



PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2025-26 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

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

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6222

Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

317-917-6222

ncaa.org

September 2025

NCAA, NCAA logo, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Elite 90 are registered marks of the Association and use in any manner is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the Association.

Section 1 • Introduction

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

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

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

Section 1.1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3.1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3.2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3.3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

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

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

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

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

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

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

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

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

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

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

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Religious Conflicts

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

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

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

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

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

Division I Men's Soccer

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration	8
Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information	8
Section 1•2 Oversight Committee	8
Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committee	9
Section 1•4 Important Dates	10
Section 1•5 Equipment	11
Section 1•6 Rules	11
Section 1•7 Uniforms	11
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation	13
Section 2•1 Championship Format	13
Section 2•2 Results	14
Section 2•3 Selection Information	14
Section 2•4 Selection Criteria	15
Section 2•5 Site Selection	16
Appendix A • Bracket	19
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	20
Appendix C • Facility and Field Checklist	24
Appendix D • Rating Percentage Index	26
Appendix E • Officials	27

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Micaela Kapsalis

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-292-1356 / mliddane@ncaa.org

Raymon Gaddis

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
463-302-0019 / rgaddis@ncaa.org

Section 1.2 Oversight Committee

Current members of the committee are can be found at the following link: web1.ncaa.org/committees/#!/reports/roster?committeeCode=1MSOCOC

Kathy Sulentic

Deputy Athletics Director, Regulatory Affairs
University Of Memphis

Rob Emmerich

Deputy Director of Athletics
Stony Brook University

Carlos Somoano

Head Men's Soccer Coach
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Kevin White

Associate Director for Sports Programs
James Madison University

Russell Payne

Head Men's Soccer Coach
Northwestern University

Bo Oshoniyi

Head Men's Soccer Coach
Dartmouth College

Brian Mackin

Director of Athletics
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Chris Schneider

Executive Associate Commissioner,
Sport Administration and Championship
Big East Conference

For additional information about the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship, contact:

Micaela Kapsalis

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
317-292-1356 / mliddane@ncaa.org

Brian Mackin, chair

Director of Athletics
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
205-908-0477 / bwmackin@uncg.edu

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committee

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
EAST REGION		
Bo Oshoniyi	Dartmouth	Ivy League
Dennis Bohn	Lafayette	Patriot
Ruben Resendes	Bryant	America East
Jim Barlow	Princeton	Ivy League
Rob Emmerich	Stony Brook	Atlantic 10
Carlo Acquista	Fordham	Atlantic 10
David Kelly	Central Conn. St.	NEC
Chad Duernberger	Rider	MAAC
Dustin Fonder	Campbell	CAA
MIDWEST REGION		
Brian Mackin	UNC Greensboro	SoCon
Paul Snape	Butler	Big East
Donovan Dowling	Omaha	Summit League
Kris Bertsch	Lindenwood	OVC
Brian Maisonneuve	Ohio St.	Big Ten
Russell Payne	Northwestern	Big Ten
Sinisa Ubiparipovic	Cleveland St.	Horizon
Robbe Tarver	Evansville	MVC
SOUTH/SOUTHEAST REGION		
Kathy Sulentic	Memphis	American
Emmett Rutkowski	University	ASUN
Zach Haines	High Point	Big South
Kevin Langan	Charlotte	American
Carlos Somoano	North Carolina	ACC
Kevin White	James Madison	Sun Belt
Chad Riley	Notre Dame	ACC
Chris Grassie	Marshall	Sun Belt
Chris Rich	UNC Greensboro	SoCon
WEST REGION		
Chris Schneider	Big East	Big East
Oige Kennedy	Cal Poly	Big West
Adam Reeves	Pacific	WCC
Nate Daligcon	Seattle	WAC

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, July 29	Deadline for submission of team schedules to NCAA statistics group.
Monday, Sept. 29	Rating Percentage Index (RPI) posted on the NCAA website (ncaa.org). Subsequent postings daily through selections.
Monday, Oct. 13	Preliminary-round bid checklist will be posted on ncaa.org ; communication will be distributed via monthly online Championships Newsletter.
Monday, Oct. 27	Deadline for submitting preliminary-round bid materials.
Monday, Nov. 17	Selection and notification of teams participating in the championship.
Tuesday, Nov. 18	Teleconference with first- and second-round participants, site representatives, tournament directors, Men's Soccer Committee and NCAA championship administrator (11 a.m. Eastern time).
Thursday, Nov. 20	First-round games.
Sunday, Nov. 23	Second-round games.
Saturday or Sunday, Nov. 29 or 30	Third-round games.
Friday or Saturday, Dec. 5 or 6	Quarterfinal games must be completed no later than Dec. 6.
Monday, Dec. 8	Teleconference with four teams advancing to the 2025 NCAA Men's College Cup, tournament director, Men's Soccer Committee and NCAA championship administrator (1:30 p.m. Eastern time).
Friday and Monday, Dec. 12 and 15	Men's College Cup, WakeMed Soccer Park, Cary, North Carolina; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, host.

DATE FORMULA

First Round (16)	Three weeks before finals (Thursday)
Second Round (16)	Sunday before Thanksgiving
Third Round (8)	Two weeks before finals (Saturday or Sunday)
Quarterfinals (4)	One week before finals (Friday or Saturday)
College Cup	Second weekend in December; if Dec. 1 is a Saturday, it will count as the first weekend (Friday and Monday)

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2025

Selections	Nov. 17
First Round (16)	Nov. 20
Second Round (16)	Nov. 23
Third Round (8)	Nov. 29 or 30
Quarterfinals (4)	Dec. 5 or 6
College Cup	Dec. 12 and 15

FUTURE DATES

	First Round Thursday	Second Round Sunday	Third Round Saturday or Sunday	Quarterfinal Round Friday or Saturday	Semifinals and Final Friday and Monday
2026	Nov. 19	Nov. 22	Nov. 28 or 29	Dec. 4 or 5	Dec. 11 and 14
2027	Nov. 18	Nov. 21	Nov. 27 or 28	Dec. 3 or 4	Dec. 10 and 13

Section 1•5 Equipment

The Wilson Vivido, Official NCAA Championship Match Ball, will be used in all NCAA tournament games. These balls will be sent by the manufacturer to the tournament manager at the host institution for each round of competition. The host institution is responsible for “breaking in” the game balls before each tournament game. In the event of inclement weather (e.g., snow), please notify Micaela Kapsalis at the NCAA national office regarding shipment of optic orange Wilson soccer match balls as backup. The game balls may be distributed after the games by giving them to the participating schools, using them as promotional giveaways or by donating them to a local youth group. One ball shall be provided to the center referee.

Section 1•6 Rules

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.6 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For the men's soccer championship, the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules shall be followed to the letter.

BALL ROTATION

Not fewer than five balls shall be available for use in a game, and the balls shall be identical in size, make, grade and color. **PENALTY – The game shall not begin and the referee shall file a report with the governing sports authority.** (Playing Rule 3.2.2)

RED CARDS

For NCAA Division I men's soccer tournament games, an ejected coach, player or other bench personnel is required to leave the venue and be out of sight and sound. The athletic trainer is permitted to be in the designated spectator area if he/she is ejected. A player serving a game suspension is allowed to be in the team area, provided he is not in uniform. A coach serving a game suspension shall not appear in the venue from 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the game until 30 minutes after the game ends. The coach shall remain in an area out of sight and sound.

SUSPENDED GAMES

In the case of inclement weather or other factors leading the referee to suspend a game, the officials, games committee and coaches shall refer to the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules. *For NCAA championship competition, a game must be played for the full 90 minutes (as opposed to 70 minutes for the regular season) to be considered a complete game.*

If a game is suspended or postponed, it will be the decision of the games committee and the referee to determine if the game can be continued that day. If conditions dictate that the game cannot be completed, the NCAA site representative and tournament manager shall contact Micaela Kapsalis (317-292-1356). Only after contacting Micaela may a game be suspended until the next day or moved to an alternate site. Teams should be prepared with footwear for any playing surface.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Competing teams shall have both light- and dark-colored jerseys and light- and dark-colored socks available. The home team shall have its choice of uniform color (either light or dark) and the visiting team shall wear a uniform in contrast with that of the home team. In the event of a conflict, the home team must change uniform colors (Playing Rule 4.2.1). For the semifinals and final, the games committee will determine the home teams.

Student-athletes competing in the championship shall wear the official uniform of their institution in competition and related ceremonies. This applies to warmups, press conferences, awards ceremonies, practices and postgame celebrations.

DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER

It is required that any visible garment worn under the jersey or shorts be a solid color. The same color must be worn by all team members wearing undergarments. It is recommended the undergarment match the dominant color of the respective garment.

LOGOS

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

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The men's soccer championship provides for a 48-team, single-elimination tournament. Twenty-two conferences will receive automatic qualification. The remaining 26 teams will be selected on an at-large basis. The committee will identify the top 16 teams and seed them in the bracket. The remaining 32 teams will be paired according to geographical proximity with each other. Additionally, when pairing teams, the committee shall avoid conference matchups in an institution's first game in the tournament.

A championship bracket is located in [Appendix A](#).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

Wednesday, Dec. 10

7 to 9:15 p.m.	Championship Team Banquet
----------------	---------------------------

Thursday, Dec. 11

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Team Practices, Media Interviews, Facility Walk-Throughs
------------------	--

Friday, Dec. 12

5 p.m.	Gates Open
--------	------------

6 p.m.	Semifinal Game No. 1 (45 minutes allocated between matches)
--------	--

Postgame	Press Conferences
----------	-------------------

8:30 p.m.	Semifinal Game No. 2
-----------	----------------------

Postgame	Press Conferences
----------	-------------------

Saturday, Dec. 13

Noon to 3 p.m.	Team Practices
----------------	----------------

Sunday, Dec. 14

Noon to 3 p.m.	Team Practices
----------------	----------------

Monday, Dec. 15

TBD	Gates Open
-----	------------

6 p.m.	Championship Game
--------	-------------------

Postgame	Awards Ceremony Press Conferences
----------	--------------------------------------

START TIMES (PRELIMINARY ROUNDS)

The NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee shall approve the dates and game times of all preliminary-round games according to the chart below (the committee must approve any deviation from these times in advance):

Midweek (1st Round)	Thursday	Between noon and 7:30 p.m.
---------------------	----------	----------------------------

1st Weekend (2nd Round)	Sunday	Between noon and 7:30 p.m.
-------------------------	--------	----------------------------

2nd Weekend (3rd Round)	Saturday	Between noon and 7:30 p.m.
	Sunday	Between noon and 7:30 p.m.

3rd Weekend (Quarterfinals)	Friday	Between 6 and 7:30 p.m.
	Saturday	Between noon and 7:30 p.m.

Requests for changes to the starting time or competition date (quarterfinal only) that an institution submitted with its bid must be submitted for approval to Micaela Kapasalis at the NCAA national office Monday before each round of the championship. The NCAA may adjust any match time due to television.

TRAVEL PARTY/BENCH LIMIT

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

Continuing for the 2025 championships, each team's roster (as published on their university website) will be allowed in the bench/sideline area. In addition to the entire roster, each team is allowed up to 12 additional non-student-athletes (coaches, managers, athletic trainers, etc.). Within these 12 must be specific for one team administrator and one team medical position. It is important to note that the travel party number that is paid for by the NCAA does not change, just the number allowed in the bench area.

The travel party will be 28 (previously 27), and the squad size will be 22 (previously 21). 22 student-athletes are to be designated eligible for play, and the official game roster is to be submitted and exchanged 15 minutes before game time. If patches are provided to the team, only those listed in the squad size should wear such patch in order to indicate those that are eligible to play in the match.

Other student-athletes outside of the 22 eligible to play may sit in the team bench area, in uniform, and allowed to warm-up but cannot participate.

Section 2•2 Results

SCORE REPORTING/RPI

For the 2025-26 academic year, the NCAA statistics group is collecting schedules for Division I men's soccer. All sports information directors are asked to submit their schedules on web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login. Subsequently, daily game results will be updated automatically via an electronic transfer from reports provided to the NCAA statistics group.

All games played on an institution's schedule shall be considered for selection purposes. Scrimmages and/or exhibition games will not count in an institution's won-lost-tied record, nor will they be considered for selection purposes. Rescheduled games (including those with a different opponent) shall be considered for selection purposes, unless the game is being counted as a scrimmage or exhibition. New games may not be added to the schedule after the start of the season. The NCAA national office (attention: Micaela Kapasalis) and the respective regional advisory committee chair should be informed via email of any changes to an institution's schedule after the start of the season.

RPI information will be released by 3 p.m. Eastern time on the NCAA website at ncaa.com daily. In addition, the RPI will be released after the conclusion of the championship.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

[Reference: Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3.3 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Teams for the men's soccer championship shall be selected by the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee. The committee has eight members.

The committee will conduct an in-person selection meeting. Insofar as possible, all selections will be made by Nov. 17 and will be distributed to institutions.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

[Reference: Bylaws 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2025 championship are:

America East Conference	The Ivy League
American Athletic Conference	Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference	Missouri Valley Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference	Northeast Conference
ASUN Conference	Ohio Valley Conference
Big East Conference	Patriot League
Big South Conference	Southern Conference
Big Ten Conference	The Summit League
Big West Conference	Sun Belt Conference
Coastal Athletic Association	West Coast Conference
Horizon League	Western Athletic Conference

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Twenty-six teams will be selected at-large. To be considered for the at-large selection process, a team must have an overall DI won-lost-tied record of .500 or better.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

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

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information?division=d1.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition:

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

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Men's Soccer Committee shall consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the men's soccer championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- Adjusted Rating Percentage Index (RPI), which includes:
 - Division I winning percentage with ties calculated as $\frac{1}{3}$ of a win (25%).
 - Opponents' strength of schedule (50%).
 - Opponents' opponents' strength of schedule (25%).
 - Bonus/penalty system (see Appendix D).
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Strength and results against nonconference opponents.
- Results against teams already selected (including automatic qualifiers with an RPI of 1-75).
- Late-season performance in last eight games (strength and results).
- Strength and results against conference opponents (regular-season and postseason).

Recommendations provided by regional advisory committees also shall be considered by the Men's Soccer Committee. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used as a criterion by the Men's Soccer Committee for selection purposes.

COUNTABLE COMPETITION

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

Additionally, the scheduling of additional matches not listed on the institution's published schedule as an aid for selection shall not be considered. If an institution encounters extenuating circumstances (e.g., natural disaster), the committee will consider a written waiver request. This request should be sent to Micaela Kapasalis (mliddane@ncaa.org) prior to selections. It should be noted that a team will not be penalized for the first non-Division I game on a team's schedule, but any subsequent non-Division I games will receive the maximum penalty points. All games, however, are reported in an institution's won-lost-tied record.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid and Profile System (championships.ncaa.org/admin/main). A separate proposed budget must be submitted for each round that an institution is interested in hosting. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "Championships Available for Bidding" and select "Start Bid."

This process allows all member institutions to regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting championships.ncaa.org. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please contact Micaela Kapasalis (317-292-1356 or mliddane@ncaa.org).

PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

A competing institution that cannot charge admission at its home facility, cannot establish a barrier to separate the spectators from the field of play or that does not have a field that meets minimum size requirements (70 yards x 110 yards) may not serve as host. Preference will be given to grass fields 70 yards x 115 yards and larger. Institutions serving as hosts for preliminary-round games or the semifinals and final must charge admission.

All rounds of the championship, except the Men's College Cup, will be conducted on the campus of one of the participating institutions.

Please refer to [Appendix C](#) for a facility and field checklist for preliminary-round sites.

NOTE: For preliminary-round sites, a team in the top 16 will automatically be selected as a site, unless the institution did not submit a bid to host or meet any minimum specifications. If a game involves two seeded teams, the higher seed will host, unless the institution did not submit a bid to host.

If the field is unplayable, the host will have the opportunity to find a suitable alternate site. An alternate site must have a field that meets the minimum dimensions of 70 yards x 110 yards, and must be deemed playable by the games committee and approved by the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Nov. 3.

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

For both the game officials and committee/site representatives, hosts will pay for their lodging expenses and be reimbursed by the NCAA. However, if the NCAA manages the hotel block for the game officials, the officials' lodging expenses shall be directly billed to the NCAA. The NCAA typically manages the officials' hotel block at the final site for its championships.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2025 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at championships.ncaa.org. Any supporting information (e.g., facility diagram, pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in their deliberations of prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

The NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop Best Practices for all NCAA championships. The SSAG developed these Best Practices based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own experience and knowledge. All hosts and competition venues are strongly encouraged to refer to the Best Practices located at ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Best_Practices_for_Venue_Safety_and_Security.pdf?division=d1 when developing a safety and security program.

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

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

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

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team Contact Information form. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting championships.ncaa.org.

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

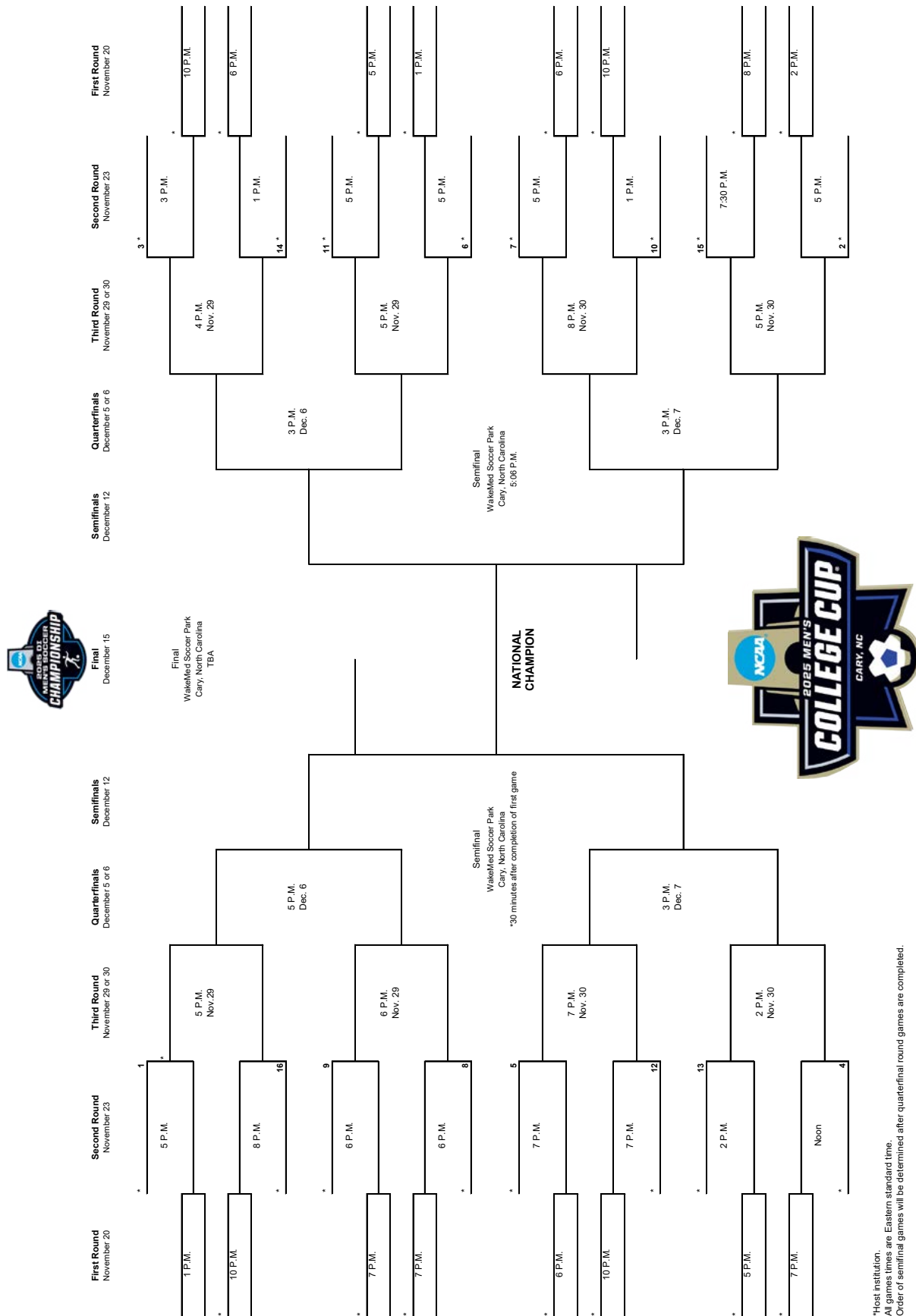
If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Micaela Kapasalis at 317-917-6513 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.

Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Bracket.....	19
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship.....	20
Appendix C • Facility and Field Checklist.....	24
Appendix D • Rating Percentage Index.....	26
Appendix E • Officials	27

Appendix A • Bracket



*Host institution.
All games times are Eastern standard time.
Order of semifinal games will be determined after quarterfinal round games are completed.

© 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association. No commercial use without the NCAA's written permission.

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

America East Conference (8)

University at Albany
Binghamton University
Bryant University
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of New Hampshire
New Jersey Institute of Technology
University of Vermont

AQ – Conference Tournament

Atlantic 10 Conference (13)

Davidson College
University of Dayton
Duquesne University
Fordham University
George Mason University
George Washington University
La Salle University

Loyola University of Chicago
University of Rhode Island
St. Bonaventure University
Saint Joseph's University
Saint Louis University
Virginia Commonwealth University

AQ – Conference Tournament

Ivy League (8)

Brown University
Columbia University-Barnard College
Cornell University
Dartmouth College

Harvard University
University of Pennsylvania
Princeton University
Yale University

AQ – Regular-Season Competition

Patriot League (10)

American University
Boston University
Bucknell University
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross

Lafayette College
Lehigh University
Loyola University Maryland
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Naval Academy

AQ – Conference Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (14)

Boston College
Clemson University
Duke University
University of Louisville
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
North Carolina State University
University of Notre Dame

University of Pittsburgh
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of Virginia
Wake Forest University

AQ – Conference Tournament

Coastal Athletic Association (10)

Campbell University
College of Charleston (South Carolina)
Drexel University
Elon University
Hofstra University

Monmouth University
University of North Carolina Wilmington
Northeastern University
Stony Brook University
College of William & Mary

AQ – Conference Tournament

EAST REGION (CONTINUED)**Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (13)**

Canisius College
 Fairfield College
 Iona College
 Manhattan College
 Marist College
 Merrimack College
 Mount St. Mary's University

Niagara University
 Quinnipiac University
 Rider University
 Sacred Heart University
 Saint Peter's University
 Siena College

AQ – Conference Tournament

Northeast Conference (10)

Central Connecticut State University
 Chicago State University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus
 Howard University
 *Le Moyne College

Long Island University
 *Mercyhurst University
 *University of New Haven
 Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
 Stonehill College

AQ – Conference Tournament

WEST REGION**Big West Conference (10)**

California Polytechnic State University
 California State University, Bakersfield
 California State University, Fullerton
 California State University, Northridge
 California State University, Sacramento

University of California, Davis
 University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Riverside
 *University of California, San Diego
 University of California, Santa Barbara

AQ – Conference Tournament

West Coast Conference (10)

Gonzaga University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Oregon State University
 University of the Pacific
 University of Portland

University of San Diego
 University of San Francisco
 Santa Clara University
 Saint Mary's College of California
 Seattle University

AQ – Regular-Season Competition

Western Athletic Conference (8)

California Baptist University
 Grand Canyon University
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 San Diego State University

San Jose State University
 U.S. Air Force Academy
 Utah Tech University
 Utah Valley University

AQ – Conference Tournament

**Not eligible for selection.*

MIDWEST REGION

Big East Conference (12)

University of Akron
Butler University
University of Connecticut
Creighton University
DePaul University
Georgetown University

Marquette University
Providence College
Seton Hall University
St. John's University (New York)
Villanova University
Xavier University

AQ - Conference Tournament

Ohio Valley Conference (9)

Eastern Illinois University
Houston Christian University
University of Incarnate Word
Liberty University
Lindenwood University

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
University of Southern Indiana
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Western Illinois University

AQ - Conference Tournament

The Summit League (7)

University of Delaware
University of Denver
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Missouri, Kansas City

University of Nebraska at Omaha
Oral Roberts University
University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)

AQ - Conference Tournament

Big Ten Conference (11)

University of California, Los Angeles
Indiana University, Bloomington
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
Northwestern University

The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison

AQ - Conference Tournament

Horizon League (10)

Cleveland State University
University of Detroit Mercy
Indiana University Indianapolis
Northern Kentucky University
Oakland University

Purdue University - Fort Wayne
Robert Morris University
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Wright State University

AQ - Conference Tournament

Missouri Valley Conference (8)

Belmont University
Bowling Green State University
Bradley University
Drake University

University of Evansville
University of Illinois Chicago
Northern Illinois University
Western Michigan University

AQ - Conference Tournament

**Not eligible for selection.*

SOUTH/SOUTHEAST REGION**American Athletic Conference (9)**

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Florida Atlantic University
 Florida International University
 University of Memphis
 Missouri State University

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
 University of South Florida
 Temple University
 The University of Tulsa

AQ - Conference Tournament

Atlantic Sun Conference (8)

Bellarmine University
 University of Central Arkansas
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Jacksonville University

Lipscomb University
 University of North Florida
 Queens University of Charlotte
 Stetson University

AQ - Conference Tournament

Big South Conference (8)

Gardner-Webb University
 High Point University
 Longwood University
 University of North Carolina Asheville

Presbyterian College
 Radford University
 University of South Carolina Upstate
 Winthrop University

AQ - Conference Tournament

Sun Belt Conference (10)

University of Central Florida
 Coastal Carolina University
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University
 James Madison University

University of Kentucky
 Marshall University
 Old Dominion University
 University of South Carolina, Columbia
 West Virginia University

AQ - Conference Tournament

Southern Conference (6)

East Tennessee State University
 Furman University
 Mercer University

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 Virginia Military Institute
 Wofford College

AQ - Conference Tournament

**Not eligible for selection.*

Appendix C • Facility and Field Checklist

NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship

Facility and Field Checklist for Preliminary- Round Hosts

FACILITY

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Permanent Seating | | _____ |
| a. minimum of 2,000 seats. | Recommended | |
| b. fewer than 500 seats. | Acceptable | |
| 2. Restrooms | | _____ |
| a. restrooms at facility <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. portable units at facility. | | |
| c. restrooms at adjacent building (within 200 yards)* | Minimum Requirement | |
| 3. Locker Room/Meeting Room | | _____ |
| a. facilities available at field <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. facilities in adjacent building (within 200 yards)* | | |
| c. tent available at field (w/ heat if inclement weather) | Minimum Requirement | |
| 4. Security Barriers | | _____ |
| a. permanent barriers surrounding facility and field | Recommended | |
| b. temporary barrier surrounding field only | Minimum Requirement | |
| - temporary barrier must be something more than a rope | | |
| 5. Press Box | | _____ |
| a. permanent structure, enclosed with phone lines,
broadcast radio capability, PA system <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. permanent structure enclosed with PA system. | | |
| c. platform with tent cover | Minimum Requirement | |
| 6. Scoreboard | | _____ |
| a. permanent with clock <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. permanent scoreboard | | |
| c. portable scoreboard | Minimum Requirement | |

*If restrooms and/or locker rooms are located outside the competition facility, the games committee and center referee should discuss holding clock between halves/overtime periods.

QUALITY OF FIELD SURFACE

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Field Surface | | _____ |
| a. excellent natural grass surface <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. good natural grass surface <u>OR</u> | | |
| c. excellent artificial surface that is
natural grass-like in quality. | | |
| d. adequate natural grass surface or artificial surface. | Minimum Requirement | |
| 2. <u>ONLY</u> SOCCER LINES ON FIELD | Recommended | _____ |
| 3. Drainage | | _____ |
| a. excellent drainage <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. good drainage. | | |
| c. fair drainage | Minimum Requirement | |
| 4. Field Size | | _____ |
| a. 75 x 120 or larger <u>OR</u> | Recommended | |
| b. 70 x 120 or larger <u>OR</u>
75 x 115 or larger. | | |
| c. 70 x 115 or larger | Minimum Requirement | |
| 5. Field Crown | | _____ |
| a. no crown | Recommended | |
| b. moderate crown | Minimum Requirement | |

GAME MANAGEMENT

- | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Concessions at Facility | Recommended | _____ |
| 2. Field Security and Ushers | | _____ |
| a. professional staffing only (campus security & local police) <u>OR</u> | | |
| b. professional staff assisted by student workers. | Recommended | |
| c. athletic department staffing with students | Minimum Requirement | |

Appendix D • Rating Percentage Index

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) shall be used as a selection tool. When breaking down the RPI, the committee may consider comparing data of individual teams, including, but not limited to, overall record, Division I record, overall RPI rank, nonconference record and RPI rank, conference regular-season record and conference tournament results. Below is the Bonus/Penalty structure for the RPI. The standard multiplier of 1 or -1 is a bonus (or penalty) of approximately one position in the RPI.

Result	Location	Opponents' RPI Rank	Bonus/Penalty	Multiplier	Value Scale
Win	Away	1-15	Bonus	5	0.0070
Win	Neutral	1-15	Bonus	4.7	0.0066
Win	Away	16-30	Bonus	4.3	0.0060
Win	Neutral	16-30	Bonus	4	0.0056
Tie	Away	1-15	Bonus	3.7	0.0052
Tie	Neutral	1-15	Bonus	3.3	0.0046
Win	Away	31-45	Bonus	3	0.0042
Win	Neutral	31-45	Bonus	2.7	0.0038
Tie	Away	16-30	Bonus	2.3	0.0032
Tie	Neutral	16-30	Bonus	2	0.0028
Win	Away	46-60	Bonus	1.7	0.0024
Win	Neutral	46-60	Bonus	1.3	0.0018
Tie	Away	31-45	Bonus	1	0.0014
Win	Away	61-75	Bonus	0.8	0.0011
Tie	Neutral	31-45	Bonus	0.6	0.0008
Tie	Away	46-60	Bonus	0.3	0.0004

No bonus for HOME results.

No bonus for NEUTRAL tie 46 or below.

No bonus for AWAY tie 61 or below.

No bonus for NEUTRAL win below 61.

No bonus for AWAY win below 76.

Result	Location	Opponents' RPI Rank	Bonus/Penalty	Multiplier	Value Scale
Tie	Home	132-146	Penalty	-1	-0.0014
Loss	Neutral	132-146	Penalty	-1.3	-0.0018
Tie	Neutral	147-176	Penalty	-1.7	-0.0024
Tie	Home	147-176	Penalty	-2	-0.0028
Loss	Away	147-176	Penalty	-2.3	-0.0032
Loss	Home	132-146	Penalty	-2.7	-0.0038
Loss	Neutral	147-176	Penalty	-3	-0.0042
Tie	Away	177+	Penalty	-3.3	-0.0046
Loss	Home	147-176	Penalty	-3.7	-0.0052
Tie	Neutral	177+	Penalty	-4	-0.0056
Loss	Away	177+	Penalty	-4.3	-0.0060
Tie	Home	177+	Penalty	-4.5	-0.0063
Loss	Neutral	177+	Penalty	-4.7	-0.0066
Loss	Home	177+	Penalty	-5	-0.0070

Penalty for HOME loss or tie below 132.

Penalty for NEUTRAL loss below 132.

Penalty for NEUTRAL tie below 147.

Penalty for AWAY loss below 147.

Penalty for AWAY tie below 177.

It should be noted that a team will not be penalized for the first non-Division I game on a team's schedule, but any subsequent non-Division I games will receive the maximum penalty points. All games, however, are reported in an institution's won-lost-tied record.

Appendix E • Officials

POSTSEASON OFFICIATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Selection Criteria for Officials.

An NCAA sports committee may not require membership in any specific officials' association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in an NCAA tournament. For all NCAA postseason soccer matches, officials (referee, assistant, alternate) shall be selected and assigned by the NCAA national coordinator of officials, with assistance from the regional advisors, on approval of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee. Any committee member whose team is selected to the championship will be recused from the process.

In addition, officials shall adhere to the NCAA's policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Appointments to work as an official for any of the NCAA soccer championships is conditioned on the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Committee, in its sole discretion, remaining of the opinion that your character, fitness, rules knowledge, and regular and postseason officiating performance are all of the highest order. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment.

- Officials shall be qualified, competent and appropriately credentialed. In selecting officials, experience and ability as a referee and as an assistant referee shall be considered.
- Officials **MUST** take and pass an online **NCAA Soccer Rules Test**. Officials will have two attempts to pass the exam with a 90% or better score. The test requirement must be fulfilled not later than Sept. 30, 2025.
- Officials **MUST** be **Registered** with refquest.com and consent to a background check in order to be considered and potentially receive an NCAA postseason assignment.
- Officials will not be assigned to a match 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. In addition, officials will not be assigned to a game if there is an affiliation with a member of the coaching staff (i.e., former team member).
- To be selected as a **Center Referee** for an NCAA Division I men's soccer postseason match, an official must have officiated (as a Center Referee) a minimum of six NCAA Division I men's soccer matches in the current season **or** have officiated a minimum of 10 NCAA Division I men's soccer matches over the past two years with a minimum of three in the current season.
- To be selected as an **Assistant Referee** for an NCAA Division I men's soccer postseason match, an official must have officiated (as a Center Referee and/or an Assistant Referee) a minimum of six NCAA Division I men's soccer matches in the current season **or** have officiated a minimum of 10 NCAA Division I men's soccer matches over the past two years with a minimum of three in the current season. *A combination of Division I men's soccer assignments as a referee and assistant referee may be used to meet the requirement.*
- In order for an official to be considered for selection, such official must be recommended by at least one NCAA Division I conference.
- Officials shall be within driving distance for preliminary rounds (must be within 400 miles one way for Division I) or approved for a flight.

B. Timeline

April 14–Oct. 30	Officials must register at refquest.com .
April 14–Oct. 30	Officials must complete online test with a 90% or better score, two attempts – Oct. 30 deadline.
Week of Oct. 27	Request recommendations from conferences, regional advisors – Nov. 2 deadline.
Week of Nov. 7	NCAA regional advisors to solicit feedback from conference assignors.
TBD	National coordinator submits recommended pool of officials to Men's Soccer Committee for review and approval.

Nov. 9-12	Teams selected for championship; national coordinator submits recommendations to Men's Soccer Committee (minus coaches on committee whose teams are involved in the championship); will ratify the officials assigned to each round. Recommendations from the national coordinator to be reviewed by Men's Soccer Committee representatives before each round.
Nov. 17	Officials notified of assigned first-round matches.
Nov. 17	Officials notified of assigned second-round matches.
Nov. 20	First-round matches.
Nov. 23	Second-round matches.
Nov. 24	Officials notified of assigned third-round matches.
Nov. 29 or 30	Third-round matches.
Dec. 2	Officials notified of assigned quarterfinal matches.
Dec. 5 or 6	Quarterfinal matches.
Dec. 11	Men's College Cup officials arrive.
Dec. 12 and 15	Men's College Cup, WakeMed Park, Cary, North Carolina.

C. Championship/Travel Policies and Protocol

- NCAA Rules.** Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship, the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules shall be followed to the letter.
- Alternate Official.** For preliminary-round matches, an alternate official from the local area shall be assigned to assist at the scorer's table, facilitate player substitution and, at the discretion of the referee (in accordance with NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules), replace a field official in the event of injury.
- Social Media.** From the time of your assignment until the conclusion of the championship, DO NOT use social media (e.g., Facebook, X) to post information pertaining to your assignments or the championship. Public communication of championship assignments on social media sites may result in disciplinary actions.
- System.** The diagonal system of control (three officials) will be used to officiate all tournament matches. Officials are to wear the official NCAA uniform with shirts whose color is in contrast to the colors worn by the competing teams.
- Uniform Badge.** NCAA badges will be sent to the host institution by the NCAA national office for officials to affix to their uniforms. They shall be worn on the upper left breast pocket of the shirt and beneath the American flag (if needed). No other badges or emblems are permitted on the officials' uniforms. This policy includes the alternate officials' hand-held flags.
- Locker Room.** Only the match officials assigned to a tournament contest, designated representatives of the soccer committee (or site representative) and the tournament director will be permitted in the officials' dressing room before, during or after a match, as needed.
- Meetings.** Officials shall arrive on site prepared for the officials meeting. It was agreed that the officials meeting must take place before the administrative meeting, allowing time for the officiating crew to survey the field for any concerns and determine the goal for potential penalty kicks. The head coaches of the participating teams are required to attend the mandatory administrative meeting at first- and second-round matches, as well as at the Men's College Cup. For third-round matches and quarterfinals, an institution may choose to have the head coach attend or designate another member of the coaching staff. It remains a requirement to have an administrator in attendance. The administrative meeting shall be held 2½ hours before the start of the match. If the individuals

required to attend the meeting (participating institutions' representatives, officiating crew or center referee, site representative and tournament personnel) have arrived at the site the evening before competition, then the meeting may be conducted. The host institution is responsible for communicating this information to all attendees in a timely manner so appropriate arrangements may be made.

8. **Fees.** Fees shall be as follows per match: referee—\$350; assistant referees—\$260; and alternate officials—\$145. The flat fee for officials assigned to the Men's College Cup is \$1,100. Seven officials will be selected and assigned to the Men's College Cup matches to ensure the best qualified officials based on position (referee and assistant referee) are assigned.
9. **Expense Reimbursement.** Officials, including the alternate official, assigned to first-, second-, third- and quarterfinal-round matches shall receive ground transportation expenses based on 65 cents per mile. Officials for preliminary rounds must be within driving distance of the host site (400 miles one way, 800 miles round trip). (Note: The Men's Soccer Committee does have an exception for the referee only for quarterfinal matches, if warranted.)

Only officials for the Men's College Cup matches may be reimbursed for air travel, not to exceed jet coach airfare. If an official must fly, travel arrangements must be made through the NCAA travel service at Short's Travel Management, 866-655-9215.

Hotel expenses (excluding incidentals) for officials required to stay overnight at the championship site (including preliminary rounds) shall be paid by the host institution and later reimbursed by the NCAA. The host institution will make the hotel reservation. Officials, including the alternate official, will receive a \$45 per diem for meals and incidentals on each day of the championship, beginning with the day of arrival and ending with the day of departure.

Officials not required to remain overnight at the site also shall receive a \$45 per diem. Alternate officials receive a \$145 match fee unless that official substitutes for one of the match officials. Then, the alternate receives the fee of the replaced official.

10. **RQPay.** Officials for all rounds of the NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship will receive payment via RQPay. If you have not set up your RQ+ account yet, please do so immediately to ensure timely payment. Instructions were provided when you signed up for your RefQuest account. If you need assistance with setting up your account, please call the RQ+ customer support line at 317-967-9326.