PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

Section 1 • Introduction 2
Section 1•1 Definitions 2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement 2
Section 3 • Conduct 3
Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability 3
Section 3•2 Drug Testing 3
Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship 3
Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies 4
Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy 4
Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey 4
Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award 5
Section 5 • Fan Travel 5
Section 6 • Health and Safety 5
Section 7 • Logo Policy 5
Section 8 • Research 6
Section 9 • Travel Party 6
Section 10 • Religious Conflicts 6
Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy 6

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Section 1 • Introduction

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

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

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

Section 1•1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3•2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

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

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

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

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

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

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

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

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

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

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

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Religious Conflicts

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

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

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

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

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

Division I Women's Lacrosse

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration 8

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information 8
Section 1•2 National Committee 8
Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees 8
Section 1•4 Important Dates 9
Section 1•5 Equipment 10
Section 1•6 Rules 10
Section 1•7 Uniforms 10

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation 12

Section 2•1 Championship Format 12
Section 2•2 Results 13
Section 2•3 Selection Information 13
Section 2•4 Selection Criteria 14
Section 2•5 Site Selection 15

Appendix A • Bracket 18

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship 19

Appendix C • Officials 21

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Section 1•2 National Committee

You can find the current list of National Committee members here.

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
MID-ATLANTIC REGION		
Kristy Bannon, co-chair	Temple	American
Jen Adams, co-chair	Loyola Maryland	Patriot
Beth Hewitt	Vanderbilt	American
Kara Mupo	George Mason	Atlantic 10
Maggie Zentgraf	Butler	Big East
Jackie Dando	Bucknell	Patriot
NORTHEAST REGION		
Jake Silverman, chair	Brown	Ivy League
Karen Healy-Silcott	Howard	NEC
Jenn Cook	Princeton	Ivy League
Jenna Dingler	Manhattan	MAAC
Stephanie Allen	Binghamton	America East
SOUTH REGION		
Steve Eigenbrot, co-chair	Towson	CAA
Derek Cowherd, co-chair	Louisville	ACC
Rachel Whitten	Coastal Carolina	ASUN
Allison Kwolek	Clemson	ACC
Dawn Easley	Campbell	CAA
Lyndsey Boswell	High Point	Big South
CENTRAL/WEST REGION		
Suzette McQueen, co-chair	Kent State	MAC
Cathy Reese, co-chair	Maryland	Big Ten
Lindsey Thomas, co-chair	Florida	Big 12
Amanda Moore	Ohio St.	Big Ten
Brianne Tierney	Kent St.	MAC
Ann Elliott	Colorado	Big 12

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, March 16	Rating Percentage Index (RPI) posted on NCAA website at **ncaa.com** daily through selections.
Monday, March 23	Preliminary-round bid portal open and bid checklist posted on **ncaa.org**; communication distributed via NCAA monthly newsletter.
Friday, April 24	Deadline for institutions to submit bid materials to host first- and second-round and quarterfinal games of the championship.
Sunday, May 3	Selection announcement on **ESPNU** (9 p.m. Eastern time). *(Time and network subject to change.)*
Monday, May 4	Videoconference with first- and second-round participants. (All calls at 1 p.m. Eastern time.)
Fri., May 8 and Sun., May 10	First- and second-round competition on campuses of teams participating in the championship.
Monday, May 11	Videoconference with quarterfinal-round participants (Four calls at 1 p.m. Eastern time).
Thursday, May 14	Quarterfinal competition on campuses of teams participating in the championship.
Monday, May 18	Videoconference with semifinalists, NCAA championship administrator, committee chair and host tournament director (1 p.m. Eastern time).
Friday, May 22	Semifinals at Martin Stadium, hosted by Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.
Sunday, May 24	Championship at Martin Stadium, hosted by Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

DATE FORMULA

The championship finals are scheduled for Friday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Quarterfinals will be held Thursday the week before the finals. First- and second-round games will be held Friday and Sunday before the quarterfinals.

PRELIMINARY-ROUND GAME TIMES

First- and Second-Round Games

Friday

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	Between Noon and 3 p.m.

Quarterfinals

Thursday	Noon, 2:30, 5 or 7:30 p.m. (ESPN and the women's lacrosse committee will determine time slots for each quarterfinal.)

For the first and second rounds, game time(s) shall be established by the host institution within the time frames stated above. Host institutions will submit their preferred game times, and the order of games played for the first round, with their bid submission. The Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee will approve the requested game times and order prior to the selection show. For those first-round games in which the host team is not a participant, consideration shall be given to a game time conducive to the participating teams and its fans. Institutions without lighted facilities are required to schedule the start time to allow a four-hour window for a daylight opportunity to play the game. Requests to deviate from those times listed above must be submitted in writing and approved by the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee by April 24 and/or requested by TV partners. Requests after this deadline are subject to be denied. Hosts may submit quarterfinal game time restrictions or preferences to be considered by ESPN and the Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee but those quarterfinal requests are not guaranteed for approval.

FUTURE DATES

2027

Selections	Sunday, May 9
First Round	Friday, May 14, on campus
Second Round	Sunday, May 16, on campus
Quarterfinals	Thursday, May 20, on campus
Semifinals and Final	Friday and Sunday, May 28 and 30; Subaru Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

2028

Selections	Sunday, May 7
First Round	Friday, May 12, on campus
Second Round	Sunday, May 14, on campus
Quarterfinals	Thursday, May 18, on campus
Semifinals and Final	Friday and Sunday, May 26 and 28; Subaru Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Section 1•5 Equipment

The NCAA will send PEARL game balls to the tournament manager at the host institution for each round of competition. Practice balls will be provided at the final site.

In accordance with Bylaw 12.5.4, athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, gloves, helmets, sticks) may bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public. Failure to comply with this regulation may jeopardize a student-athlete's eligibility.

All equipment must conform to the specifications outlined in the **2026 and 2027 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules book**.

Section 1•6 Rules

[Reference: Bylaw 17.33 in the NCAA Manual.]

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.33, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports in which the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports in which the Association follows rules that are developed by other governing bodies and modified by the governing sports committee, the adopted playing rules shall be used. The governing sports committee will not consider any results for selection purposes not played in accordance with NCAA rules, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

This championship will be conducted according to the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules.

DURATION OF GAMES

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.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

The designated home team (as determined by the Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee) will wear light-colored uniforms for all rounds of competition.

In competition and during related ceremonies (pregame/warmup, introductions, award ceremonies and postgame interviews), student-athletes in the championship shall wear exclusively their official game uniform or institutional apparel. This applies to warmup uniforms and competitive uniforms.

All visible undergarments worn must be of one solid color and must be white, gray, black or one of that team's uniform colors. All team members who choose to wear visible undergarments must wear the same color. [NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rule 2, Sections 33 and 34.]

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship provides for a 29-team, single-elimination tournament. For the 2026 championship, 15 conference automatic bids will be awarded, and 14 teams will be selected at large. (See Appendix A for the bracket.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

All times Eastern.

Thursday, May 21

10-11:30 a.m.	Practice – Team 1
11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Practice – Team 2
1:30-3 p.m.	Practice – Team 3
3:15-4:45 p.m.	Practice – Team 4

NOTE: Practice times are subject to change.

Friday, May 22

9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Team walkthrough (45 minutes each)
3 p.m.	Semifinal #1
After Semifinal #1	Postgame Media Conference
5:30 p.m.	Semifinal #2
After Semifinal #2	Postgame Media Conference

NOTE: Game times are subject to change.

Saturday, May 23

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Practice – Winner Semifinal #1
1-2:30 p.m.	Practice – Winner Semifinal #2

NOTE: Practice times are subject to change.

Sunday, May 24

7-8 a.m.	Practice – Winner Semifinal #1
8-9 a.m.	Practice – Winner Semifinal #2
Noon	Championship Game
10 minutes after awards ceremony	Postgame Media Conference

NOTE: Game times are subject to change.

TRAVEL PARTY/BENCH LIMIT

[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division I General Section and Bylaw 31.4.6 in the NCAA Manual.]

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. The travel party for Division I Women's Lacrosse is 40. Travel policies are located online at **ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information**.

Each team must designate its 38 players who will be eligible to play in the championship. The 38 players may be changed each game if needed. Starting lineups will be recorded in the official scorebook 15 minutes before the game begins. Changes to the lineup cannot be made until the game starts. A roster with names and numbers of all players must be at the scorer's table before the start of the game. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform shall automatically forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform to the rule.

Each team will be permitted 12 additional nonathletes, along with one administrator and one doctor, on the sidelines beyond the roster. The individuals exceeding the travel party shall include nonparticipating, dressed student-athletes and institutional personnel (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, physicians and administrators). The nonparticipating, dressed student-athletes are permitted to participate in pregame warmup activities at the discretion of the institution. There is no bench limit on nonparticipating, dressed student-athletes. This total must include an administrator from the participating institution.

Section 2•2 Results

RESULTS REPORTING

The results-reporting and statistics-reporting processes are combined for Division I women's lacrosse. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (**web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login**), and this information is transferred into the RPI system for use by the sports committee. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to sports information directors in a memo from the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Michelle Watsky at **mwatsky@ncaa.org** or 317-437-4705.

PRESTO

All host sites should use Presto programs to submit statistics for postseason contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, a packed file from each preliminary/championship contest must be sent to Michelle Watsky at **mwatsky@ncaa.org**) and **ncaastats@ncaa.org** at the NCAA national office. These files should be sent immediately after each contest or day of competition.

Please contact Michelle Watsky with any questions.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The following conferences were granted automatic qualification for the 2026 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship:

America East Conference	Big Ten Conference
American Conference	Coastal Athletic Association
ASUN Conference	The Ivy League
Atlantic 10 Conference	Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference	Mid-American Conference
Big 12 Conference	Northeast Conference
Big East Conference	Patriot League
Big South Conference	

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Fourteen teams will be selected at large. To be considered during the at-large selection process, a team must have a Division I overall won-lost record of .500 or better.

SEEDING

The committee will seed and pair teams for the championship according to the geographic travel policy established by the NCAA Division I Cabinet. The Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee shall seed the top eight teams of the championship field.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies are located on the NCAA website at ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information. Teams and/or individuals should provide themselves sufficient money to meet all expenses throughout the tournament, including those for ground transportation, lodging, meals and other miscellaneous needs.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

To be considered for selection for the championship, regular-season games that are tied after regulation play must be decided with an overtime period. Teams must play a minimum of 10 contests. The committee requests conference championship games start by noon Eastern time the **Sunday** of the selection announcement.

The Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee will select at-large teams based on the criteria in Bylaw 31.3.3 (as listed below) in addition to the primary criteria.

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

Primary Criteria (not necessarily in priority order):

- Comprehensive evaluation of the Rating Percentage Index (RPI – 25% won-lost record; 50% opponents' strength of schedule; and 25% opponents' opponents' strength of schedule).
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results vs. common opponents.
- Significant wins and losses.
- Evaluation of the 10 highest-rated teams on an institution's schedule; defined by two components: strength of schedule and winning percentage.

Secondary Criteria

If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the secondary criteria will be reviewed. All the criteria listed will be evaluated (not listed in priority order).

- Late-season performance (last six games, including conference tournaments — winning percentage and strength of schedule).
- Results against teams already selected (including automatic qualifiers).
- Nonconference RPI.

Additionally, input is provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the Women's Lacrosse Committee. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used by the Women's Lacrosse Committee for selection purposes.

Bylaw 31.3.3.1 – Countable Competition

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

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2026 championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid Portal. Please note that in order to submit a bid, you must first locate the desired championship in the "Championships Available for Bidding" section and select "Start Bid."

Please note that all member institutions have regular and easy access to their profiles by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email **championshipbid@ncaa.org** or contact the respective championship manager.

An institution is strongly encouraged to play at least one match during the regular season in the venue it submits as the host facility. If an institution does not plan to play at least one match during the regular season, the institution should notify the NCAA of the venue's hosting abilities and confirmation that the venue will meet minimum requirements to host. The committee will give priority to on-campus venues that can provide student-athletes with a positive experience.

Venues must provide a locker room for each participating team for pregame and postgame preparations. If the locker room is not accessible (distance, etc.) 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.

All hosts should provide shot clocks, including back-up shot clocks that can be quickly instituted if the primary shot clock malfunctions. Shot clock operations should follow the outlined requirements in the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rules Book.

VIDEO REVIEW

Video review is a requirement to host preliminary rounds. Hosts must confirm their ability to use video review in their bid submission. Video review will be provided by the NCAA at the semifinals and final round. Video review requirements for hosts will be provided within the bid materials. For all questions related to video review, please reach out to **ckolby@ncaa.org**.

BROADCAST REQUIREMENTS

The first and second rounds will be broadcast on ESPN+ via the hosts. Minimum requirements will be outlined within the bid specifications. Quarterfinals will be broadcast on ESPN networks. Venues must be able to accommodate ESPN requirements in order to host the respective preliminary rounds.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid Portal is located at **championships.ncaa.org**. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Friday, April 24.

In addition to projected ticket sales and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials lodging.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Committees/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefQuest system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting championship preliminary-round competition must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at **championships.ncaa.org**. Any supporting information (e.g., facility diagram, pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in their deliberations of prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

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

LODGING

Prospective hosts shall secure a minimum of 30 double/double, nonsmoking rooms for each visiting team. All hotels must have a meeting room that can accommodate at least 55 people and be within 30-45 minutes of the venue. 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. 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 Women's Lacrosse Championship Subcommittee. Additional hotel details are available in the bid checklist and host manual. For specific questions, please reach out to **ckolby@ncaa.org**.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Caleb Kolby at 317-917-6180 or **ckolby@ncaa.org**, or email **championshipbid@ncaa.org**, if you have any questions regarding the bid process.

Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Bracket **18**

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship **19**

Appendix C • Officials **21**

Appendix A • Bracket

2026 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship

First Round
May 8

Second Round
May 10

Quarterfinals
May 14
12, 2:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

Semifinals
May 22

Championship
May 24

1

8

5

4

3

6

7

2

Martin Stadium
Chicago, IL
3 or 5:30 p.m.

Martin Stadium
Chicago, IL
3 or 5:30 p.m.

Martin Stadium
Chicago, IL
12 p.m.

NATIONAL CHAMPION

* Host Institution
# Home team in the non-seeded game
First- and second-round games held at the same site:
**Three teams at the host sites of the top-3 seeds
**Four teams at the host sites of the 4-8 seeds
Quarterfinal game times decided after all teams advance.
Semifinal game order decided after all teams advance
All times are Eastern
Information subject to change

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

American Conference (7)

East Carolina University
James Madison University
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Old Dominion University
University of South Florida
Temple University
Vanderbilt University

America East Conference (7)

University at Albany
Binghamton University
Bryant University
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of New Hampshire
University of Vermont

Atlantic 10 Conference (10)

Davidson College
Duquesne University
George Mason University
George Washington University
La Salle University
University of Rhode Island
University of Richmond
St. Bonaventure University
Saint Joseph's University
Virginia Commonwealth University

Atlantic Coast Conference (13)

Boston College
University of California, Berkeley
Clemson University
Duke University
Florida State University
University of Louisville
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
Stanford University
Syracuse University
University of Virginia
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

ASUN Conference (9)

Austin Peay State University
Coastal Carolina University
University of Delaware
Jacksonville University
Kennesaw State University
Liberty University
Lindenwood University
Queens University of Charlotte
Stetson University

Big 12 Conference (6)

Arizona State University
University of California, Davis
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Florida
San Diego State University

Big East Conference (7)

Butler University
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
Georgetown University
Marquette University
Villanova University
Xavier University

Big South Conference (9)

Furman University
Gardner-Webb University
High Point University
Longwood University
Mercer University
Presbyterian College
Radford University
Winthrop University
Wofford College

Big Ten Conference (9)

Johns Hopkins University
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
University of Oregon
Pennsylvania State University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick
University of Southern California

Coastal Athletic Association (8)

Campbell University
Drexel University
Elon University
Hofstra University
Monmouth University
Stony Brook University
Towson University
College of William & Mary

The Ivy League (8)

Brown University
Columbia University-Barnard College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Harvard University
University of Pennsylvania
Princeton University
Yale University

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (12)

Canisius College
Fairfield University
Iona College
Manhattan College
Marist College
Merrimack College
Mount St. Mary's University
Niagara University
Quinnipiac University
Rider University
Sacred Heart University
Siena College

Mid-American Conference (8)

University of Akron
Central Michigan University
University of Detroit Mercy
Eastern Michigan University
Kent State University
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Robert Morris University
Youngstown State University

Northeast Conference (8)

Central Connecticut State University
Delaware State University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus
Howard University
*LeMoyne College
Long Island University
*Mercyhurst University
*University of New Haven
Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
Stonehill College
Wagner College

Patriot League (10)

American University
Boston University
Bucknell University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Naval Academy

**Not eligible for NCAA championship competition.*

Appendix C • Officials

POLICIES AND SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

All officials for NCAA Division I postseason games shall be appointed by the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee in conjunction with the NCAA national coordinator for officials. Any committee member whose team is selected to the championship will be recused from the process.

A sports committee or games committee may not require membership in any specific officials' association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in an NCAA meet or tournament. Officials shall adhere to the Association's policies relating to gambling activities, drugs and alcohol, and must conduct themselves in a manner befitting intercollegiate athletics. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment.

REQUIREMENTS

All officials assigned to an NCAA postseason tournament game must do the following:

1. Register on RefQuest website;
2. Consent and pass a background check;
3. Complete NCAA-assigned training and conflict-of-interest form;
4. Watch NCAA Eligibility: SportRadar Referee Education Video;
5. Annually attend an NCAA rules interpretation session in person or via webinar;
6. Pass the annual rules test with a score of 90% or higher;
7. Be evaluated through NCAA national coordinator of officials and assignors; and
8. View any assigned NCAA Training Videos on RQ+ as designated annually by the National Coordinator of Officials.

Additional requirements may be added by the national coordinator of officials and the requirements are subject to change.

An official will not be assigned to a game if it involves an institution they attended, was or is an employee of, or if their spouse/partner or relatives have any conflicting affiliations. Other situations that could be perceived as a conflict of interest will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

ASSIGNMENTS

Three field officials and one alternate official will be assigned to all games. Teams will receive the names of assigned officials the day prior to game day.