



***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 III

### Section 10•1 Division III Philosophy

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

### Section 10•2 Commencement Conflicts

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

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

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

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

## Section 10•3 Gameday the DIII Way

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

## Section 10•4 Religious Conflicts

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

**Institutional Policy.** If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before May 1 of the preceding academic year to be excused from competing on that day. The notification shall be valid for a period of two years. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team or an individual competitor to compete before the time originally scheduled.

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

# Division III Men's Lacrosse

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# Section 1 • General Administration

## Section 1.1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

### Will Hopkins

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances  
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222  
317-917-6779 / [whopkins@ncaa.org](mailto:whopkins@ncaa.org)

### Dante Jones

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances  
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222  
317-917-6241 / [djones@ncaa.org](mailto:djones@ncaa.org)

## Section 1.2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

### REGION I

#### Matt Colombini

Head Men's Lacrosse Coach  
Clark University (Massachusetts)

### REGION II

#### Jim Lyons

Director of Athletics  
Russell Sage College

### REGION III

#### Dave Carty, chair

Head Men's Lacrosse Coach  
Moravian University

### REGION IV

#### Curtis Gilbert

Head Men's Lacrosse Coach  
Berry College

### REGION V

#### Doug Misarti

Assistant Athletic Director/Head Men's Lacrosse Coach  
Kenyon College

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

### Will Hopkins

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances  
NCAA  
317-917-6779 / [whopkins@ncaa.org](mailto:whopkins@ncaa.org)

### Dave Carty, chair

Head Men's Lacrosse Coach  
Moravian University  
610-625-7709 / [cartyd@moravian.edu](mailto:cartyd@moravian.edu)

## Section 1.3 Important Dates

Monday, March 30	First Published Rankings
Monday, April 6	Second Published Rankings
Monday, April 13	Third Published Rankings
Monday, April 20	Fourth Published Rankings
Friday, April 24	Bid Materials Due
Monday, April 27	Fifth Published Rankings
Sunday, May 3	Team Selections
Wednesday, May 6	First Round
Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10	Second/Third Rounds
Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17	Quarterfinals/Semifinals

### CHAMPIONSHIP DATE

Sunday, May 24

Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Virginia

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### FUTURE DATES

Sunday, May 30, 2027

Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Sunday, May 28, 2028

Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Massachusetts

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## Section 1•4 Equipment

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In accordance with Bylaw 12.5.3, 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 ([NCAA Men's Lacrosse 2025 and 2026 Rules and Interpretations](#)).

## Section 1•5 Rules

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Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules, including men's lacrosse. The governing sports committee will not consider any results for selection purposes from games not played in accordance with the NCAA rules book.

The NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rules will be followed in all tournament games. Questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be addressed to Willie Scroggs, Secretary-Rules Editor, Men's Lacrosse, P.O. Box 2126, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515; email: [williescroggs@unc.edu](mailto:williescroggs@unc.edu).

## Section 1•6 Uniforms

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The Men's Lacrosse Committee shall determine the home team. The home team shall wear its white or light-colored jerseys. However, this rule may be waived if both coaches agree to do so before the game. When jersey colors are not sufficiently contrasting, the home team shall change its jerseys.

Student-athletes competing in each championship shall wear exclusively the official uniform of their institutions in competition and during related ceremonies. This applies to warmup uniforms as well as uniforms for competition.

### LOGOS

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

# Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

## Section 2•1 Championship Format

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### START TIME

Noon, Sunday, May 24 – Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Virginia

### TRAVEL PARTY

Division III teams located within 500 miles of their competition site are required to use ground transportation. Teams located outside 500 miles may use air transportation. All air transportation must be arranged through Short's Travel Management.

The official traveling party for the Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship is 37. Please refer to the NCAA Travel and Per Diem Policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. This information can be found online at [ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/resources/travel/2022-23D3Champs\\_TravelPolicies.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/resources/travel/2022-23D3Champs_TravelPolicies.pdf).

Other NCAA travel policies can be found online at [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](https://ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information).

## Section 2•2 Team Transportation Contact Information

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### SHORT'S TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

- Phone number: 866-655-9215
- Email: [ncaalo@shortstravel.com](mailto:ncaalo@shortstravel.com)

### NCAA TRAVEL GROUP

- Phone number: 317-917-6751
- Email: [travel@ncaa.org](mailto:travel@ncaa.org)
- Website: [ncaa.com/travel](https://ncaa.com/travel)

## Section 2•3 Results

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### SCORE-REPORTING SYSTEM

The score-reporting and stats-reporting processes are combined for Division III men's lacrosse. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site ([web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login](https://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 preseason memo distributed by the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact David Lentz at ([dlentz@ncaa.org](mailto:dlentz@ncaa.org) or 317-917-6139).

Copies of results will be obtained off the NCAA website, as posted by the host institution's sports information director. These results must be posted on the day of the event and shall include at a minimum: (1) score by periods; (2) first and last name for all goals scored for each team, along with their total goals for the game; (3) total shots for each team; (4) first and last name of all goalies who play; (5) total saves for each goalie for each team and (6) announced attendance. A computer-generated box score will suffice as long as it includes all information listed. If the form does not, such information shall be added manually to the sports information director's web report.

### STAT CREW

All host sites should use Stat Crew 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 [ncaastats@ncaa.org](mailto:ncaastats@ncaa.org) and David Lentz at ([dlentz@ncaa.org](mailto:dlentz@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 David Lentz.

### REGIONAL RANKINGS

Published regional rankings will be released on [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com) on the below dates:

- Monday, March 30
  - Monday, April 6
  - Monday, April 13
  - Monday, April 20
  - Monday, April 27
  - Sunday, May 3
- 
- Region I: Seven teams
  - Region II: Seven teams
  - Region III: Seven teams
  - Region IV: Seven teams
  - Region V: Seven teams

## Section 2•4 Selections Information

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### SELECTION CRITERIA

For the 2026 championship season, the committee will utilize the NPI ranking system, which incorporates the criteria outlined below.

### SELECTION INFORMATION

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

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected not later than Sunday, May 4. NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated.

### ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 40-team field will consist of two selection pools: AQs and at-large berths. AQ berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2025-26 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AQ.

*NOTE: Contests versus provisional and reclassifying members in their third and fourth years shall count. Provisional and reclassifying members shall remain ineligible for rankings and selections.*

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

### SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS

Institutions must play at least 70% of their scheduled competition against Division III in-region opponents to be considered for selection to NCAA championships as an automatic qualifier or an at-large selection. End-of-season conference tournaments, postseason competitions, scrimmages and exhibition games are not included in in-region calculations. Institutions unable to meet the 70% requirement may request a waiver from the Division III Championships Committee. Information required as part of the waiver process includes proposed schedules, schedules from the past two seasons, a summary of scheduling challenges the institution is facing and proposed solutions.

**Bylaw 31.3.4.1.1 - 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 3.2.4.4) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

**AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION**

*[Reference Bylaw 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the NCAA Manual]*

The 27 conferences granted automatic qualification (Pool A) for the 2026 championship are as follows:

Atlantic East Conference	New England Small College Athletic Conference
Centennial Conference	New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Coastal Lacrosse League	North Atlantic Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	North Coast Athletic Conference
Conference of New England	Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
Empire 8	Ohio Athletic Conference
Great Northeast Athletic Conference	Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference	Presidents' Athletic Conference
Landmark Conference	Skyline Conference
Liberty League	Southern Athletic Association
Little East Conference	State University of New York Athletic Conference
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association	United East Conference
Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth	USA South Athletic Conference
Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom	

**IN-REGION DEFINITIONS**

1. All competition within an institution's defined sport/evaluation region. (See [Appendix B on page 19](#)).
2. All competition within a 500-mile radius from one institution to another. The [NCAA Travel Expense System \(TES\)](#) will be utilized to confirm distance from campus to campus.
3. All competition against conference opponents.
4. All competition within an institution's defined geographic membership region (Constitution 4.13.1.1). The country is divided into four membership regions as listed below.
  - **Region 1.** Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont.
  - **Region 2.** New York, Pennsylvania.
  - **Region 3.** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.
  - **Region 4.** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

To be considered during the selection process for either an automatic berth (Pool A) or an at-large berth (Pool B and Pool C), an institution must play at least 70% of its competition against Division III in-region opponents, unless a waiver has been approved by the Division III Championships Committee.

### AT-LARGE SELECTION

*[Reference Bylaw 31.3.4.2.1 in the NCAA Manual.]*

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected not later than Sunday, May 3. NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated.

### ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 40-team field will consist of two selection pools: AQs and at-large berths. AQ berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2025-26 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AQ.

### DIVISION III SITE-SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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

**Bylaw 31.3.4.1.1 – 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 3.2.4.4) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

## Section 2•5 Site Selection

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Any institution interested in hosting a preliminary round of competition of the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile 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."

All member institutions can regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting [championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org).

### CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

Any institution interested in hosting a preliminary-round of the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile System. 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." The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at [championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org). The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Friday, April 24, 2026.

Member institutions can regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting [championships.ncaa.org](https://championships.ncaa.org). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org) or contact the respective championship manager.

The Championship Committee has prioritized the following site-selection criteria for all championships:

1. Complete bid.
2. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations.
3. Geographical location (which may include such factors as rotation of sites, weather, accessibility, and transportation costs).
4. Seeding.
5. Attendance history, hosting history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.

In addition to projected ticket sales (if applicable) 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.

Committee/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 Arbiter Pay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

## GAME TIMES

- First Round: 4 p.m.
- Second Round: Noon and 3 p.m.
- Third Round: 3 p.m.
- Quarterfinals: Noon and 3 p.m.
- Semifinals: 3 p.m.

These game times may not be deviated from unless approved by the Division III Men's Lacrosse Committee. Only reasons the committee may deviate from these established game times is for hosting of another NCAA Championship and/or commencement.

## FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at [championships.ncaa.org](http://championships.ncaa.org). Any supporting information (e.g., facility diagram, pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile.

## 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](http://championships.ncaa.org). P.O. Boxes are not considered an acceptable mailing address. The deadline to submit the key contacts form is Friday, April 24, 2026.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on 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. 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.

The best practices for venue safety and security along with the safety and security contact form is located at [ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Best\\_Practices\\_for\\_Venue\\_Safety\\_and\\_Security.pdf](http://ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Best_Practices_for_Venue_Safety_and_Security.pdf).

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

*[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]*

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact the championship manager Will Hopkins at [whopkins@ncaa.org](mailto:whopkins@ncaa.org) or email us at [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org).

# Appendixes

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# Appendix A • Bracket



## 2026 DIII Men's Lacrosse Championship

First Round  
May 6

Second/Third Rounds  
May 9 & 10

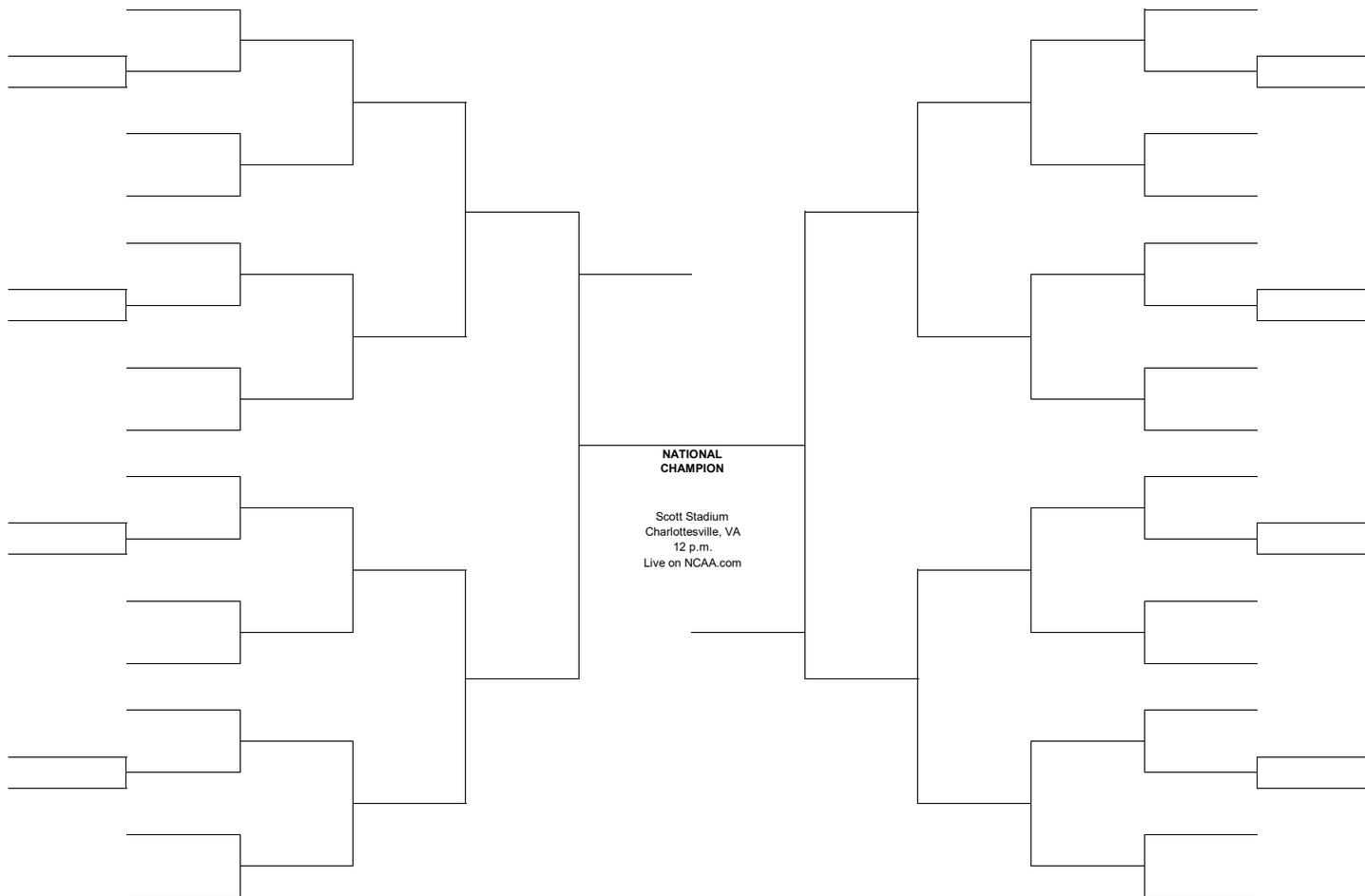
Quarterfinals/Semifinals  
May 16 & 17

Championship  
May 24

Semifinals/Quarterfinals  
May 16 & 17

Second/Third Rounds  
May 9 & 10

First Round  
May 6



**NATIONAL CHAMPION**  
  
Scott Stadium  
Charlottesville, VA  
12 p.m.  
Live on NCAA.com

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

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## Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

### REGION I

#### Conference of New England (10)

Curry College  
 Endicott College  
 Gordon College  
 University of Hartford  
 Johnson and Wales University (Providence)

University of New England  
 Nichols College  
 Roger Williams University  
 Wentworth Institute of Technology  
 Western New England University

AQ

#### Great Northeast Athletic Conference (13)

Albertus Magnus College  
 Colby-Sawyer College  
 Dean College  
 Elms College  
 Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)  
 Lasell University  
 Mitchell College

New England College  
 Norwich University  
 Regis College (Massachusetts)  
 Rivier University  
 University of St. Joseph (Connecticut)  
 Saint Joseph's College (Maine)

AQ

#### Little East Conference (9)

Eastern Connecticut State University  
 Keene State College  
 Massachusetts Maritime Academy  
 University of Massachusetts Boston  
 Plymouth State University

Salem State University  
 University of Southern Maine  
 Vermont State University Castleton  
 Western Connecticut State University

AQ

#### New England Small College Athletic Conference (11)

Amherst College  
 Bates College  
 Bowdoin College  
 Colby College  
 Connecticut College  
 Hamilton College

Middlebury College  
 Trinity College (Connecticut)  
 Tufts University  
 Wesleyan University (Connecticut)  
 Williams College

AQ

#### New England Women's and Men's Athletic College (8)

Babson College  
 Clark University (Massachusetts)  
 Emerson College  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Salve Regina University  
 Springfield College  
 U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
 Wheaton College (Massachusetts)

AQ

### 51 Institutions

#### 51 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship

\*Provisional/Reclassifying Member – Not eligible for NCAA Championship

**REGION II**

**Empire 8 (11)**

Alfred University  
 State University of New York at Brockport  
 Elmira College  
 State University of New York at Geneseo  
 Hartwick College  
 Keuka College

Nazareth University  
 State University of New York Polytechnic Institute  
 Russell Sage University  
 St. John fisher University  
 Utica University

AQ

**Liberty League (8)**

Clarkson University  
 Ithaca College  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rochester Institute of Technology

Skidmore College  
 St. Lawrence University  
 Union College (New York)  
 Vassar College

AQ

**North Atlantic Conference (7)**

Anna Marie College  
 State University of New York at Cobleskill  
 State University of New York at Delhi  
 Husson University

Maine Maritime Academy  
 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
 Thomas College

AQ

**Skyline Conference (8)**

Farmingdale State College  
 Manhattanville University  
 Mount Saint Mary College (New York)  
 University of Mount St. Vincent

Purchase College, State University of New York  
 St. Joseph's University (Long Island)  
 State University of New York Maritime College  
 U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

AQ

**State University of New York Athletic Conference (8)**

State University of New York at Canton  
 State University of New York at Cortland  
 State University of New York at Morrisville  
 State University of New York at New Paltz

State University of New York at Oneonta  
 State University of New York at Oswego  
 Plattsburgh State University of New York  
 State University of New York at Potsdam

AQ

**United East Conference (5)**

Cairn University  
 Notre Dame of Maryland  
 Pennsylvania College of Technology

University of Pittsburgh, Bradford  
 St. Mary's College of Maryland

AQ

**Independents (1)**

Alfred State College

No AQ

**48 Institutions**

**48 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship**

\*Provisional/Reclassifying Member – Not eligible for NCAA Championship

**REGION III**

**Atlantic East Conference (6)**

Centenary University (New Jersey)  
Gwynedd Mercy University  
Immaculata University

Marymount University (Virginia)  
Marywood University  
Neumann University

AQ

**Centennial Conference (9)**

Dickinson College  
Franklin & Marshall College  
Gettysburg College  
Haverford College  
McDaniel College

Muhlenberg College  
Swarthmore College  
Ursinus College  
Washington College (Maryland)

AQ

**Coastal Lacrosse Conference (7)**

Christopher Newport University  
Kean University  
University of Mary Washington  
Montclair State University

Salisbury University  
Stockton University  
Warren Wilson College

AQ

**Landmark Conference (10)**

Catholic University  
Drew University  
Elizabethtown College  
Goucher College  
Juniata College

Lycoming College  
Moravian College  
University of Scranton  
Susquehanna University  
Wilkes University

AQ

**Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (8)**

Albright College  
Alvernia University  
Eastern University  
Hood College

Messiah University  
Stevenson University  
Widener University  
York College (Pennsylvania)

AQ

**Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (8)**

Arcadia University  
Delaware Valley University  
DeSales University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham

King's College (Pennsylvania)  
Lebanon Valley College  
Misericordia University  
Stevens Institute of Technology

AQ

**48 Institutions**

**48 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship**

\*Provisional/Reclassifying Member – Not eligible for NCAA Championship

**REGION IV**

**Ohio Athletic Conference (9)**

Baldwin Wallace University  
 Capital University  
 Heidelberg University  
 Marietta College  
 University of Mount Union

Muskingum University  
 Ohio Northern University  
 Otterbein University  
 Wilmington College (Ohio)

AQ

**Old Dominion Athletic Conference (11)**

Averett University  
 Bridgewater College (Virginia)  
 Guilford College  
 Hampden-Sydney College  
 University of Lynchburg  
 Randolph College

Randolph-Macon College  
 Roanoke College  
 Shenandoah University  
 Virginia Wesleyan College  
 Washington and Lee University

AQ

**Presidents' Athletic Conference (10)**

Allegheny College  
 Bethany College (West Virginia)  
 Chatham University  
 Franciscan University of Steubenville  
 Grove City College

Hiram College  
 Saint Vincent College  
 Thiel College  
 Washington and Jefferson College  
 Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

AQ

**Southern Athletic Association (7)**

Berry College  
 Centre College  
 Hendrix College  
 Oglethorpe University

Rhodes College  
 University of the South  
 Southwestern State University

AQ

**USA South Athletic Conference (9)**

Brevard College  
 Greensboro College  
 Huntingdon College  
 LaGrange College  
 Methodist University

Pfeiffer University  
 Piedmont College  
 Southern Virginia University  
 William Peace University

AQ

**46 Institutions**

**46 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship**

\*Provisional/Reclassifying Member – Not eligible for NCAA Championship

**REGION V**

**College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin (6)**

Augustana College (Illinois)  
 Carroll University (Wisconsin)  
 Carthage College

Elmhurst University  
 Illinois Wesleyan University  
 North Central College

AQ

**Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference (6)**

Earlham College  
 Hanover College  
 Hilbert College

La Roche University  
 Spalding University  
 Transylvania University

AQ

**Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (7)**

Adrian College  
 Albion College  
 Alma College  
 Calvin University

Hope College  
 Kalamazoo College  
 Trine University

AQ

**North Coast Athletic Conference (9)**

Denison University  
 DePauw University  
 John Carroll University  
 Kenyon College  
 Oberlin College

Ohio Wesleyan University  
 Wabash College  
 Wittenberg University  
 The College of Wooster

AQ

**Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (12)**

Aurora University  
 Beloit College  
 Benedictine University (Illinois)  
 Concordia University Wisconsin  
 Cornell College  
 University of Dubuque

Edgewood College  
 Illinois Institute of Technology  
 Lake Forest College  
 Lawrence University  
 Marian University (Wisconsin)  
 Milwaukee School of Engineering

AQ

**Independent (2)**

Centenary College (Louisiana)

Colorado College

No AQ

**42 Institutions**

**42 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship**

**235 Institutions**

**235 Institutions eligible for NCAA Championship**

\*Provisional/Reclassifying Member - Not eligible for NCAA championship