



***PRECHAMPIONSHIP  
2025-26 MANUAL***

# NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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### THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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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

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#### 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

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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

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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](http://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

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

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 • Division II

### Section 10.1 Division II Philosophy

In addition to the constitution of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational well-being and academic success of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

Higher education has lasting importance on an individual's future success. As such, Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II athletics programs also are committed to establishing an inclusive culture in which persons of all backgrounds are respected and given the opportunity to provide input and to participate. Division II members abide by the following principles that help define and distinguish the division: *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(a) Division II colleges and universities are expected to operate their athletics programs with integrity and in a welcoming manner that complies with conference and NCAA rules and regulations. Institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the institution's educational mission and assumes presidential involvement and oversight; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(b) Division II members fund their athletics programs in a manner that aligns with the institution's budget and educational mission. This method of funding features a "partial scholarship" model that allows Division II schools to recognize student-athletes for their skills through athletics-based grants, but student-athletes can accept merit-based aid and academic scholarships as well; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(c) Division II believes in a balanced approach that integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students to focus on their academic pursuits and participate in other campus and community activities. This "Life in the Balance" emphasis facilitates learning through: *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(1) **Academics.** Division II offers exceptional teacher-student ratios that provide student-athletes with a quality education in the academic curriculum of their choice. The division structures its eligibility requirements to facilitate student-athletes earning their degrees, which is measured in part by an institution's student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution's student body; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(2) **Athletics.** Division II supports athletics achievement through highly competitive programs that strive to participate in the division's 25 national championships, which offer the best access ratio among the NCAA's three divisions. Division II also supports a regionalization model in scheduling that reduces time away from campus and keeps athletics participation in perspective within the educational mission; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(3) **Community Engagement.** Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities to enhance relationships between student-athletes and community members and develop a shared civic experience. Division II promotes engagement at the local, conference and national levels, including at all Division II national championships; and *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(4) **Postgraduation Success.** Division II supports a higher education model that shapes student-athletes who graduate with the skills and knowledge to be productive citizens. The balanced approach allows student-athletes to focus on their academic pursuits, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare them for life after graduation; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(d) Division II members support the utmost in sportsmanship by committing to a "game environment" initiative that establishes an atmosphere at athletics contests that is both energetic and respectful; and *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(e) Division II promotes student-athlete involvement in decision-making through campus, conference and national Student-Athlete Advisory Committees that provide leadership opportunities and offer a representative voice in the division's governance structure. *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

## Section 10•2 Division II Code of Conduct

### CONDUCT POLICY STATEMENT

The NCAA expects each championship to exhibit an experience that represents the highest level of fair play and good sportsmanship. The NCAA and the NCAA Division II Championships Committee expect that student-athletes, coaches and administrators do their best to ensure participation in intercollegiate athletics promotes character development for all participants, enhances the integrity of higher education and promotes civility; therefore, championship events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities associated with the championship event. Accordingly, the Championships Committee will take strong action in response to any form of misconduct by student-athletes, coaches and/or administrators during the entire championship. This includes criticism of officials and a misconduct incident at the competition.

Any institution that fails to submit the online form required for the sport administrator and have a complete and accurate signature page on file at the institution before the start of the first competition of the championship will be issued a fine of \$500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, institutional chancellor/president, institutional athletics director, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director.

### MISCONDUCT

The NCAA Division II Manual Bylaw 18.02.4 defines misconduct as: **"... 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."**

### EXPECTATIONS

Each games committee shall hold a pre-championship meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct (as defined in Bylaw 18.02.4). The Division II Championships Code of Conduct is to be part of the championship(s) packet and delivered to all institutional representatives attending the championship(s) events.

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day's competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament) when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other actions of misconduct shall be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sport committee.

### EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Have on file at the institution an accurate and complete Division II Code of Conduct signature page before the start of the first competition of the championship(s).
- Cooperate and participate in game ceremonies, team meetings, community engagement and championship competition.
- Discuss misconduct and possible consequences with all institutional personnel traveling with the team (official travel party and additional individuals).
- Have an administrator or designee present at all competitions.
- Communicate issues and concerns in a honest and timely manner with NCAA staff.
- Follow team, university and NCAA guidelines throughout all championship-related activities.
- Be respectful of other participants, spectators, coaches, administrators and other individuals at the championship(s) site.
- Abide by federal, state and local laws and regulations and facility requirements throughout the championship event.
- Display acceptable behavior on and off the playing field to ensure a positive experience for all participants.

### POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Division II Championships Committee policy, the governing sport committee (or the games committee authorized to act for it) may impose any one or a combination of the following penalties on an institution or any student-athlete or representative of an institution guilty of misconduct that occurs incident to, enroute to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice. The penalties include, but are not limited to:

- a. Public or private reprimand of the individual;
- b. Disqualification of the individual from further participation in the NCAA championship(s) involved;
- c. Banishment of the individual from participation in one or more subsequent championships of the sport involved;
- d. Cancellation of payment of the Association's travel guarantee to the institution for the individual involved;
- e. Banishment of the institution from participation in one or more future championships in which its team in that sport otherwise would be eligible to participate;
- f. Disqualification of an institution for a period of time from serving as host institution for one or more
- g. NCAA championships;
- h. Cancellation of all or a portion of the honorarium for hosting an NCAA championship(s); and
- i. Financial or other penalties different from (a) through (g) above, but only if they have prior approval of the Championships Committee.

All correspondence regarding a violation of the Code of Conduct will be sent to the chancellor/president of the institution, with a copy to the director of athletics and person(s) involved.

Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. Participation in these championship events is a privilege for the student-athletes, coaches and administrators and should be treated as such.

### Section 10•3 On-Site Administrator at Team Championships

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All team sports require that a designated individual be identified from each institution participating in the championship as the on-site administrator. This person may be any individual from that school with no on-site responsibilities. The role of the on-site administrator is to be present at the competition site and attend all events that are mandated for the team (e.g., travel from institution to and from the championship site, teleconferences/videoconferences, prechampionship meetings, practices, competition and community engagement, where applicable).

If no one is sent or identified, the site representative is to notify the NCAA championship manager and Division II Championships Committee liaison to administer a fine of \$500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, university chancellor/president university director of athletics, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director. The NCAA championship manager will administer the fine and letter of reprimand to the institution(s).

This policy applies to the following sports: baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball.

### Section 10•4 Make Game Day Yours

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Division II promotes a game environment that is respectful and engaging for everyone through the Make Game Day Yours initiative. The initiative aims to create a positive game environment at Division II contests and promotes excellent customer service among hosts to both teams' fans, student-athletes, coaches and game officials.

Championship hosts should keep in mind the importance of safety, responsiveness and dignity in order to achieve a positive experience. We ask that each participant and fan be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Make Game Day Yours.

### Section 10•5 Religious Conflicts

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*[Reference: Division II Championships Committee Policy.]*

**Institutional Policy.** If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before 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. *(Revised: 1/12/99, 1/8/01, 1/9/01)*

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

# Division II Women's Lacrosse

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# Section 1 • General Administration

## Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

### Ryan Rea

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances  
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222  
317-440-6532 / [rrea@ncaa.org](mailto:rrea@ncaa.org)

## Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee can be found at the following link: [web1.ncaa.org/committees/#/reports/roster?committeeCode=2WLA](http://web1.ncaa.org/committees/#/reports/roster?committeeCode=2WLA)

For additional information about the women's lacrosse championship, contact:

### Ryan Rea

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances  
NCAA  
317-440-6532 / [rrea@ncaa.org](mailto:rrea@ncaa.org)

### Melissa Gyllenborg

Head Women's Lacrosse Coach  
Maryville University of Saint Louis  
607-745-9130 / [mgyllenborg@maryville.edu](mailto:mgyllenborg@maryville.edu)

## Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>ATLANTIC REGION</b>		
Jennifer Pawlowski*	Gannon	PSAC
Kristin Nicholson	Kutztown	PSAC
Erik Lemley	UVA Wise	SAC
Jenna Agostino	Tusculum	SAC
David Pomeroy	Davis & Elkins	MEC
Carrie Sanders	Frostburg St.	MEC
<b>EAST REGION</b>		
<b>Dawn Sachs*</b>	<b>Mercy</b>	<b>ECC</b>
Kerri Brace	D'Youville	ECC
Nicole Ham	Southern N.H.	NE10
Ashley Snow	Saint Michael's	NE10
Rob Grella	Dominican (NY)	CACC
Denise Wisniewski	Chestnut Hill	CACC

## DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>MIDWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Melissa Gyllenborg*</b>	<b>Maryville (MO)</b>	<b>GLVC</b>
Peyton Romig	UIndy	GLVC
Lindsey LeMay Majkrzak	Northern Mich.	GLIAC
Jamie Halloran	G-MAC	G-MAC
Pat Thatcher	Thomas More	G-MAC
Shelley Jarrad	Westminster	RMAC
Ashley Delaney	Colorado Mesa	RMAC
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>		
<b>Akasha Kasper*</b>	<b>UAH</b>	<b>GSC</b>
Silvia Beauzile	Lee	GSC
Molly Kopp	Belmont Abbey	Conference Carolinas
Alex King	Mount Olive	Conference Carolinas
Kelly Gallagher	Tampa	Sunshine State
Brittany Lamele	Eckerd	Sunshine State

## Section 1•4 Important Dates

### JANUARY 2026

**Wed. 14** Deadline for institutions to submit their complete schedule on the online score-reporting form.

### APRIL

**Wed. 15** First published national ranking (alphabetical).

**Wed. 22** Second published national ranking.

**Fri. 24** Proposed budget and facility evaluation forms due at the national office from institutions interested in hosting any preliminary round of competition.

**Mon. 27** Potential prelim round host call - noon Eastern time.

**Wed. 29** Third published national ranking call.

### MAY

**Sun. 3** National committee selection call.

**Mon. 4** Teleconference with first-round participating teams and NCAA site representative or committee member - noon Eastern time.

**Thu.-Sat. 7-9** First- and second-round competition (eight on-campus sites).

**Sat. 16** Quarterfinal-round competition (four on-campus sites).  
Reseeding call with national committee members.

**Sun. 17** Teleconference with semifinalists, NCAA liaison, committee members and host championship tournament director - noon Eastern time.

**Thu. 21** Semifinals.

**Fri. 22** On-site annual meeting.

**Sat. 23** Championship game.

## CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

[Reference: Division II Championships Committee policy.]

<b>First and second rounds</b>	Thursday, May 7 and Saturday, May 9 - on campus.
<b>Quarterfinal rounds</b>	Saturday, May 16 - on campus.
<b>Semifinals and Final</b>	Thursday, May 21, and Saturday, May 23 - Tiger Stadium, Rochester, New York.

## DATE FORMULA

Each year the championship semifinals and final will be held the Thursday-Saturday of Memorial Day weekend.

Quarterfinal round will be held the Saturday prior to the semifinals and final.

First- and second-round games will be held the Thursday and Saturday prior to Quarterfinals.

## FUTURE DATES

### 2027

<b>First and second rounds</b>	Thursday, May 6 and Saturday, May 8 - on campus.
<b>Quarterfinal round</b>	Saturday, May 15 - on campus.
<b>Semifinals and Final</b>	Thursday, May 20, and Saturday, May 22, at the University of Tampa.

## Section 1•5 Equipment

The supplier for NCAA lacrosse is Pearl.

### BALLS

The Pearl lacrosse ball is the official ball of the NCAA women's lacrosse championship and will be used in all tournament games. All game balls will be NOCSAE-approved. Game balls will be sent by the manufacturer to the tournament manager at the host institution for each round of competition. Five dozen practice balls will be provided at the site of the semifinals and final.

## Section 1•6 Rules

The 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship will be conducted according to the 2026 and 2027 Women's Lacrosse Rules ([ncaapublications.com/p-4687-2024-and-2025-ncaa-womens-lacrosse-rules.aspx](https://ncaapublications.com/p-4687-2024-and-2025-ncaa-womens-lacrosse-rules.aspx)).

Questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be addressed to Stefanie Sparks Smith at 603-494-1865.

## Section 1•7 Uniforms

The higher-seeded team (as determined by the NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee) will wear light-colored uniforms.

In competition and during related ceremonies (pregame/warmup, introductions, award ceremonies and postgame interviews), student-athletes in the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship shall wear exclusively the official game uniforms of their institutions. This applies to warmup uniforms and competitive uniforms. Tights and undergarments worn must be of a matching solid color. It is also acceptable to wear your championship hat and T-shirt in postgame interviews.

### LOGOS

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

## **Section 1•8 Video Exchange Policy**

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For all rounds of the championship, there will be a direct video exchange with opponents. All games completed prior to selection must be uploaded to the open exchange by noon Eastern time Monday after selection.

During all rounds of the championship, the HOST SCHOOL will be responsible for video upload to HUDL. Even though the host institution may not be playing in that game, the host institution will still be responsible for uploading the film.

# Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

## Section 2•1 Championship Format

The Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship provides for a 24-team, **single-elimination tournament**.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A complete championship schedule of events will be available in the championship participant manual.

### START TIMES

#### First- and Second-Round Games

The national committee has requested that each host site set their own game times with final approval coming from the sport committee.

First- and second-round clock times will mirror that of the championship clock. No shootarounds will be provided on game day.

#### Quarterfinal-Round Games

The national committee has requested that each host site set their own game time with final approval coming from the sport committee.

Quarterfinal-round clock times will mirror that of the championship clock. No shootarounds will be provided on game day.

#### Championship Games

The national committee has determined starting times for the semifinal and championship games.

The semifinal games will start at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. local time. The championship game will start at 5 p.m. local time.

#### Semifinal Clock Time

The following information pertains to pregame clock time for the semifinal games.

CLOCK TIME	REAL TIME	EVENT
60:00	3:20 p.m.	Pregame warmups for Game 1
10:00	4:10 p.m.	Coaches/officials meeting
5:00	4:15 p.m.	Captains meeting
0:00	4:20 p.m.	Field cleared
	4:25 p.m.	Introduction of teams/national anthem (only played prior to first game)
	4:30 p.m.	Game 1 begins

For the second game, the following time schedule will be used:

CLOCK TIME	ACTUAL TIME	EVENT
60:00	6:20 p.m.	Pregame warmups for Game 2
10:00	7:10 p.m.	Coaches/officials meeting
5:00	7:15 p.m.	Captains meeting
0:00	7:20 p.m.	Field cleared
	7:25 p.m.	Introduction of teams
	7:30 p.m.	Game 2 begins

## DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE

If games fall behind schedule, the following schedule will be used to guarantee the 45-minute warmup:

CLOCK TIME	EVENT
45:00	Pregame warmups for Game 2
10:00	Coaches/officials meeting
5:00	Captains meeting
0:00	Field cleared
	Introduction of teams
Approximately 7:30 p.m.	Game begins

*NOTE: Bench areas must be cleared 10 minutes before the start of warmups for the second game.*

### Championship Clock Time

The following information pertains to pregame clock time for the championship.

CLOCK TIME	ACTUAL TIME	EVENT
60:00	3:50 p.m.	Pregame warmups
5:00	4:45 p.m.	Captains meeting
0:00	4:50 p.m.	Field cleared - stick check
	4:55 p.m.	Introduction of teams
	5 p.m.	Championship game

### PRACTICES

Practice access to all designated host-site fields is limited to the day before and the day of competition, weather permitting. If this is not possible, a practice area will be available the day before the game. All teams must practice on the same field.

All practices held the day before games will be closed to all but credentialed media and participants. Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 28 student-athletes for competition. For practices and game warmups, there is no limit to the number of student-athletes who can participate.

All teams will receive a 90-minute practice on the day before the first-round game. The host institution, with approval from the NCAA, will determine the practice times, and the team traveling the farthest away in the first game will have the first choice on times, followed by the second team in game one. The same formula will be applied to the second- and quarterfinal-round games. Teams are limited to the time that they are scheduled. If hosting, provide as many options as possible to accommodate any schedule conflicts. The host institution is required to provide one set of goal cages for each team on the practice field and is urged to provide two (and creases, if possible).

No shootaround will be permitted.

### BENCH ASSIGNMENTS

For preliminary rounds, the higher seed will be assigned to the home bench area the host used during their regular season.

For neutral-site games, the home team will be assigned to the right of the scorers' table (when facing the table from the field) and the away team will be to the left of the scorers' table (when facing the table from the field).

### TRAVEL PARTY

The bench size is 50 individuals. The official travel party is 30 individuals, which includes a squad size of 28 student-athletes. All student-athletes traveling with the team are able to be in uniform and participate in practice and warmups before the game.

## Section 2•2 Results

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The host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official championship results to the Association's website, [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com).

For preliminary competition, please specify the division, sport, region, date of competition, round and official result(s) (including any overtimes, etc.). For championship finals competition sites, please specify division, sport, round, date, official results, photos and provide a brief game summary.

Host institutions and sponsoring agencies should use the following method to report:

- Email the information to: [ncaa-editorial@warnermedia.com](mailto:ncaa-editorial@warnermedia.com) and [rrea@ncaa.org](mailto:rrea@ncaa.org), immediately following competition.
- Specify the division, sport and region in the SUBJECT area.
- Paste the text (official results, including date of competition, round, etc.) directly into an email or send as an attachment in a MS Word document or Windows Notepad text document.
- Please convert photos to JPEG format and attach to an email.

### Stat Crew

All host sites should use Stat Crew programs to submit statistics for the contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, a packed file from each regional/championship contest must be sent to [ncaastats@ncaa.org](mailto:ncaastats@ncaa.org) and Liz Wacienga ([lwacienga@ncaa.org](mailto:lwacienga@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office. These files should be sent immediately following each contest or day of competition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liz Wacienga ([lwacienga@ncaa.org](mailto:lwacienga@ncaa.org)). Please ensure stat pack used is specific to women's lacrosse.

### REGIONAL RANKINGS

The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee will release regional rankings on the following dates:

- April 15
- April 22
- April 29

### SCORE REPORTING

The score-reporting and stats-reporting processes are now combined for Division II women's lacrosse. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site ([web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login](http://web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login)), and this information will then be imported into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to SIDs in a memo from the media services staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Liz Wacienga ([lwacienga@ncaa.org](mailto:lwacienga@ncaa.org)).

## Section 2•3 Selection Information

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### ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

Twelve conferences have been granted Automatic Qualification (AQ) privileges. Three AQs will be administered in each region with the remaining three spots filled with at-large teams selected by the NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse national committee.

### AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The following conferences will receive an AQ for the 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship:

Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference	Mountain East Conference
Conference Carolinas	Northeast-10 Conference
East Coast Conference	Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
Great Lakes Valley Conference	Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
Great Midwest Athletic Conference	South Atlantic Conference
Gulf South Conference	Sunshine State Conference

### AT-LARGE SELECTION

To be considered for selection to the championship:

- **Teams must play a minimum of 10 in-region contests.**
- **Teams must have a .500 record or better.**

The committee will select teams for the championship Sunday, May 3. All teams will be notified of their selection not later than Sunday evening. The brackets will be on the NCAA's official website, [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com).

### TRAVEL INFORMATION

Transportation and per diem expenses will be provided for an official traveling party of a maximum of 30. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](http://ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information).

## Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

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

To be considered for championship selection, a team must satisfy all scheduling requirements as outlined by championships in that sport (e.g., minimum number of Division II or in-region contests). The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition:

- Availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships; and
- Nullification.

### REQUIRED CRITERIA

Following confirmation of the availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships and the application of any nullification, the following required selection criteria shall be applied in no particular order.

- Overall Division II in-region winning percentage;
- Overall Division II winning percentage;
- Overall Division II strength of schedule (opponents' average winning percentage and opponents' opponents' average winning percentage);
- Division II head-to-head competition; and
- Results versus Division II common opponents.

The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee has received approval from the Division II Championships Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- Division II results versus teams with .500 record or better;
- Performance Indicator (PI); and
- Rating Percentage Index (RPI).

Teams must play a minimum of 10 games in-region and have a .500 record.

**An institution desiring to participate in the championship should complete all games before the final scheduled selection call of the Women's Lacrosse Committee on Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m. local time.**

## SEEDING

The top six teams in each region will be seeded, and teams will be paired by regions. Following the completion of the first-, second- and quarterfinal-round games, **the four advancing teams** will be reseeded based on the selection criteria.

## Section 2•5 Site Selection

### PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

Any institution or conference interested in hosting any preliminary round of the 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship must submit a proposed budget, facility evaluation form, preliminary round form, key contacts form and video board questionnaire (if applicable) to be considered to host. A separate proposed budget and key contacts form must be submitted for each round that an institution or conference is interested in hosting.

The proposed budget form has changed slightly to allow us to collect more detailed information when relevant. The form is now an expandable/collapsible tree format with the ability to upload supporting documents. Please note the unbudgeted expenditures section has been removed in the new budget form. As part of the bid, prospective hosts must enter a budgeted amount for the following items that previously were considered unbudgeted expenditures:

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

Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. **Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefQuest system for their game fee, per diem, mileage and luggage fees. Hosts will no longer pay these fees.** Mileage is only for drivers and is not available for those who are carpooling.

For both the game officials and committee/site representatives, hosts will pay for their lodging expenses and be reimbursed by the NCAA.

All bid-related forms can be accessed via the following website: [web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login](http://web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login). The deadline to submit all materials (including practice times and hotel room block information) for hosting preliminary rounds is April 24, 2026, at 5 p.m. Eastern time.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Ryan Rea ([rrea@ncaa.org](mailto:rrea@ncaa.org); 317-440-6532.)

### HOST REPORTING SYSTEM

All forms may be accessed via the Host Reporting System and may be accessed at [web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login?loginSubmit=LoginWithTabs](http://web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login?loginSubmit=LoginWithTabs). Please note that the online form is password protected.

Your institution's athletics director should have the necessary membership database username and password on file. Written instructions on how to complete the automated forms are located at the site and on each sport-specific website in the Documents and Forms section.

### FINANCIAL REPORT FORM

The host for each championship round must complete a financial report form, which is incorporated as part of the proposed budget form and located on the NCAA website. A separate financial report form must be submitted for each round of competition. Each form must be submitted to the NCAA not later than 60 days after the conclusion of the competition. Failure to submit the report within 60 days will result in financial penalties.

### FACILITY EVALUATION FORM

Institutions interested in hosting the first-, second- and quarterfinal-rounds of the 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship must submit a facility evaluation form, which asks for specific information regarding field dimensions, hotels and facility information. Please note, what is submitted as your bid must be followed, including field dimensions. If facility information is inaccurate, it must be corrected before first-round games are played. Please double-check your field dimensions before submitting.

#### Facility Diagram

In addition, prospective hosts must upload a field diagram to the host reporting system, bid document upload tab.

#### Hotel Contract

In addition, prospective hosts must upload a hotel block contract to the host reporting system, bid document upload tab.

### PRELIMINARY ROUND FORM

Institutions interested in hosting the first-, second- and quarterfinal-rounds of the 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship must submit a preliminary round form, which asks for specific start times of each round and designated practice times.

### KEY CONTACTS FORM

Institutions interested in hosting a first-, second- and quarterfinal-rounds of the 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship must submit a key contacts form. The website may be found at [web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login?loginSubmit=LoginWithTabs](http://web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login?loginSubmit=LoginWithTabs). The deadline for submitting the key contacts forms is **Friday, April 24, at 5 p.m. Eastern time.**

### SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based upon a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA Championships, which can be found in the "Help/Other Resources" tab in the championship host portal. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program.

As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your venue, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the [Best Practices document](#). This information should be uploaded to the host reporting system.

# Appendixes

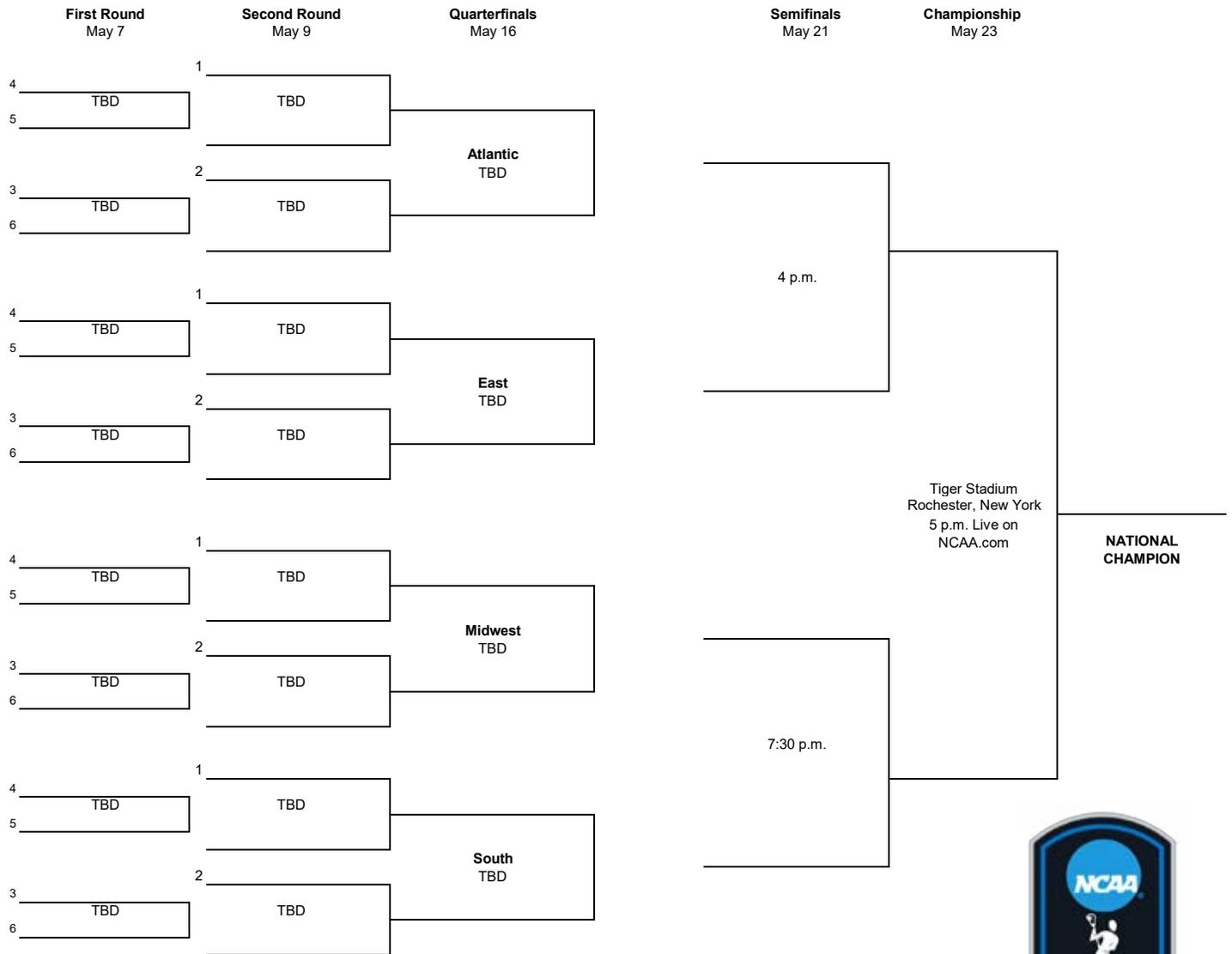
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# Appendix A • Bracket



## 2026 NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship



All times are eastern time.  
 \*Host Institution Information subject to change.  
 \*\*The highest remaining seed in each region will host the quarterfinal round.  
 \*\*\*The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee will reseed the final four teams following completion of the quarterfinal round games.

## Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

### ATLANTIC REGION

#### Mountain East Conference (7)

University of Charleston (West Virginia)  
 Davis & Elkins College  
 Dominican University (CA)  
 Frostburg State University

Point Park University  
 West Virginia Wesleyan College  
 Wheeling University

#### Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (13)

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
 East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
 Gannon University  
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
 Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania  
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro  
 Seton Hill University  
 Shepherd University  
 Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania  
 Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania  
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania

#### South Atlantic Conference (11)

Anderson University (South Carolina)  
 Catawba College  
 Coker University  
 Emory & Henry College  
 Lenoir-Rhyne University  
 Lincoln Memorial University

Mars Hill University  
 Newberry College  
 Tusculum College  
 The University of Virginia's College at Wise  
 Wingate University

### EAST REGION

#### The Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (10)

University of Bridgeport  
 Caldwell University  
 Chestnut Hill College  
 Dominican College (New York)  
 Felician University

Georgian Court University  
 Holy Family University  
 Post University  
 Thomas Jefferson University  
 Wilmington University (Delaware)

#### East Coast Conference (7)

D'Youville University  
 Daemen College  
 University of the District of Columbia  
 Mercy University

Molloy University  
 Roberts Wesleyan University  
 St. Thomas Aquinas College

#### Northeast-10 Conference (10)

Adelphi University  
 American International College  
 Assumption University  
 Bentley University  
 Franklin Pierce University

Pace University  
 Saint Anselm College  
 Saint Michael's College  
 Southern Connecticut State University  
 Southern New Hampshire University

## DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE

### MIDWEST REGION

#### Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (5)

Concordia University, St. Paul  
Davenport University  
Grand Valley State University

Northern Michigan University  
Saginaw Valley State University

#### Great Lakes Valley Conference (8)

University of Indianapolis  
Lewis University  
Maryville University of Saint Louis  
McKendree University

Missouri Western State University  
Quincy University  
Rockhurst University  
William Jewell College

#### Great Midwest Athletic Conference (9)

Ashland University  
University of Findlay  
Lake Erie College  
Malone University  
Northwood University

Thomas More University  
Tiffin University  
Ursuline College  
Walsh University

#### Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (6)

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
Colorado Mesa University  
Colorado State University-Pueblo

Fort Lewis College  
Regis University (Colorado)  
Westminster College (Utah)

### SOUTH REGION

#### Conference Carolinas (12)

Barton College  
Belmont Abbey College  
Chowan University  
Converse University  
Emmanuel College (Georgia)  
Ferrum College

Lees-McRae College  
University of Mount Olive  
North Greenville University  
Shorter University  
Southern Wesleyan University  
Young Harris College

#### Gulf South Conference (6)

University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Flagler College  
Lander University

Lee University  
University of Montevallo  
Virginia State University

#### Sunshine State Conference (8)

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida)  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Florida Southern College  
Lynn University

Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Rollins College  
Saint Leo University  
University of Tampa

## Appendix C • Officials

### POLICIES AND SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

All officials for NCAA Division II postseason games shall be appointed by the Division II 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:

1. Must register on the RefQuest Central Hub;
2. Must annually attend an NCAA rules interpretation session;
3. Score a 90% or higher on the annual rules test;
4. Must undergo evaluations through the NCAA national coordinator of officials and assignors; and
5. Referee a minimum of six NCAA contests during the current lacrosse season.

An official will not be assigned to a game if it involves an institution he or she attended, was or is an employee of, or if his or her spouse/partner or relatives have any of these affiliations.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Three field officials and one alternate official will be assigned to all games.