [D] (Adopted: 1/11/00 effective 8/1/00, Revised: 1/13/03 effective 8/1/03, 1/10/05 effective 8/1/05, 6/22/11)

(a) Are solely for the purpose of promoting the championship event rather than the host institution, and use factual information (e.g., date, time, location, identification of host school/conference, ticket information, photos of previous championships);

(b) Are not sent exclusively to prospective student-athletes;

(c) Are available to the general public; and

(d) Do not promote the institution's athletics program.

NCAA Division III Bylaws - Pertaining to NCAA Championship Promotions

12.5.1.1.2 - Promotions Involving NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs. (Adopted: 1/10/05)

12.5.1.10 - Promotion of NCAA and Conference Championships. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of a student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships. A student-athlete's name or picture may appear in a poster that promotes a conference championship, provided the poster is produced by a member institution that hosts a portion of the championship or by the conference. (Adopted: 1/11/89, Revised: 1/10/05)

12.6.1.2 - To Intercollegiate Event. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and may be publicly identified as such. [D] (Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/10/05, 1/14/12)

13.4.1.2 - Conference or NCAA Championships. An institution or conference that is hosting any portion of a conference or NCAA championship may send printed materials promoting the championship event (e.g., ticket application or promotional brochures, flyers or posters) to high school or two-year college coaches or administrators, but not to specific prospective student-athletes, provided: (Adopted: 1/13/10)

(a) The printed material includes only information relevant to the championship events;

(b) The printed material is available to the general public, including all high schools in the local area; and

(c) The printed material contains no information related to the institution's athletics program.

13.14.1.2.1 Exception – NCAA Championships. An institution or conference that is hosting any portion of an NCAA championship may purchase paid advertisements in a high school athletics program to generally promote the NCAA championship, provided: *(Adopted: 1/15/14)*

(a) The advertisement includes only information relevant to the championship events;

(b) The advertisement is available to the general public, including all high schools in the local area; and

(c) The advertisement does not contain information related to the institution's athletics program or the conference's member institutions.

Section 19 • Media Services

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host school/conference, facility and the NCAA. The primary objective of everyone involved in the administration of the championship, shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, administrator and tournament attendee.

Note that health and safety protocols related to preparedness, response and protocols might have an effect on the media services detailed below, with any changes provided to all hosts in advance of each championship.

BROADCASTING/INTERNET

Please log on to **ncaa.com/media** for information regarding broadcast/internet rights.

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS

NCAA championship records are available in PDF format at ncaa.org - ncaa.org/sports/2021/2/9/statistics.aspx.

CREDENTIALS

All media credentials are authorized and issued by the host or NCAA media coordinator. The NCAA provides credentials for all final championship sites and selected preliminary rounds sites. Hosts should contact the NCAA media coordinator or championships administrator to confirm who will produce credentials for preliminary sites**. PDF templates are available for preliminary round credentials if desired. Please contact Jenn Rodgers (jrodgers@ncaa.org) for more information.** If you are producing your own credentials, the "Conditions Placed on Use of Credentials" should be placed on the back of all credentials. That text, located at **ncaa.com/credentialterms**, should also be visible at credential pickup.

The following is a sample of the types of credentials that can be produced, if applicable:

- All Access – For event management-type personnel who need access to every area, including game surface.
- Event Management – For event management staff who do not need All Access.
- Media – For members of the media to provide them access to press areas (press row/box, media room, interview room, locker rooms [postgame only]).
- Participant – For student-athletes, coaches, equipment managers (anyone in the official travel party).
- Photo – For still photographers and television camera operators (if the contest is not going to be televised) to allow them access to appropriate areas [playing surface, locker rooms (postgame only), press box and media room].
- SID – For sports information directors of the participating teams (may allow access to media areas and locker rooms as needed).
- Television Network – If the game is going to be televised by ESPN, Turner Sports, etc., those entities should have their own credential to allow them to specific places such as the truck compound.

It is up to the tournament director to determine which areas may be accessed with each credential type.

CREDENTIAL QUALIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Preliminary-Round Site – Preliminary-round/site media coordinators should send a credential request form to members of the local media to determine who will be covering the event.

** Working credentials will not be mailed. The media coordinator should issue credentials individually at an appropriate site at the venue or at the designated headquarters hotel. A government-issued photo ID is required to pick up credentials. Credentials are nontransferable and will only be issued to the person whose name appears on the credential. Credential pickup for others is not allowed.

CREDENTIAL BOARDS

The NCAA will provide credential boards to all final sites. These are for public display and to advise security personnel at the competition venue which credentials are allowed for access into specific areas of the venue. For credentials that are not allowed into a specific area, use a black marker to cross out the credentials not permitted.

FINAL RESULTS BOOKS AND STATISTICS

The final results book for team championships should include, at a minimum, final statistics, play-by-play summary and results as well as a cover sheet, event recap and postgame notes/quotes.

The host institution is responsible for providing complete statistics of all NCAA championships competition.

FLIP CARDS

Flip cards should be provided to all media members for easy reference to participating team information, where applicable. The flip cards should include all players on the roster and a minimum of their uniform numbers along with the head coach and any assistants. The flip card should include team results as well as standard information regarding the game, such as date, location and opponent.

INTERNET POLICY

The NCAA website, **ncaa.com**, serves as the official online resource for NCAA championships. Please visit **ncaa.com/media** for updated NCAA championship internet policies.

The NCAA and its partners own the Internet rights to all of its 90 championship events. Rights include live statistics, video and audio streaming, electronic commerce, and postevent footage use. The NCAA and its partners own all game action, practice footage, press conferences, one-on-one interviews or any other content on the NCAA website.

Internet Live Statistics

The NCAA reserves the right to deny permission to produce live statistics for NCAA championship play. In the event the NCAA takes on the responsibility of producing a live statistical representation from an NCAA championship event, no other entity will be permitted to do so. Live statistics are considered a protected right as part of a bundled rights agreement, referenced above. For clarification purposes, a live statistical representation includes play-by-play, score updates, shot charts, updated box scores, photos with captions, etc.

In the event the NCAA does not produce live statistics for a specific championship, the host institution is given priority to produce exclusive live statistics. The host institution will be given the same exclusivities the NCAA would reserve for its rights holder in such an instance.

Once it is determined that neither the NCAA nor the host institution plan to exercise their exclusive rights, the ability to produce live statistics will be granted – on a nonexclusive basis – to each participating school. A "participating school" is defined as a school playing in the same event at a specific site.

In each case, no commercial advertising is permitted within the live statistics window, unless permission is specifically granted by the NCAA. Any questions pertaining to live statistics should be sent to Nate Flannery, NCAA director of digital and social media (**nflannery@ncaa.org**).

MEDIA GUIDES AND POSTSEASON GUIDES

The NCAA or host media coordinator should notify each school that qualifies for the championship how many media guides and/or postseason guides should be sent to the championship site and/or if media guides and postseason information should be uploaded to the NCAA box library. If wanting to provide a printed version, the media coordinator should provide an overnight address where the schools can send the information (their office or the facility) and a deadline as to when it should arrive. Consider security when selecting the location where these materials will be shipped.

MEDIA ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel. If necessary, the media coordinator should arrange for a block of rooms to be set aside for media, preferably at the headquarters hotel. Media members should be given a contact/link at the hotel whom they can call or link to make reservations; this can be listed on the credential application form along with the room rate and deadline for making reservations.

Meals. Media meals are not required at all championships. Disbursements should be guided by the budget which was originally submitted by the tournament manager and approved by the NCAA national office.

Parking. Complimentary media parking should be provided at all championship host sites. The media coordinator should determine if it would be more effective to use parking passes or a parking list. If passes are used, the host institution must generate them. Media shuttle systems may also be used provided any costs are approved in advance by the specific sport committee and NCAA championships staff liaison.

Media Workroom. If possible, a media workroom should be designated at each site, where media members can provide a workspace. The workroom should provide an adequate amount of media seating, electrical outlets, complimentary wireless internet access and a pool of high-speed internet lines, if possible. Each school's media guides and/or postseason guides, along with any materials the host institution distributes (statistics, game notes, quotes, etc.), should be located in this area.

NEWS FILM AND MINI-CAMS

Please visit **ncaa.com/media** for updated information related to television, video and ENG policies.

OFFICIATING QUESTIONS/POOL REPORTER

The host media coordinator shall appoint one member of the media to serve as the pool reporter at the competition site and must be approved in advance by the NCAA staff.

Pool reporters may request an officiating and/or rules interpretation via the NCAA committee and staff members on site, when a game includes a potential fighting situation that results in a technical foul and/or ejection of a participant; if a rules interpretation is needed; or there is a clock/timing issue. Additionally, if a member of the respective sport committee deems it in the best interest of the championship for broadcast partners and members of the media to receive an interpretation pertaining to another specific situation, the officiating crew shall return to its locker room and conduct a conference call with the NCAA's national coordinator of officiating for interpretation. No one other than the game officials, members of the committee and the NCAA staff representatives assigned to the site are permitted in the locker room during this meeting.

Upon completion of the meeting and if competition is continuing at the host site, staff will communicate with the pool reporter and the sideline reporter from the broadcast entity (without camera or microphone) to share the officiating crew's interpretation to help enhance the public's understanding of what transpired.

The NCAA will issue a statement and will distribute it to its broadcast partners, on social media and to media covering tournament games at that site.

PERSONNEL

Each media coordinator is responsible for organizing workers to assist in the media operations of the championship. It is important to remind volunteers that they may see very little of the championship competition because of their responsibilities and the NCAA will not pay any expenses. All volunteers should be a minimum of 16 years or older. It is preferred that all media coordination volunteers have experience with media relations or championships.

The number of workers will depend upon the media demand for the games at the site. Communication with the participating SIDs and the media coordinator's knowledge of the area media will help with advance planning.

The following is a basic list of duties for volunteers (if applicable):

- Copy Machine Personnel – Photocopies materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Credential Distribution – Pass out credentials to the media; check government-issued photo ID.
- External PA – Announcer for fans.
- Internal PA – Announcer for the media.
- Locker Room Attendant – Person to identify when the locker room is open and closed to the media.
- Mixed Zone Coordinator – Coordinates interviews in the mixed zone in events such as track and field and swimming and diving. Depending on the number of participants, this individual may need several assistants.

- Note Takers – Compiles worthy notes during and after the game or day.
- Photo Marshall – Makes sure photographers work in approved event coverage locations. Hands out photo armbands, if necessary.
- Press Conference Moderator – Introduces players and coach; directs questions from media.
- Quote Takers – Records postgame quotes from the press conferences/locker rooms. A minimum of one person should be designated to take quotes for each team. They should get quotes from the head coach and student-athletes.
- Results Disseminator – Transmits stats, notes, quotes, through appropriate delivery means (website, email, social media, etc.).
- Runner(s) – Distributes photocopied materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Spotter – Helps the official scorer identify assists and any other assistance for official scorer.
- Stat Crew – Records the official stats. Note that when applicable, NCAA LiveStats software must be used at all NCAA championships.
- Team Escorts – Serve as escorts for the coaches and student-athletes to and from the postgame press conference.

NEWS CONFERENCES

The media coordinator, or a member of the coordinator's staff will be asked to coordinate all press conferences, including any conducted before the start of championship play. For all formal press conferences, the media coordinator should produce name (table) tents to place on the dais/riser to identify coaches and student-athletes.

ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS. With permission from the NCAA, exceptions may be made to the policy.

The open locker room policy applies to all formal press conferences and to any interview requests for coaches and/or student-athletes not involved in the press conferences. Failure to do so may result in a misconduct finding, as determined by the respective sport committee.

NOTE: In the event that a student-athlete has been selected for drug testing, all media obligations must be fulfilled before going to the drug-testing center.

1. **Individual Championships with no Postevent News Conference.** Student-athletes are allowed a maximum 10-minute cooling-off period following an event before meeting with the media. If ready before 10 minutes, the student-athlete can participate in interviews sooner. However, student-athletes are not allowed to leave the competition area before conducting media interviews. Interviews will be conducted in the mixed zone or interview room. A student-athlete who is competing in more than one event on a given day may ask the media coordinator to delay the interview period until after the student-athlete's final event of the day. The only exception to this is if a record is set, and then the student-athlete should be made available to the media shortly after that event. If time prohibits this, the media coordinator should get a quote from the student-athlete and distribute it to the media.
2. **Individual Championships with a Formal News Conference.** Student-athletes are allowed a maximum of a 10-minute cooling-off period following an event before meeting with the media. If ready before 10 minutes, the student-athlete can participate in interviews sooner. In individual championships, typically only the winner(s) needs to report to the press conference. If media requests warrant having the runner-up participate in the news conference, that person should answer questions before the champion.
3. **Team Championships with a Formal News Conference.** The losing team shall have a 10-minute cooling-off period before reporting to the interview room. The cooling-off period starts once the head coach and all of the student-athletes have reached the locker room area. The winning team will report to the interview room immediately following the completion of the losing team's press conference. *(NOTE: For some championships, the governing sport committee has determined that the winning or visiting team should go first to the press conferences, before the losing team. Please refer to championship manual for the sport.)*

It is mandatory for the head coach and at least one student-athlete to report to the press conference following the cooling-off period. However, media coordinators should request a minimum of two student-athletes. A coach can shorten the cooling-off period but cannot extend it.

As soon as one media member enters a locker room, it will be open to all media members. Locker rooms are open to the media for a minimum of 30 minutes, provided media are present the entire time.

The head coach must complete all NCAA championship media obligations before honoring any in-season radio or television contracts. Coaches or student-athletes may only conduct interviews with rights-holding television or radio networks (including ESPN or NCAA Radio Network, but not school radio stations) before the press conference following the conclusion of a game. These interviews are permitted during a period totaling no more than four minutes for all interviews, immediately after the game. The media coordinator or designee has the responsibility to terminate the four-minute interview period, NOT the network/station that has purchased rights. (Assistant coaches are not obligated to the entire media staffing the championship and may grant postgame radio interviews at any time after the conclusion of the game.)

Press Conference Moderator Duties

1. The press conference moderator should give pertinent game statistics (i.e., leading rushers, passers, tacklers, game records) to media while they wait for the first team to arrive. Statistics should be distributed to the media, coaches and student-athletes as soon as they arrive.

2. Media coordination representatives should obtain the names of the student-athletes who will be attending the press conference and give them to the host or NCAA media coordinator, who then will provide them to the moderator so that they can be announced in advance.

3. The moderator should open the press conference by asking the head coach for their opening statement.

4. After the coach's comments, the moderator should invite questions from media.

5. If necessary, the moderator should direct a question to student-athletes to get them involved, if the media do not do so.

6. Limit the losing team to 10 minutes and the winning team to 20 minutes.

7. The moderator should keep the flow of the press conference moving. If there is a gap of time between questions, limit questions to one more and then thank the head coach and student-athlete(s).

Press Conference Setup. Each host media coordinator should designate an interview room or area at the facility, and an individual to coordinate the activities in it. The interview area should have a public address system and an elevated head table.

Media coordinators should use an audio mixer (mix down unit) in the interview area to permit individuals using microphones to attach their equipment to it, eliminating the presence of audio equipment and/or operators in front of, or adjacent to, the speakers at the dais.

The following is a checklist of suggested minimum requirements for the interview room:

- Seating for a minimum number of media or VIPs (check with the previous host for an approximate number).
- Risers or an area with an unobstructed view for television cameras.
- Table for a minimum of 4-6 interviewees.
- Sufficient electrical outlets.
- Sufficient lighting for dais and workspaces.
- Mult box.
- Wireless microphones.

For selected NCAA championships, press conference backdrops, interview room table tents and microphone flags will be sent to the institution by the NCAA. Quotes from formal press conferences shall be made available to the media immediately after each game.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Commercial use of any still photographs is prohibited unless permission is obtained from the NCAA. Specific areas will be designated for photographers, and these areas will be limited by priority and space. Please refer to the information online for further information regarding photography done at the championships.

PHOTOGRAPHY AREA POLICIES

The media coordinator shall be prepared to designate "photographer positions," should media requests warrant it. "Prime" positions should be given to NCAA Photos and/or Getty Photos, or otherwise rotated among members of the media. All special requests (i.e., placing a remote camera on the backboard) must be approved by NCAA staff or site representatives.

PROGRAMS

Championships will feature either a printed or digital game program, which the NCAA and LEARFIELD Publishing has the exclusive right to post/distribute at the competition venue during the championship. No competing publications, whether sold or free of charge, are permitted at NCAA events where printed programs are available. Any publications delivered to the venue are the property of LEARFIELD before, during and after the event.

LEARFIELD will be responsible for all program production, including editorial content, layout and design, advertising and printing. Championship media contact should provide LEARFIELD with text and photos for editorial pages about host institution/venue/city, if requested by LEARFIELD. Any pages promoting the host institution/venue/city will not be display advertisements; those interested in purchasing advertising space for sponsors, etc., should contact Clerrinda Queen (**clerrinda.queen@learfield.com**).

LEARFIELD encourages the host institution/venue to distribute supplemental handouts (i.e., updated statistics and notes), provided any such materials:

- Are only distributed with the purchase of a program.
- Do not include information available in the program.
- Do not include advertisements.

The host should not include expenses for such supplements in the championship budget and/or financial report. All supplemental content is subject to NCAA and LEARFIELD approval.

RADIO/INTERNET AUDIO COVERAGE

Radio broadcast rights and made for internet audio at any NCAA championship may take place only through advance written request and permission of the NCAA media services group. (Refer to **ncaa.com/media**.)

All stations broadcasting any round of an NCAA championship shall be required to fill out the NCAA Championship Radio/Internet Streaming form online. To access the form, log onto **ncaa.com/content/audio-policies-0**.

TEAM VIDEOGRAPHER

Institutions are permitted to videotape championships competition by their teams or their individual student-athletes for archival, coaching or instructional purposes. Each institution is permitted to use one camera and may videotape only that portion of the competition in which it participates. The videotapes may not be used for any commercial purposes. An institutional representative shall contact the event coordinator at the host site to arrange for camera space at that site. For the latest information and policies in regard to team content, go to "Team Content Policy" link at **ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services**.

SCOUT VIDEO COORDINATOR

A scout video coordinator is permitted to film the game from an upper video position. A credential also may be issued to a team videographer. The scout video coordinator will receive a media credential and may only film the game of the team represented by the video coordinator. Representatives of participating institutions may record the network telecast of any game at the site, using a video distribution outlet in the video distribution area. The institution must provide its own recording equipment.

SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

Media coordinators should provide preferred seat locations for media agencies that regularly staff games played by the participating and host institutions. Media seating charts should be posted to the media work areas in advance.

SECURITY

Security personnel should be instructed to protect the working media areas and interview area, especially before and after each game, and to limit access in all restricted areas to individuals wearing credentials.

STATISTICS REPORTING TO THE NCAA

The host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official championship results to the Association's website, **ncaa.com**, with the NCAA providing delivery information. At the conclusion of each championship contest or session (preliminary rounds and finals), please forward information that specifies the division, sport, round, date and official results, and provide a brief game/event summary. On the final day, the email should include the all-tournament and Most Outstanding Player selections.

Institutions should send all information as follows:

- Email the information to **NCAA-Editorial@warnermedia.com**. Specify the division, sport, round and region in the subject area.
- Paste the text (official results, including date of competition, round, etc.) directly into the message box.
- Attach HTML box score, if available.

INTERNET

Complimentary wireless internet access must be available at all championship rounds for media use. The host institution may NOT assess an additional "hookup fee" to any media agency. Any wireless charges should be charged to the host or reflected in the proposed budget.

TELEVISION

If an NCAA championship is to be televised, the media coordinator will be notified by the NCAA championships liaison, media coordinator or member of the broadcast staff. This person will relay any needs specific to television, such as power, press row space, etc., to the host media coordinator. Information about NCAA broadcasts can be found online at **ncaa.com/media**.

LIVE STREAMING

For final sites of all nontelevised championships, ncaa.com will provide live streaming of the contest. For all other nontelevised rounds, the NCAA encourages all hosting institutions to provide a live stream of the event.

Apply for NCAA internet streaming rights online at **ncaa.com/rights-request**. Questions about Internet streaming can be directed to Nate Flannery (317-917-6523; **nflannery@ncaa.org**).

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS MICROSITE GUIDELINES

NCAA Championship hosts and local organizing committees are welcome to build a city-specific microsite to house local information regarding things-to-do, travel tips, restaurants, volunteer info, ticket sales, etc. The primary purpose of the microsite should welcome fans to enhance their experience in preparation for traveling to your city. The following information should assist you with the creation of a local microsite.

Venue Information

Host venue details should be included within the microsite; the following are topic suggestions for this section:

- Venue address.
- Venue parking map details including hours, pricing. etc.
- Venue security information.

Email Sign Up

Fans who would like to receive more information can sign up to receive newsletters from the NCAA. The following link should be included on the microsite for fans to sign up to receive email communication: **ncaa.com/newsletter-signup**.

Travel and Transportation Information

It is permissible, and encouraged, to share travel information such as local hotel options, car rental, public transportation, etc., within the microsite for consumer knowledge. Links should direct away from the microsite and no mention of company names are to be included within the copy of the microsite.

EXAMPLE: "For hotel options within the {CITY NAME} area, please click here" (link can be to city tourism page or visitor's bureau, etc.).

Dining, Shopping and Local Attractions

The following topics are permissible and encouraged to house within your microsite, but must link away from the main page:

- Local fan gathering and entertainment locations.
- Shopping and dining options.
- Special attractions unique to the city.

Selections, Preliminary Rounds and Broadcast Schedule

All information regarding the details of selections, all preliminary rounds and broadcast schedules should be linked to ncaa.com. The championship manager can provide this information.

Local News

The microsite can contain story modules to promote local press releases or additional information pertaining to hosting the event. This should not include national information about the competition that is covered by the NCAA. You should not link back to the official NCAA championship page, when applicable. The championship manager can provide this information as needed.

Volunteer Information

The microsite can contain additional details to recruit and register volunteers. A general overview, schedule and registration information are commonly found details within this section.

Ticket Information

If ticket sales apply to the championship, please link away from the microsite to the official ticket landing page. If images of student-athletes are present on any of the microsite pages, please do not use verbiage that includes "ticket sales," "purchase your tickets" or anything alike, but rather use language such as "ticket information," "ticket details," etc., and link directly to the official ticket landing page from there. The ticket landing page should be free of student-athlete imagery, institutional markings and abide by NCAA championships guidelines. Those guidelines include the championship logo used for every icon listed, correct naming convention of the championship (Year, NCAA division sport championship – e.g., 2026 NCAA Division I Cross Country Championships) and use of NCAA hex code (#009CDE) for button and color scheme of ticketing site.

Copyrights, Photos, Licensing, Trademark and Corporate Marks

The following are guidelines for use of NCAA trademarks and the process for requesting licensing for photos:

Host cannot promote or click thru to any URL other than ncaa.com.

- Host corporate partner marks or any commercial advertising are prohibited from being displayed on the microsite.
- The NCAA primary logo must be displayed more prominently than any other logo and must precede or be placed above any other identification marks. If the microsite is built within an existing site's framework, exceptions will be made at the NCAA's discretion.
- Photos from previous years' championships can be accessed by submitting a request form here: **ncaaphotos.photoshelter.com/contact**
    - All imagery must be owned by the NCAA or host city.
- The microsite must adhere to fair and equitable treatment for ALL participating student-athletes and schools.
- Trademark script must be included on the homepage of the site. This text can be in a mouse print format at the bottom of the page as follows: *NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

A complete list of NCAA trademarks and trademark protection can be found by **clicking here**.

NOTE: If the microsite is built within an existing site's framework, exceptions will be made at the NCAA's discretion, as needed.

Logo Usage

For official NCAA blue disk and championship logos, please submit a request to access the NCAA Digital Library to Nathan Arkins at **narkins@ncaa.org**.

Social Media

All social media icons should link to the appropriate NCAA-hosted platforms for the specific championship. The official list of NCAA social media pages and hashtags may be found at **ncaa.com/social**.

Local Contributor Program

The host can recognize their local contributors under the following guidelines:

- This page should be titled, "Local Contributors."
    - Do not use any other reference such as "sponsors" or "partners."
- Contributor name can be listed in text format only. No corporate logo usage is permitted.
- The NCAA logos should not be included within this specific page.
- Include text at the bottom of the page indicating that the Local Contributors are not official sponsors of the NCAA.

Examples

If you would like to review an approved championship microsite, please reference the following pages:

- Visit Oklahoma City - Women's College World Series Microsite: **visitokc.com/womens-college-world-series/**
- University of Wisconsin - Division I Cross Country Championshps: **app.bucky.uwbadgers.com/NCAA-Cross-Country-Page**

NOTE: A reminder the website should be clean of any and all corporate sponsor marks. Additionally, the information provided regarding local travel accommodations, restaurants, or the like must link away from the microsite completely. Final approval of the city-specific microsite will come from the NCAA event marketing, ticketing and/or branding team. Prior to the microsite URL going live, please share with the championship manager to begin the official approval process.

PHOTOGRAPHY

NCAA Photos (also known as Clarkson-Creative/Clarkson) will be on site for the final day of competition, unless otherwise specified. Hosts institutions are not required to have a photographer when Clarkson is not on site. An additional photographer may be hired by NCAA staff to shoot additional days and ancillary events, if the staff so chooses. For those instances, it is necessary to have the hired photographer(s) complete the photography services agreement.

All photographers will agree to the NCAA Championship Photography Terms and Conditions upon requesting a credential. Photo sales on site are strictly prohibited.

Images for use by NCAA member institutions are available at a special rate and are bound by the following rights:

"For official NCAA member institution athletic department website and publications only. Other reproduction, distribution, and/or display print production is prohibited unless specified in writing."

For internal member institution use, please contact Clarkson-Creative at **info@ncaaphotos.com** with the name of the image(s) you would like to purchase, and an online transaction will be set up to download the image(s). All images should be credited, where it appears, to: ©Photographer's Name/NCAAPhotos. For all other uses, please contact Andy Krause (**andrew.krause@gettyimages.com**).

Any other entity, with the exception of the NCAA membership, seeking a championship event photo must license it through Getty Images. To license an NCAA championship event photo, please visit **on.ncaa.com/NCAAonGetty**.

For additional questions regarding championship photography, please contact Nate Flannery (**nflannery@ncaa.org**; 317-917-6222).

NCAA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS

The official NCAA social media pages and official hashtags can be found here: on.ncaa.com/sociallinks

Host Promotion of Championships

A lot of hosts already have an established presence in social media. Examples are a school, local organizing committee, sports corporation, venue or city pages/accounts. These pages/accounts are all good places to promote the hosting of an NCAA championship through the use of marketing messages and products supplied by the NCAA (links, web banners, flyers, etc.). The NCAA also promotes the championships (and the host involvement) on the appropriate NCAA social media pages/accounts. If the championship does not have an official NCAA page on a social media site, a host is still not permitted to create a page for it. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the other established pages/accounts, as necessary. Collaboration is encouraged through the use of cross-posting on Facebook or collaborations on Instagram (@ linking within text to drive fans to each other's pages) and mentions on Twitter (X) and Instagram (@ links to show coordination in posts). In addition to collaboration, idea-sharing is also encouraged and can be coordinated with the NCAA social team through the championship's contact.

A host should not create a social media account or page (Facebook page, Twitter (X) feed, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok account, etc.) solely devoted to promoting an NCAA championship. These pages become outdated, distract fans from established pages and fracture the NCAA message.

Please send direct questions, ideas or news to Jeffrey Donely at **jdonely@ncaa.org**.

Section 20 • Merchandise/Licensing

ADMINISTRATION

The NCAA licensing department has oversight of the event merchandising program at all rounds and sites of NCAA championships. All licensing and merchandising questions should be directed to David Clendenin (317-917-6496; dclendenin@ncaa.org).

AVAILABILITY

An online ordering system will be available to participating institutions interested in ordering Event 1, Inc., merchandise in advance of the championship. Orders will be shipped by Event 1 directly to the participating institution's campus.

GENERAL POLICIES

The NCAA retains the exclusive right to sell souvenir products at all rounds and sites of all championships; host institutions/conferences and sponsoring agencies for all NCAA championships are required to sell items provided by the official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser. The official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser is Event 1.

Event 1, Inc. will enter into an agreement with the official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency and will supply merchandise and inventory reconciliation forms to the official vendor. The official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency at the site of the championship(s) is responsible for complete retail vending accountability, including full responsibility for inventory. When the requirements listed below are met, the host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee for providing these services. The 20% commission fee will be from net sales, which is defined as gross sales minus taxes and credit card fees. The following is a list of the requirements that must be met to qualify for the 20% commission fee:

a. Receive and count in all merchandise upon arrival from Event 1, Inc., as well as receiving all reorders required to meet customers demand. Reorders could arrive any day of the week and could be as early as 8 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday.

b. Locked and supervised storage adequate to accommodate all championship merchandise.

c. Immediate notification (within 24 hours of receipt) to Event 1, Inc. of any discrepancies in initial inventory counts. Nonnotification will represent host or vendor acceptance of initial inventory provided by Event 1, Inc.

d. Total management, control and accountability of the merchandise. If goods are lost, stolen or damaged, those goods are the responsibility of the host institution/conference or vendor.

e. Everything sent must be returned to Event 1 within two days of the conclusion of the event.

f. An appropriate number of selling locations and sellers throughout the facility in order to meet the demands of the projected crowds.

g. Selling locations that are well displayed and fully stocked prior to the public's access to them.

h. Strict adherence to the merchandising and display standards as outlined below:

- Merchandise made available for sale at all times during the event.
- Each item neatly displayed with correct prices clearly marked.
- Merchandise should be neatly folded at all times.
- Neatly dressed personnel that are customer-oriented.
- Skirted tables for display and checkout.
- Display boards and grids to properly display product at all selling locations.
- Selling locations located in high traffic and easily located locations.
- Vendor shall be responsible for hanging any display or signage material provided by concessionaire.
- Keeping selling areas clean and neat at all times.
- Restocking of back-up inventory in a fast and efficient manner.

- Transferring merchandise between the slower and higher volume stands to meet the demands of the consumers.
- Providing electricity and either hard internet lines or dedicated secured Wi-Fi network connection to support the merchandise sales effort at no extra cost.
- Calling Event 1, Inc. to request reorders should sales warrant.

i. A complete inventory accounting of all merchandise sold with a final inventory count and merchandising report supplied to Event 1, Inc., no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the event.

j. Total gross sales revenues and a final copy of the inventory report must be sent to Event 1, Inc., within two business days of the conclusion of the event.

k. The remaining inventory forwarded to Event 1, Inc., or the next event site as determined by Event 1, Inc., within two days of the conclusion.

l. Having met each of the above requirements, Event 1, Inc. will pay to the host institution/conference, sponsoring agency or its assigned vendor, a commission equal to 20% of sales net of taxes and credit card service fees. The host institutions will keep commissions earned and the remaining money owed to Event 1 must be sent within seven days of the conclusion of the event.

The host institution/conference may not sell or allow for sale any merchandise that infringes upon the exclusive rights of Event 1, Inc.

Institutional Merchandise. A buy-out option can be made with Event 1/NCAA when the host institution/conference wants to sell merchandise that features the host mark or logo at the NCAA competition. This can only be done when the host institution/conference agrees to purchase the entire product that Event 1 provides. The host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee of net sales, gross sales minus credit card fees and taxes, on product supplied by Event 1. The host institution or official vendor will provide the NCAA 15% of sales (net of taxes and credit card service fees) of all non-NCAA championship merchandise. The quantity of NCAA merchandise available for sale shall not be less than a comparable shipment to a comparable site of the previous year's championship.

Reordering Process. The host institution/conference may contact Event 1 to place an order for additional merchandise during the event. The concessionaire must contact Event 1 no later than the conclusion of each day to evaluate inventory levels. The more time Event 1 has to react to the request, the better the chance a reorder can be processed and shipped in a timely manner. Event 1 cannot guarantee that additional merchandise will be available.

Event 1 will provide an event manual, which will include the contact information for the event coordinator assigned to the event as well as additional merchandising guidelines.

DIVERSE SUPPLIERS

The NCAA encourages and requests that local organizing committees/hosts diversify the pool of qualified businesses and select the best vendor(s) that can provide necessary goods and services for awarded championships.

Section 21 • Neutrality

Host institutions should keep in mind that an NCAA event is not a home event. Neutrality is important; therefore, such items as the use of student-athletes on promotional materials and host institutional signage should not be used to create a "home" atmosphere. Further, there shall be no cheering in the press box or at the scorer's table. Those in any working capacity shall remain neutral.

Section 22 • Officials

All officials for all tournament games will be selected and assigned by the NCAA national coordinator of officials in coordination with the Women's Lacrosse Committee.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Participating teams will be advised of the officials assigned to their game prior to competition. The committee representative will meet with the officials (separately from the participants' meeting) to review their responsibilities and distribute the NCAA patches.

Admittance. Officials will be provided credentials for field access and admittance to the locker room areas.

Arrival to Site. For preliminary-round sites, officials are required to arrive at the site in time to attend the officials meeting. NCAA policy prohibits officials from attending banquets or other social events in conjunction with the championship.

Lodging. Officials' hotel rooms and tax should be billed to the host institution; the officials are responsible for incidental charges. The host institution will then file these expenses on the online financial report after the competition. The officials should be housed in the same hotel as the NCAA representatives and may not be housed with the teams.

Parking. A maximum of seven parking spaces will be reserved for game officials. The location and access will be communicated to the officials by the NCAA.

Payment of Officials. All officials' fees, per diem and travel expenses will be paid directly by the NCAA.

All officials also receive travel expenses according to actual mode of transportation.

In addition, all officials will be paid a $45 per diem allowance for meals and incidentals for each day of the championship, beginning with the day of arrival and ending with the day of departure.

Tickets. Two tickets for each game shall be reserved for each official. These are not complimentary tickets. All tickets must be purchased.

Hospitality. One meal should be provided for the officials on game day, if requested. This is a reimbursable expense in the host budget.

PATCHES AND UNIFORM

Game officials will be provided an NCAA patch to be placed on the upper right or left chest of their uniforms while officiating in NCAA tournament play. No other patches or logos will be permitted. Officials shall wear black striped shirts, black kilts/skorts and black shoes.

TRANSPORTATION

Officials who must fly to the site must make their travel arrangements through the NCAA travel service, Short's Travel Management. The NCAA will not be responsible for payment of airline tickets purchased through other sources. Officials who use ground transportation will be reimbursed at the IRS rate per mile round trip from their home to the site (but not including local mileage while at the site).

Section 23 • Programs

PROGRAMS

The preliminary rounds of this championship will feature a digital game program that can be viewed online or downloaded at no charge. This program will be available online generally no later than two days prior to the first day of the event.

The finals site of this championship will feature a printed program, which the NCAA and LEARFIELD Publishing has the exclusive right to distribute at the competition venue during the championship. No competing publications, whether sold or free of charge, are permitted at NCAA events where printed programs are available. Any publications delivered to the venue are the property of LEARFIELD before, during and after the event.

CONTENT/EDITORIAL

LEARFIELD Responsibilities

Responsible for all program production, including editorial content, layout and design, advertising and printing.

Host Responsibilities

Media contact should provide LEARFIELD with text and photos for editorial pages about host institution/venue/city, if requested by LEARFIELD.

Any pages promoting the host institution/venue/city will not be display advertisements; those interested in purchasing ad space for sponsors, etc., should contact Clerrinda Queen (**clerrinda.queen@learfieldimgcollege.com**).

DIGITAL PROGRAM PROMOTION

The NCAA will provide a PDF including a QR code that links to the digital program, a URL where the digital program can be accessed and imagery of the NCAA's Corporate Champions and Partners. This PDF, or digital handout, is also shared with participating schools for their promotional use. If you would like this information ahead of time, please contact your NCAA administrator.

The NCAA and LEARFIELD encourage all participating schools to promote the digital publication link on athletics and school-affiliated websites and social media outlets. The NCAA and LEARFIELD also encourage all participating schools to share with student-athletes, faculty, alumni organizations or any other group that may have interest, as well as local media outlets.

All digital programs available can be found at **ncaa.com/gameprograms**.

BEST PRACTICES

Below are a few best practices for promoting the championship digital program:

- Distribute the digital handout to fans.
- Create signage to direct fans to the digital program by using elements on the digital handout.
- Post the link on athletics and school-affiliated websites.
- Share the link on athletics and school-affiliated social media outlets.
- Share the link with student-athletes, faculty, alumni organizations and local media outlets, and any other group that may have interest.

SUPPLEMENTAL HANDOUTS

At championships sites where a digital program is available, LEARFIELD allows the host institution/venue to distribute supplemental handouts (i.e., updated statistics and notes) provided any such materials:

- Do not include any advertisements, local sponsor logos, etc.
- Include the QR code and URL to the digital program.
- Include the NCAA Corporate Champions and Partners imagery.
- Printed supplements may be distributed free or sold, with all proceeds retained by the host. The host should not include expenses for such supplements in the championship budget and/or financial report.
- All supplemental content is subject to NCAA and LEARFIELD approval.

PROGRAM VENDING AND COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAMS

LEARFIELD will enter into an agreement with the official program vendor of the host institution or sponsoring agency, and will supply programs and settlement sheets to the official vendor. The official vendor of the host institution or sponsoring agency at the site of the championship(s) is responsible for complete vending accountability, including full responsibility for inventory. When the Program Vending Standards are met, the host institution will receive a 20% commission of net sales for providing these services. Below are the program vending responsibilities of both LEARFIELD and the host, or official program vendor.

LEARFIELD Responsibilities

- Reserves the right to manage vending/fulfillment in-venue.
- Will email a vending agreement and settlement sheet to the vending contact and tournament manager prior to championship.
- Will ship and manage shipment of programs to arrive no later than the day prior to the start of the event, unless otherwise communicated by LEARFIELD.
- Within one week post-championship, will provide the host with instructions for returning or destroying the remaining programs (if applicable).
- Will pay sales tax to the proper taxing authority.

Host Responsibilities

- Prior to the event, the program vending contact listed on the host's online key contacts form will need to confirm they are the contact and that the shipping information is correct, when requested by LEARFIELD.
- The host venue will provide all vendors unless otherwise prearranged with LEARFIELD.
- Return a signed vending agreement to LEARFIELD prior to the event.
- If requested and approved by the NCAA, the tournament manager shall issue credentials and provide the necessary parking passes to administrative personnel representing LEARFIELD. All program vendors shall receive standard facility credentials.
- Distribute the allotted amount of complimentary programs.
- Meet the "Program Vending Standards" (listed below) to receive 20% commission of the net program sales.
- After meeting the "Program Vending Standards," LEARFIELD will pay the vendor 20 percent commission of net sales. The vendor is to keep the commissions earned and cut a check to LEARFIELD for the amount due listed on the LEARFIELD provided settlement sheet within two weeks after the event.
- Email and mail the completed settlement sheet provided by LEARFIELD after the event within the time frame specified in the vending agreement.

PROGRAM VENDING STANDARDS

- Receive and take inventory of the programs upon arrival. Notify LEARFIELD of any discrepancies in the quantity received or damages to the programs within 24 hours.
- Provide total management, control and accountability of the programs. If programs are lost, stolen or damaged, the programs are the responsibility of the vendor.
- Keep programs in locked and supervised storage.
- Provide an appropriate number of sellers throughout the facility in order to meet the demands of the projected crowds. The appropriate number of sellers should ensure that every fan entering the event will pass one person actively and exclusively selling programs, as well as placing multiple sellers in high-traffic areas to provide a quick transaction for all fans.
- Sellers should be either at designated program stands and/or stationed in high-traffic areas of the facility that are easily located (such as ticketed entrances).
- Ensure program stands and/or sellers are prepared to sell prior to the gates being opened. If using program stands or tables, the programs should be neatly displayed at all times. If using tables, please make best effort to make table presentable.
- Ensure that sellers are neatly dressed and are customer oriented.
- Keep selling areas clean and neat at all times.
- Programs can be available at merchandise stands (i.e., along with apparel) but should not be sold exclusively in this manner.
- Sell programs throughout the event for a mutually agreed upon time with LEARFIELD.
- Display signage in a professional manner, if provided by LEARFIELD.
- Make sure vendors have necessary materials for selling throughout the event, i.e., appropriate number of programs and change. Replenishing sellers with programs and providing change should be done in a fast and efficient manner. This may include transferring merchandise between the slower and higher volume selling areas to meet customer demands.
- Below are a few best practices for vending programs:
    - Designate individuals to sell programs and pay them a commission for each program they sell; or
    - Recruit volunteers to sell programs as a fundraiser for their non-profit organization and pay them commission for each program they sell.
    - Encourage vendors to walk through the stands to sell programs during the event.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your NCAA administrator or Chad Laytham (**chad.laytham@learfield.com**) at LEARFIELD.

Section 24 • Safety and Security

The NCAA is committed to supporting a safe and secure environment for championship events and is appreciative of the many federal, state and local partners who aid in maintaining safe events for all athletes, coaches, officials, fans and staff.

The NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop Best Practices for all NCAA championships. The SSAG developed these Best Practices based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own experience and knowledge. All hosts and competition venues are strongly encouraged to refer to the **Safety and Security Best Practices** when developing a safety and security Event Action Plan..

The suggestions outlined in the Safety and Security best practices are based on practices that are employed by competition venues across the nation. The need and ability to implement them at each facility and event will vary. Properly trained and equipped personnel constitute the primary element of implementing a successful safety and security plan.

Best Practices for championships competition venue safety are intended for guidance purposes only; they are not a requirement under NCAA or other regulations or legislation. In addition, because of the wide variety of designs and sizes of competition venues; and composition and profile of particular events, not all Best Practices will be reasonable or applicable.

The Best Practices should not be viewed as a complete or primary source of information for developing or implementing the safety plan for the competition venue hosting an NCAA championship. Rather, facility managers and local public safety personnel should consider an all-hazards approach in doing a threat assessment and developing an Event Action Plan to utilize appropriate resources and support the NCAA championship event.

Please submit your final safety and security plan with your bid materials. In addition, you will be prompted to provide information for the Critical Incident Response Team form when completing our bid via the NCAA Championships Bid Portal. Please be as specific as possible when providing emergency contacts and number.

Unless otherwise expressly authorized by applicable law, no firearms or weapons are permitted on these premises for NCAA championships and events, excluding authorized law enforcement officers. Failure to abide may subject you to ejection as well as other applicable discipline or action. The foregoing shall not limit the applicable equipment used in and for fencing and rifle competitions in accordance with NCAA rules, at the venues for such competitions.

GENERAL SECURITY GUIDELINES

Preparation. Competition site management is reminded of its responsibility to provide an environment that is safe and secure for all student athletes, coaches, officials and fans. This includes sufficient security and/or law-enforcement personnel to ensure that access to the competition and surrounding areas is restricted to players and credentialed individuals. The championship manager and host institution staff shall review with the local law-enforcement agencies their procedures for circumstances requiring emergency evacuation of the competition site or interruption of the game. In the event of a critical incident, contact the NCAA championship manager immediately before making any decisions.

Each host will be asked to provide the following:

1. Local authorities and critical incident response team contact information.
2. Review emergency protocol before the start of the event.
3. Identify chain of authority.
    a. Incident commander (second in command).
    b. Decision-making personnel/team.
4. Identify incident command center.

5. Identify incident communication plan.

6. Review evacuation plan – review plan with competition site manager.

7. Review emergency response plan for typical emergencies, severe weather, and potential criminal actions.

8. Connect with the closest Protective Security Advisors for your area and notify them of the event to receive security notifications and instructions. For more information about this program go **here**. PSAs can be reached via email at **central@cisa.gov** (submitter should provide their contact information and where they are located so they can be matched up to the nearest PSA).

Interruption of Competition. The officials have the authority to interrupt the championships. If competition is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the committee, it shall be continued from the point of interruption at a time determined by the committee. If necessary, the remaining competition schedule also shall be adjusted by the games committee. The committee should review the following procedures for interruption of competition:

- Head Table. Assure that the timing devices are operational and manual times are accurately recorded.
- Officials. Assure that the officials know the exact situation when competition was halted.
- Student-Athletes and Coaches. On instruction from the NCAA staff or committee members, participants should retire to the locker rooms or outside the building to await further instructions.

Power Source/Public Address. Facility management should protect the power source and the public-address system. If an alternate public-address location is available (i.e., away from the competition area) it should be used so communication is not interrupted.

Disruption. Building security and/or law-enforcement personnel shall be responsible for the restoration of order in the event unauthorized individuals occupy the competition area or if competition is otherwise disrupted. Under no circumstances are student-athletes, coaches, officials or NCAA representatives to become involved in the removal of such persons.

Communication. A senior member of the facility management and the senior law-enforcement officer at the site must proceed immediately to the previously identified location with means of communication to and from other facility staff and security officers. The public-address announcer should keep spectators informed of the conditions, if possible. Participants, coaches and officials must be kept informed throughout the delay.

Meeting. The committee chair, NCAA staff and meet management staff (facility manager, meet director and senior law-enforcement officer) should assemble immediately at a predetermined location to assess the situation.

Normal Conditions. The committee shall determine when conditions have returned to normal.

Resumption of Competition. As soon as possible, competition shall be resumed from the point of suspension. The event staff shall determine the revised schedule after consultation with the committee. If possible, the competition should be resumed in the primary facility. If necessary, the games committee has the authority to limit attendance to credentialed individuals, those on each institution's pass list, other individuals designated by each institution's director of athletics, and required facility operations personnel. Also, the committee has the authority to reschedule the competition in a nearby facility (e.g., on campus or elsewhere in the city) provided the alternate facility meets the provisions of NCAA rules.

Spokesperson. The committee chair or his or her designee, working with the facility management, the NCAA and, when appropriate, city, county, state and federal law-enforcement agencies, will serve as spokesperson in the event of an emergency.

WEATHER

To support and facilitate host institution management of weather and other environmental considerations and requirements, the NCAA has made arrangements to provide a complimentary lightning-detection and weather-monitoring system to each host institution on a complimentary basis for all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. It is important that the location address provided by the site representative and tournament director in the monitoring system is the actual physical location of where the event is taking place.

It is expected that the host institution will identify one or more tournament staff members who will have designated responsibility for weather monitoring. The site representative, host tournament staff and any other stakeholders should share relevant email and/or cell phone contact information to enable timely receipt of all weather updates. A severe weather response plan should be created and available for reference. The host or tournament director is encouraged to contact a local meteorologist or the nearest National Weather Service office to further facilitate weather and environmental monitoring as part of each event.

If the tournament director and/or site representative determine that weather conditions could alter the approved championship event schedule, they should promptly contact the NCAA championship administrator with a summary and details of the anticipated weather/environmental issue and proposed alternate schedule prior to making or announcing any formal changes.

Section 25 • Ticketing

TICKET POLICIES/OPERATIONS

1. **Ticket Design/Printing.** The NCAA prefers the use of mobile tickets for all championship events. If mobile ticketing is not feasible, the NCAA will manage the design and printing for championship tickets, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The NCAA will forward artwork of the proposed ticket design to the LOC/host and competition venue for review and input. The NCAA logo shall be the only logo used on the front or back of the tickets unless specifically authorized by the NCAA. The name of the host institution/conference may be printed on the front of the ticket(s) and/or on the cover of the ticket booklet. The NCAA will coordinate the printing of the tickets unless the NCAA directs the LOC/host or competition venue to coordinate the printing. The LOC/host shall incur all expenses associated with ticket printing, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA.

2. **Ticket Pricing.** With input and a recommendation from the LOC/host, the NCAA shall establish all ticket prices, including tickets for suites and standing room only. One hundred percent (100%) of the revenues from ticket sales shall be included in the championships receipts to help offset the NCAA guarantee (if applicable), championship expenses, and further revenue sharing opportunities. Revenue from the sale of championship tickets and championship-related event tickets will be exempt from sales, amusement, entertainment taxes and other surcharge obligations to the extent possible. The NCAA is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization. If a tax exemption is not applicable, then all applicable taxes and rates shall be disclosed (disclose in the sport-specific facility questionnaire) and any increases in the tax rates from the time the bid was submitted shall be absorbed by the bid respondent or rebated back to the NCAA.

   Please note any minimum and maximum ticket prices as set forth by the committee or needed to meet financial guarantees.

   The NCAA does not allow complimentary tickets to its championships; however, the NCAA will permit the purchase of tickets to use for championship promotional efforts. All ticket promotions must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

3. **Control of Ticket Sales.** The NCAA shall control all ticket sales for the championship, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The LOC/host and competition venue shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners (e.g., primary ticket sales system provider, official ticket and hospitality package provider, official ticket exchange). The NCAA shall not be responsible for securing an exemption to any exclusive contracts the LOC/host, competition venue or surrounding areas/facilities might have, nor will the NCAA be responsible for any buyout or other means necessary to secure such an exemption.

   Admittance to the competition venue on game days will be by ticket or NCAA-issued credential only. Every individual, regardless of age, must have a game ticket for admission, unless specified by the NCAA or venue policy. Unless specifically granted an exception, the NCAA requires that the competition venue utilize a ticket scanning system at all general public access points into the competition venue. The host venue system will be used for access control, box office walk-up sales and day of event issue resolution in the box office.

4. **Control of Venue Seating.** The NCAA shall control all seating assignments within the competition venue, including club seating, press boxes, hospitality clubs and restaurants.

   The NCAA shall be responsible for determining the allocation and the location of all ticket allotments.

   The LOC/host or competition venue may not resell allotted championship game tickets at any price, nor may enter into a sponsorship agreement or hospitality/travel package agreement with any ticket broker, tour packager or other secondary ticket marketer to provide championship tickets in return for other considerations unless specifically authorized by the NCAA.

5. **Suites.**

   a. The competition venue shall stipulate a quantity of private viewing suites available for the sole use of the NCAA or its designees at the time of the bid. All revenue from such suites will belong to the NCAA.

   b. The NCAA will provide tickets, as necessary to the LOC/host and/or competition venue for those suite holders displaced to fulfill the NCAA suite seat requirements.

c. Subject to NCAA approval, suites not made available to the NCAA or its designees shall remain under the control of the competition venue, but the face value ticket revenue for such suite seats will belong to the NCAA.

d. Suite holders will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the suite to which they have purchased tenant rights. The venue's box office staff if assigned by the NCAA, shall solicit and confirm suite purchases by suite holders. At that time, suites not purchased by suite holders will be made available to the NCAA for additional use/sales opportunities in accordance with the agreed upon financial parameters.

6. **LOC/Host Ticket Policies.**

a. **Allocation.** For all championships accepting bids, the NCAA may allocate to the LOC/host a number of saleable competition venue seats. These tickets shall be used to accommodate LOC/host guests, including but not limited to local contributors.

b. **Ticket Allocation Limitation.** No more than 20 tickets shall be made available from the LOC/host or competition venue to any one entity without NCAA approval.

c. **Assignment Information.** The LOC/host shall provide the NCAA with the names of those individuals assigned to each seat within the LOC/host's ticket allocation.

Subject to NCAA approval, the assignment of general public seats is the competition venue box office's responsibility, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA. The seat locations shall be designated by the NCAA. The competition venue must be in compliance with all applicable city, state or federal laws and regulations including those concerning access and seating for individuals with disabilities and their companions and assist with inquiries from ticket purchasers or holders in need of accessible seating or companion seating. Additionally, the box office shall assist with all lost, stolen or misdirected ticket issues. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to process and distribute lost, stolen or misdirected tickets.

7. **Competition Venue Responsibilities.**

a. **Seating Manifest.** The competition venue shall forward the NCAA a complete ticket manifest with a PDF or CAD drawing of the venue's configuration and cooperate fully with any NCAA ticketing partners.

b. **Broadcast Partner Site Survey.** The NCAA's broadcast partner, in conjunction with the NCAA and the competition venue, may conduct a site survey approximately nine months in advance of the championship to determine the host set location, camera locations and determine the need for "seat kills."

c. **Final Manifest.** Upon completion of the site survey and determination of "kill" seats, the competition venue shall provide the NCAA with a final seating manifest, reflecting all saleable seats, available suites and available hospitality/party suites.

d. **General Public Assignments.** Subject to NCAA approval, the assignment of general public seats is the competition venue box office's responsibility, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA. The seat locations shall be designated by the NCAA. The competition venue must comply with all applicable city, state or federal laws and regulations including those concerning access and seating for the disabled and assist with inquiries from ticket holders in need of disabled tickets. Additionally, the box office shall assist with all lost, stolen, or misdirected ticket issues. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to process and distribute lost, stolen, or misdirected tickets.

e. **Participating Institutions' Tickets.** The competition venue's box office shall send the paper or mobile tickets allocated to the participating institutions by a date designated by the NCAA, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA. An invoice, manifest, seating diagram, instructions and payment deadline information shall be sent with the participating institution's tickets. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to ship paper tickets.

f. **Sales Reports.** The competition venue's box office shall be responsible for providing the NCAA with timely and accurate sales reports. Reports should be provided on a regular basis, as directed by the NCAA. The competition venue's box office shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners in providing the reports.

g. **Final Ticket Database.** Each host conference, institution and/or venue must provide ticket purchaser information to the NCAA upon request, as well as, at the conclusion of the competition. Collecting purchaser information is essential for marketing efforts and postevent purchaser surveys which allow the NCAA to improve the championships experience. All relevant purchaser information must be submitted in an Excel or CSV file. The information should include, but not be limited to: Last Name, First Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Email, Phone Number and purchase information such as Total Seats Purchased and Total Purchase Price.

2025-26 STANDARD TICKET BACK DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE

The NCAA's standard ticket back language is posted online at **ncaa.com/ticket-terms**.

The ticket back language should be placed on the back of all ticket stubs, but if it cannot be done (e.g., no new ticket stock is produced), this language must at a minimum be posted at all ticket windows for patrons to see, be included as an insert with the ticket mailing, etc. Patrons must be put on notice regarding the restrictions.

Section 26 • Transportation

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Teams eligible for air travel must arrange make arrangements through Short's Travel. Short's can be reached at 866-655-9215 or by email at **ncaaalo@shortstravel.com**.

Institutions that fly, and are eligible for NCAA paid transportation on-site, will be required to use Short's Travel (STM Driven) to book on-site ground transportation. Short's Travel (STM Driven) can be reached at 844-814-3939 or at **ncaachamps@stmdriven.com**.

The home side ground transportation will be arranged by the institution in accordance with NCAA safety standards. Institutions that are eligible to drive to the championship will book ground transportation independently in accordance with the NCAA safety standards and seek reimbursement through the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES).

Expense reimbursement for participation in championships will be filed through our online system. The TES can be found at **travel.ncaa.org**.

All NCAA Championship travel information can be found **here**.

PARKING

The host institution is responsible for securing complimentary parking at team hotels for team buses and any courtesy vehicles provided, if possible. The competition venue shall provide a designated complimentary parking area for team buses and courtesy cars at the competition venue.

Section 27 • Volunteers

GOAL AND RECRUITMENT

A volunteer program for the championship should be implemented to accomplish the following goals:

- Provide an enthusiastic and warm welcome to participants and guests.
- Answer questions and provide information to visitors.
- Contribute to the general excitement surrounding the championship.
- Assist the LOC with championship operations.

Championship volunteer programs should represent the student-athletes and communities we serve, embrace diversity and be inclusive of individuals from all backgrounds and identities. The NCAA and the LOC shall encourage recruitment and participation of volunteers from a talent pool of individuals that reflect diversity across all aspects, including race, age, sex, class, national origin, creed, educational background, religion, gender identify, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and work experiences. The LOC/host institution should keep the NCAA's commitment to diversity top of mind as they assign volunteers to the various roles and responsibilities throughout the championship.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must sign a volunteer release waiver. Individuals with driving responsibilities MUST be 25 years of age or older.

Student-athletes or prospect-aged individuals MAY NOT be recruited in any way different than general public volunteers. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) cannot make a specific volunteer presentation to student-athletes of the host institution/conference. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals may apply to volunteer in the same manner as individuals from the general public. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals must be selected by the same criteria as the general public applicants.

The NCAA may request additional volunteers from the LOC as necessary.

WAIVERS

Each volunteer must sign a waiver of liability before the start of the championship (**Appendix A**). If there is a written agreement governing volunteer service, a release component must be added if one does not already exist. After the championship, all waivers shall be collected and kept on file, in case requested.

Appendixes

Contents

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Appendix B • Host Marketing Plan **78**

Appendix A • Volunteer Waiver Form

Event: _____ (the "Event")

Participant's Name (Please print): _____ (the "Participant")

Participant's Age: _____

In consideration for permitting Participant to participate as a volunteer in the Event as directed by the relevant staff, the undersigned, for themselves, and for their respective heirs, personal representatives and assigns, agree as follows:

Assumption of Risk: The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree that they understand the nature of the Event; that Participant is qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate therein; that there are certain inherent risks and dangers associated with the Event; and that, except as expressly set forth herein, they, knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, Participant's participation in the Event.

Release and Waiver: The undersigned hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the National Collegiate Athletic Association and its member institutions, _____ _____ _____ *or* any subdivision thereof, and each of them, their officers and employees, (collectively, the "Releasees"), from and for any liability resulting from any personal injury, accident or illness (including death), and/or property loss, however caused, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant's participation in the Event, except for those caused by the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: The undersigned also hereby agree to INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD the Releasees HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities including, but not limited to, attorney's fees, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant's participation in the Event, except for those arising out of the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

Permission to Use Likeness/Name: The undersigned further agree to allow, without compensation, Participant's likeness and/or name to appear, and to otherwise be used, in material, regardless of media form, promoting the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and/or its championships, events and activities, including those of its representatives and licensees.

Severability: The undersigned expressly agree that the foregoing assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of _____ and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: The undersigned have read this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the same. The undersigned fully understand this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, that the undersigned are giving up substantial rights in connection therewith, and that its terms are contractual, and not a mere recital. The undersigned acknowledge that they are signing this agreement freely and voluntarily.

_____

Signature of Participant Date

_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor Date
(if Participant is under the age of 18)

_____

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor Date
(if Participant is under the age of 18

Appendix B • Host Marketing Plan

NCAA® CHAMPIONSHIPS
HOST MARKETING PLAN

Host Information.

Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Host Institution/Entity: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Host Marketing Team.

Host Institution, Venue and Other (Sports Commission, CVB, etc.) Marketing Team Members (names, titles and contact information for all key contributors to your marketing efforts, including internal and external).

Name	Title	Role	Contact Information

Championship Information.

Division: I ____ II ____ III ____ National Collegiate ____

Gender: Men's ____ Women's ____ Mixed ____ Sport _____

Championship Date(s): _____

Venue Name: _____ Event Capacity: _____

Ticket Sales Information.

List all ticket package options – adult, youth, student, senior, group, family, etc. - and pricing including all-session, and single session, etc.

Ticket Type	All-Session Price	Single-Session Price	Other Price
Adult			
Youth			
Student			
Senior Citizen			
Group			
Family			
Other			

Point of Sale Opportunities. Please describe all ways fans can purchase tickets, e.g., online, telephone, box office.

Target Markets. Define your target market based on the dates and times of the championship games you are hosting. Your target market should be specific to your site and identified demographic target. Additionally, you should identify other target markets. Please list in priority order.

General demographics of your target market:

1.

2.

Specific target markets:

1.

2.

Marketing Plan Objectives. Outline your goals and objectives for the championship. Specifically, how do you plan to meet the ticket sales goal and key dates to meet those objectives?

Host/LOC Resources:

Resources:	Host	LOC	Community (CVB, Chamber of Commerce, Sports Commission, etc.)	Venue	Other
Database Name & Size:					
Website Address:					
Video/LED Board:					

Print Publications:					
Facebook Fans:					
Twitter Followers:					
Local Event Calendar Listings:					
Other:					

Marketing Plan. Please outline your specific marketing strategies, including all traditional and non-traditional marketing efforts focusing on local, regional and national (if applicable) efforts.

	Details (describe activation)	Timeline/Dates
Grassroots Efforts:		
E-mail Blasts:		
Social Media:		
Cross Promotions During Events:		
Group Sales:		
Online:		
Radio:		
Print Publications:		
Outdoor:		
TV:		
Other:		

Marketing Budget.

Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs: $

Total Marketing Budget: $

Indicate specific dollar amounts and how funds will be spent below.

Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs Allocation:	Budgeted	Actual Cost

Trade (List all trade and value below):		
TOTALS	**$**	**$**

Host Marketing Timeline. Please identify specific marketing activations, key milestones and target dates below.

Month	Marketing Activation	Milestone/Goal	Target Date
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1.		

	2. 3. 4. 5.		

Thank You!