



2026-27 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship Preliminary-Round Information and Bid Checklist

Selections

Selections for the 2026 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship will be announced at 1 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, November 16 via NCAA.com.

Preliminary-Round Schedule

First Round: Thursday, November 19: Noon-7:30 p.m.
Second Round: Sunday, November 22: Noon-7:30 p.m.
Third Round: Saturday, November 28: Noon-7:30 p.m. or
Sunday, November 29: Noon-7:30 p.m.
Quarterfinals*: Friday, December 4: 6-7:30 p.m. or
Saturday, December 5: Noon-7:30 p.m.

Bid Checklist

The following materials must be submitted by institutions that wish to be considered as hosts for preliminary-round competition. All materials are due by **5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday, November 2, 2026.**

Each of the online forms listed below may be accessed and submitted through the championships bid portal at <https://championships.naa.org>. The application is now part of My Apps and new users need to go through their SSO administrator to have it added to their My Apps account.

To begin the process of submitting a bid, you will need to locate the specific divisional sport and round in the Championships Available for Bidding section and click on Start Bid.

- ☐ **Proposed Budget(s).** An online proposed budget must be completed for **each** round of competition you wish to host. For those institutions submitting bids for multiple rounds, a 'copy' function is available in the system and will allow you to copy the budget or bid for another round. The appropriate round and date of competition must be indicated on each budget. Please be sure to include projected ticket sales in the Receipts section.

Note: Due to budget system upgrades, budgets submitted before the 2023-24 academic year can no longer be copied. Any newly submitted budgets will again be available for copying for future years/additional rounds. Previous budgets may still be accessed via the Home tab.

Free-form fields in the budget templates have been eliminated. Bidders will have to make their selections from a predetermined menu of options for each category. To assist with determining the appropriate option, bidders can hover over each option for examples/details.

Please carefully review the [2026 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Prechampionship Manual](#), before submitting a proposed budget, and make note of the following for all preliminary-round competition:

- All lodging expenses for officials and site representatives (if needed) must be included in your budget. Officials' fees, per diem and travel expenses do not need to be included, nor do per diem and travel expenses for site representatives – the NCAA will pay those expenses directly.
 - Host institutions should not budget for soccer balls. Six Wilson NCAA Vivido soccer balls will be sent to each site directly from the manufacturer.
- ☐ **Mandatory Video Review.** Video review will be used for all games during all rounds of the championship. The review equipment must be available at the scorekeeper's table or field level. While there is no specific equipment required as long as it demonstrates the video in a manner that can be used by the referee.
- ☐ **Minimum Ticket Prices.** Continuing for in 2026, all men's and women's soccer championship events will implement a mandatory minimum ticket price of \$10 for adult admissions.
- ☐ **Mandatory Video Exchange.** Following all NCAA tournament matches the host team is responsible for uploading the tactical view of the match by 2 p.m. local time the day following the match, with the exception that for the national semi-final and the championship final; the advancing team is responsible for loading the tactical view. The host team is also required to provide the visiting team access to the video immediately following the match.
- ☐ **Access to video in team bench area.** Each team is expected to provide their own technology for viewing video on the bench. Teams are responsible for securing their own access to the broadcast feed or livestream of the match during the NCAA postseason. Both teams should have equal access to the video that the referee may use to make decisions during a review. Provided that both teams have equal access to the same video that is not the broadcast or livestream feed, the referee may have access to additional video/camera angles that are not provided to both teams.
- The host institution is responsible for communicating guidance to the visiting team on accessing video in the team bench area if additional set up is required to grant access. It remains the responsibility of the visiting team to create the necessary accounts or logins provided the prior information is communicated by the host institution.
- ☐ **Facility Profile.** An online facility profile must be completed and/or maintained as necessary by each institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition. Information regarding video board, LED board and/or ribbon boards should be entered via the "Boards/Control Room" tab of the applicable venue profile.

A facility profile can be maintained and updated on a regular basis. If a facility can host multiple sports, check the appropriate box(es) under the Sports tab of the facility profile to provide the information for that facility. Refer to page 17 of the prechampionship manual for facility requirements and site selection procedures. Facility information must be reviewed for completeness and accuracy once a year. Instructions on the process are included in the bid portal.

- ☐ **Key Contacts.** The key contacts for your institution should be entered and/or maintained as necessary within your profile. Please enter the information for the key personnel associated with running a championship at your site.

When starting a bid, you will be prompted to enter new key personnel or edit or confirm your existing key personnel. In addition, you will be asked to designate individuals who should receive the various host shipments (e.g., sport equipment, merchandise, awards, etc.). Please include the proper mailing address for overnight deliveries. P.O. box addresses will not be accepted.

Personnel who will administer the competition also will be listed and can be edited within the Profile section of the Championships Bid Portal. When entering individuals in this manner, information must be entered on both the General tab and the Role/Titles by Sport or Facility tab.

- ☐ **Critical Incident Response Team Contact Information.** The system automatically will generate a critical incident response team contact information form based on data entered into the key contacts form and the new Emergency Numbers tab in the facility profile. If applicable, site representative information will be added by the championship manager once a site has been selected for hosting.
- ☐ **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 to develop a compilation of *Best Practices* for NCAA Championships, which can be found [here](#). 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. Your safety and security plan documents should be uploaded in the Documents tab of the facility profile, under in the Safety and Security Plan section.

- ☐ **Alcoholic Beverages.** For Division I and Division II, beer, wine, spirits and other alcoholic beverages (e.g. hard seltzers) may be sold and dispensed at NCAA Division I, II and National Collegiate championship and ancillary events, provided that the host, venue, and/or concessionaire:

- Comply with, and certifies in writing the compliance with, the NCAA Championship and Ancillary Event Alcohol Sales Policy, as amended by the NCAA from time to time, which addresses such matters as:
 - Permissible types of alcoholic beverages;
 - Eligibility for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages;
 - Indemnity, warranty, and insurance obligations; and
 - Verification.

Agree to (i) keep and maintain, or cause its designated vendor or concessionaire to keep and maintain, complete and accurate records of all (a) alcohol-related incidents (e.g., expulsions, arrests) and (b) sales transactions related to the sale of concessions at the NCAA Championship and related ancillary events, including gross revenue, cost of goods, allocable overhead, and applicable taxes; (ii) no later than sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the event, provide the NCAA with a report setting forth in reasonable detail such information, together with the corresponding dates of transaction, including (a) alcohol-related revenue generated on each day of the event, (b) the direct cost of selling alcohol at the event (including the cost of goods), and (c) the indirect cost of selling alcohol at the event (including overhead and increased security needs at the event venue site); and (iii) permit the books, records, and accounts of host, venue, and vendor/concessionaire pertaining to the sale of concessions at the event to be inspected, audited, and copied by NCAA or its agents at any time during normal business hours upon giving reasonable notice to host, venue, and vendor/concessionaire.

- Agree to pay the NCAA an amount of twenty percent (20%) of the gross revenue generated from the sale of alcohol during the event (and any approved ancillary events), less the pro rata applicable sales tax and credit card fees (without deduction of any operating, costs of goods, indirect, or other expenses, such as overhead, marketing, fulfillment, general & administrative, interest, or other expenses), with such agreement to be reflected in a written agreement between the NCAA and the applicable parties (host, venue, and/or concessionaire) executed prior to, or simultaneously with, the NCAA's official selection of the host for the applicable championship.
- Following the championship conclusion, provide the NCAA with certain information regarding the concessions activity—including gross sales, direct costs, and applicable taxes—for food, non-alcoholic beverages, and alcoholic beverages sold during the event.
- Execute, as part of the bid submission, the applicable policy and agreement documents maintained in the NCAA Championships Bid Portal.

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

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

- **Lodging.** The host institution/agency shall negotiate a courtesy hold for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s) starting two nights prior to the date of competition. In addition, a courtesy hold for five additional rooms (NCAA representative and officials) at a separate hotel, should be for the night prior to the competition. Hotels are expected to be located within 30-45 minutes of travel time from the venue, with a preference for 30 minutes. Hotels beyond 45 minutes may be considered by the sport committee as part of an acceptable bid, but additional information and rationale is required with the bid. Hosts are expected to secure room rates that are in line with the per diem rate (i.e., \$215, or \$315 for a designated high-cost city).

Prospective hosts shall secure 23 double/double, non-smoking rooms for each team along with a team meeting room able to accommodate a minimum of 40 people. In addition, the hotel must be full service, in house, to manage team meal needs. A hotel property that has hosted collegiate teams previous is highly preferred by the committee.

The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athletes. A [letter of intent template](#) is provided by the NCAA for the host to use to confirm the hold with the hotel(s). All prospective hosts for non-predetermined sites will be required to identify the hotel properties they secured for the event via the Hotels tab, along with an upload of signed hotel agreement(s)/letter(s) of intent.

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

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

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

Host institutions must provide the national office with the appropriate certificates of insurance or documentation of self-insurance. This information must be provided via the Certificate of

Insurance link in the bid portal. As this is a new feature in the portal, all prospective hosts must upload their documentation once. Depending on the coverage, users must subsequently verify their documentation is still valid, or upload a new certificate once the previous version has expired.

- **Field Diagram.** Please upload your field diagram in the Championships Bid and Host portal system. If you have any additional sport-specific bid requirements, they should be added here.
- **Streaming Requirements.** For the 2026 Championships, all preliminary rounds of the men's and women's soccer championships will be streamed on ESPN+. Schools will be required to provide the broadcast to ESPN to host on ESPN+. This broadcast will need to meet the minimum technical specifications. ESPN will not be on site producing the event nor will the hosts be reimbursed for the production. The technical requirements for the live stream can be found on the sport landing page here. Host institutions must meet those requirements to host preliminary round competition. The video must be free of charge and have no commercials. Additional information regarding live video streaming rights can be found at www.ncaa.com/media. It is highly encouraged that the event manager discuss these requirements with its technical department to make sure the expectations can be met.

The NCAA will coordinate with the host institution on the specifications for the video feed. All questions related to video streaming should be directed to Tommy Barrett, NCAA Championships and Alliances – Broadcast (tbarrett@ncaa.org).

Continuing for 2026, a production stipend of \$5,000 per game will be provided to assist each host who meets the minimum streaming requirements, detailed within the manual and bid checklist. Broadcast production costs (staff, equipment, etc.) will not be submitted through the host budget system. The stipend will be provided to the hosts that meet all the requirements, post championship when finalizing the final championship financials.

Additional Host Information/Resources

Host Operations Manual. [The 2026-27 NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championship Host Operations Manual](#) will assist your institution in all stages of the bidding and hosting process.

Drug Testing. Drug testing may occur at any round of the championship and the assistance of the host institution will be a vital part of the testing. You will be notified in advance if the round you are hosting has been selected for drug testing. Please review the [drug testing site coordinator manual](#) and note that Drug Free Sport International will provide materials to assist in the program.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that public establishments offer equal access and services to people who are physically and mentally challenged. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the Act by the various facilities

hosting NCAA championship events. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

NCAA Bylaw 31. Please review Bylaw 31 of the NCAA Division I Manual as it contains policies regarding the administration of an NCAA event.

Contact Information. If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact NCAA staff at d1msoccer@NCAA.org.