



2020 DIVISION I WOMEN'S
SOCCKER
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2020-21 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Section 1 • Introduction

The Pre-Championship 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 eight apply to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

Pre-championship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Pre-championship 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, etc.).

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. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

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, etc.).

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.20 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.17 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.17 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in NCAA championships. If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host championship concussion management plan will be activated.

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

A concussion is a brain injury that may be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head. Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness or other obvious signs. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the previous one (hours, days or weeks) can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having more severe and/or long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

For further details, please refer to the [NCAA Sport Science Institute website](#) for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.1.5 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 4•2 Drug Testing

[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I), 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division II) and 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division III), 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 4•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 4•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 4•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, etc.) 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 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 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 on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. 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 access the online form and submit a nomination, go to ncaa.org.

Section 6 • 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 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 12.5.4 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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

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

It is essential that all research efforts be coordinated by a single entity within the national office structure in order to ensure maximum efficiency and quality, avoid unnecessary duplication of effort on the part of staff and membership, allow the NCAA to prioritize research efforts given the limited time and resources of our members and adhere to federal guidelines on the responsibilities of researchers to properly protect research participants from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, "research" is defined as any systematic collection of data for the purpose of drawing generalized conclusions.

Any proposal to conduct research must be submitted to the NCAA research staff for review at least six weeks before the project begins. Research to be conducted during NCAA championships or related events, and which involves competing student-athletes or attendees, is also subject to review. This includes all research, including that conducted by or under the direction of any employee, contractor or paid consultant of the NCAA. It also includes any research conducted by other persons, but funded totally or in part by the NCAA. Any research that detracts from the student-athlete experience or requires physical activity may not be permitted at the championships (preliminary rounds and finals sites). The NCAA retains sole discretion as to whether to allow such research.

Examples of activities considered research include: Conducting surveys of athletics administrators, college presidents, faculty, coaches and student-athletes; leading an organized focus group; funding an outside study under the auspices of the NCAA; conducting market research at championship events; secondary analysis of data originally collected by the NCAA from people for other purposes; any systematic collection of data from the membership or other entities; etc.

Section 9 • Division I

Section 9•1 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 September 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).

Division I Women's Soccer

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Kelly Whitaker

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317-917-6511 / kwhitaker@ncaa.org

Linda Godby

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****Due to the pandemic, information in this manual is subject to change at any time. Please contact the championship manager with any questions and/or to inquire about any updates.****

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

EAST REGION**Nancy Feldman**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
Boston University

MIDWEST REGION**Erin Chastain**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
DePaul University

SOUTHEAST REGION**Matt Mott**

Head Coach - Women's Soccer
University of Mississippi

SOUTH REGION**Lisa Varytimidis**

Senior Woman Administrator
Austin Peay State University

WEST REGION**Zack Lassiter**

Deputy Athletics Director-External Operations
Oregon State University

MIDWEST REGION**Debra Boughton**

Senior Woman Administrator
Northern Illinois University

MIDWEST REGION**Jennifer Klein**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
University of Michigan

SOUTH REGION**Clifton Douglass**

Assistant Commissioner
Conference USA

WEST REGION**China Jude**

Senior Woman Administrator
University of Wyoming

WEST REGION**Scott Leykam**

Director of Athletics
University of Portland

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
EAST REGION		
Nancy Feldman	Boston	Patriot
Neel Bhattacharjee	Binghamton	America East
Paul Royal	La Salle	Atlantic 10
Tim Santoro	NC State	Atlantic Coast
Carin Gabarra	Navy	Patriot
Josh Walters	James Madison	Colonial
Chris Hamblin	Penn	Ivy League
Andy Biggs	Bryant	Northeast
Krissy Turner	Monmouth	Metro Atlantic
MIDWEST REGION		
Debra Boughton	Northern Illinois	Mid-American
Erin Chastain	DePaul	Big East
Jennifer Klein	Michigan	Big Ten
Sam Lopes	Providence	Big East
Michael Moynihan	Northwestern	Big Ten
John Marovich	Valparaiso	Missouri Valley
Courtney Sirmans	Miami (Ohio)	Mid-American
Brock Thompson	South Dakota State	Summit League
Chris Johnson	IUPUI	Horizon
SOUTH REGION		
Clifton Douglass	Conference USA	Conference USA
Lisa Varytimidis	Austin Peay State	Ohio Valley
Brian Lee	Rice	Conference USA
Paul Hogan	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt
Derek Burton	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	Ohio Valley
Jeremy Bishop	Central Arkansas	Southland
Paul Jobson	Baylor	Big 12
Justin Wagar	Grambling State	SWAC
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Matt Mott	Ole Miss	SEC
Mike Varga	Gardner-Webb	Big South
Kyle Cussen	Tulsa	American Athletic
Lang Wedemeyer	Liberty	ASUN
Michael Coll	UNC Greensboro	Southern
Colby Hale	Arkansas	SEC

DIVISION I WOMEN'S SOCCER

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
WEST REGION		
China Jude	Wyoming	Mountain West
Zack Lassiter	Oregon State	Pac-12
Scott Leykam	Portland	West Coast
Nat Gonzalez	UC Riverside	Big West
Katie Burton	Portland State	Big Sky
Heather Cairns	Utah State	Mountain West
Graham Winkworth	Arizona State	Pac-12
Chris Watkins	Gonzaga	West Coast
Chris Cissell	Grand Canyon	WAC

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, Sept. 21	First published RPI (weekly through selections)
Thursday, Oct. 1	Preliminary-round bid materials available on ncaa.org
Thursday, Oct. 22	Deadline for preliminary-round bid materials to NCAA national office (submitted online)
Sunday, April 18	Selection announcement
TBD	First-round competition
TBD	Second-round competition
TBD	Third-round competition
TBD	Quarterfinal competition
Thursday, May 13	National semifinals
Monday, May 17	National championship

DATE FORMULA

First Rounds (32)	Three weeks before finals (Friday, Saturday or Sunday)
Second/Third Rounds (8)	Two weeks before finals (Friday and Sunday)
Quarterfinals (4)	One week before finals (Friday or Saturday)
Women's College Cup	First full weekend in December (Friday and Sunday). If December 1 falls on a Saturday, that will count as the first weekend.

FUTURE DATES

2022

First Round	November 11, 12 or 13
Second/Third Round	November 18 and 20
Quarterfinals	November 25 or 26
Women's College Cup	December 2 and 4

Section 1•5 Equipment

BALL

The Wilson Forte Fybrid II soccer 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 Kelly Whitaker 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

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 women’s soccer championship, the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Rules shall be followed to the letter.

BALL PERSONS AND ROTATION

It is the responsibility of the host institutions, for all rounds of competition, to provide an adequate number of ball persons. At least eight (8) ball persons are required for each game and should be on the field one-half hour before the game time.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

The Division I Women’s Soccer Committee mandates games be played on fields that are a minimum of 70 yards x 110 yards; however, the preference is for fields to be 75 yards x 120 yards. The committee prefers grass fields for preliminary-round games but will not preclude artificial turf (if approved by FIFA). Grass fields will be required for the Women’s College Cup.

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 Kelly Whitaker (cell: 317-476-6867). Only after contacting Ms. Whitaker 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 stockings 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.

CONTRASTING COLORS

Goalkeepers shall wear jerseys that distinguish them from all field players and socks that distinguish them from their opponents' field players.

Shorts may differ in color from that of the stockings and jerseys but shall be matching in color and uniform in style.

It is recommended that any visible garment worn under the jersey or shorts shall be a solid color that matches the dominant color of the respective garment.

It is recommended that players warming up outside the coaching and team areas wear colored jerseys/vests that distinguish them from all other field players.

NUMBERS

Numerals at least eight inches (20.32 cm) in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the back of each player's (including goalkeeper's) jersey.

Numerals at least four inches (10.16 cm) in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the front of each player's (including goalkeeper's) jersey. The same number shall be displayed on both the front and back of the jersey, and no two teammates may wear the same number.

LOGOS

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

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship provides for a 48-team, single-elimination tournament. Thirty-one conferences will receive automatic qualification for the 2020 championship. The remaining teams will be selected on an at-large basis. A championship bracket can be found in [Appendix A](#).

The top 16 teams identified by the committee will be seeded in the bracket. The seeded teams will compete at separate first-round sites. The committee has been given approval by the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to place the top 16 seeds in pods of four. There will be four number ones, four number twos, four number threes and four number fours. The remaining 32 teams will be paired geographically. First- and second-round conference matchups will be avoided.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

First Round	TBD
Second/Third Round	TBD
Quarterfinals	TBD
Women's College Cup	April 13 and 17

START TIMES

The Division I Women's Soccer Committee shall determine the dates and game times for all preliminary-round games in conjunction with the hosts.

TRAVEL PARTY

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. The official traveling party is 28.

Squad Size/Bench Size. Each team is limited to a maximum of 22 players in uniform and a maximum of 37 persons in the bench area. Each team must comply with the bench limit of 37, and do so 20 minutes before game time.

Pregame Warmup. Teams shall warm up with a maximum of 22 players. Nonparticipating players (those above the maximum) shall not participate in the pregame warmup.

Section 2•2 Results

REGULAR SEASON

The use of NCAA LiveStats for soccer (or volleyball) is mandatory at all pre-determined championship sites. While schools/hosts are not required to use the software during the regular season, it is highly encouraged. The hosts shall make certain that the statistics crew is trained with the software prior to the championship by taking advantage of training opportunities provided by the NCAA and Genius Sports throughout the course of the regular season. For more information, please contact Mark Bedics (mbedics@ncaa.org) and ncaa-editorial@warnermmedia.com.

TOURNAMENT

The sports information director of the host institution, or an appointed representative, is responsible for reporting all tournament results to Mark Bedics (mbedics@ncaa.org) and ncaa-content@turner.com.

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

RPI information will be released on ncaa.com weekly beginning March 1 to April 12. In addition, the RPI will be released after the conclusion of the championship.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Division I Women's Soccer Committee will select teams for the championship. The committee will announce the teams selected, first-round pairings and game sites at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time Sunday, April 18. Teams will be notified of their selection as soon as possible thereafter.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2020 championship are:

America East Conference	Mid-American Conference
American Athletic Conference	Missouri Valley Conference
ASUN Conference	Mountain West Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference	Northeast Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference	Ohio Valley Conference
Big 12 Conference	Pac-12 Conference
Big East Conference	Patriot League
Big Sky Conference	Southeastern Conference
Big South Conference	Southern Conference
Big Ten Conference	Southland Conference
Big West Conference	Southwestern Athletic Conference
Colonial Athletic Association	The Summit League
Conference USA	Sun Belt Conference
Horizon League	West Coast Conference
The Ivy League	Western Athletic Conference
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference	

AT-LARGE SELECTION

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

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Air Travel. If you are located more than 400 miles from the host site, please contact Short's Travel Management at 866-655-9215 as soon as possible to arrange your air travel. Be prepared to provide the names of the members of the travel party of 28.

Ground Travel. If you are within 400 miles from the host site, you will travel via bus and must make your arrangements via Go Ground at 866-386-4951. The ground transportation portal may be accessed at www.gochampionships.com (same username/password used for Short's Travel expenses).

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 28. Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies may be found online at ncaa.org. Registration with an institutional email address is required to access the information located on ncaa.org. The NCAA travel department may be reached at 317-917-6757, or by email at travel@ncaa.org.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

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

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

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Women's Soccer Committee has received approval from the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the soccer championship (not necessarily in priority order):

PRIMARY CRITERIA

- Results of the adjusted Rating Percentage Index (RPI);
- Results versus common opponents; and
- Head-to-head competition.

SECONDARY CRITERIA

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

- Results versus teams already selected to participate in the field (including automatic qualifiers with RPI of 1-75); and
- Late-season performance — defined as the last eight games including conference tournaments (strength and results).

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

RPI. The committee uses the RPI (Rating Percentage Index), a computer program that calculates the institutions' Division I winning percentage (25%), opponents' success (50%), opponents' strength of schedule (25%) plus a bonus/penalty system. When evaluating the RPI, the committee may consider comparing data of individual teams, including, but not limited to, overall record, Division I record, overall RPI rank, non-conference record and RPI rank, conference regular-season record and conference tournament results. The RPI shall be used as a selection tool.

The bonus/penalty structure for the RPI includes a bonus for non-conference wins or ties against the top 80 teams in the RPI and a penalty for non-conference losses or ties against the bottom 80 teams in the RPI ([Appendix C](#)).

BYLAW 31.3.3.1 – COUNTABLE COMPETITION

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

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 Kelly Whitaker (kwhitaker@ncaa.org) prior to selections.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

For non-revenue generating championships that seed a quarter of the bracket, sites will be awarded to the seeded teams that submit a bid that meets the requirements for hosting. In the event that a seeded team does not submit a bid that meets the requirements, the sports committee will maintain the current policy of geographic consideration when assigning those host sites. The committees will use the geographic considerations to help maintain the balance and integrity of the bracket. The committees will also separate first- and second-round conference opponents when assigning teams to sites.

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2020 NCAA Division I Women'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 Host Profile portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "championships available bid" and select "add 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 email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact Linda Godby (lgodby@ncaa.org; 317-917-6507)

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 Wednesday, February 17.

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 will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2020 NCAA Division I Women'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

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

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

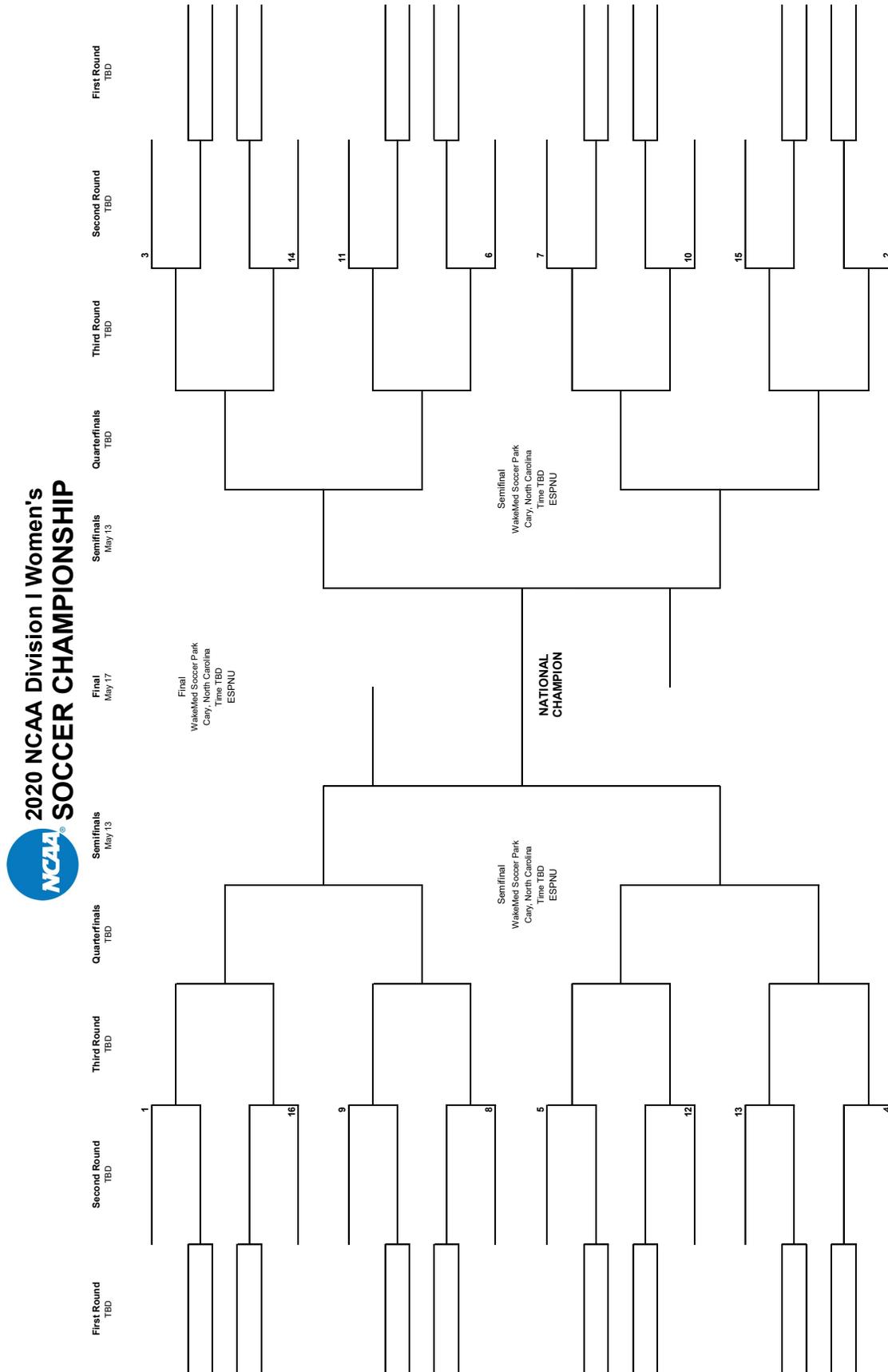
If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Kelly Whitaker at 317-917-6511 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.

Appendixes

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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.

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The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

America East Conference (10)

University at Albany
 Binghamton University
 University of Hartford
 University of Maine
 University of Maryland, Baltimore County

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

AQ – Tournament

Atlantic 10 Conference (14)

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

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 University of Rhode Island
 University of Richmond
 St. Bonaventure University
 Saint Joseph's University
 Saint Louis University
 Virginia Commonwealth University

AQ – Tournament

Atlantic Coast Conference (14)

Boston College
 Clemson University
 Duke University
 Florida State University
 University of Louisville
 University of Miami (Florida)
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

North Carolina State University
 University of Notre Dame
 University of Pittsburgh
 Syracuse University
 University of Virginia
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Wake Forest University

AQ – Tournament

Colonial Athletic Association (10)

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

James Madison University
 University of North Carolina Wilmington
 Northeastern University
 Towson University
 William & Mary

AQ – Tournament

The Ivy League (8)

Brown University
 Columbia University-Barnard College
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College

Harvard University
 University of Pennsylvania
 Princeton University
 Yale University

AQ – Tournament

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (11)

Canisius College
 Fairfield University
 Iona College
 Manhattan College
 Marist College
 Monmouth University

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

AQ – Tournament

EAST REGION CONTINUED

Northeast Conference (9)

Bryant University
 Central Connecticut State University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus
 Long Island University
 Mount St. Mary's University

Sacred Heart University
 St. Francis College Brooklyn
 Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
 Wagner College

AQ – Tournament

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 – Tournament

Independent (1)

Delaware State University

MIDWEST REGION

Big East Conference (11)

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 – Tournament

Big Ten Conference (14)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 Indiana University, Bloomington
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Michigan
 Michigan State University
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 Northwestern University
 The Ohio State University
 Pennsylvania State University
 Purdue University
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick
 University of Wisconsin-Madison

AQ – Tournament

Horizon League (12)

Cleveland State University
 University of Detroit Mercy
 University of Illinois at Chicago
 Indiana University-Purdue University at 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
 Youngstown State University

AQ – Tournament

MIDWEST REGION CONTINUED

Mid-American Conference (12)

University of Akron
 Ball State University
 Bowling Green State University
 University at Buffalo, the State University of New York
 Central Michigan University
 Eastern Michigan University

Kent State University
 Miami University (Ohio)
 Northern Illinois University
 Ohio University
 University of Toledo
 Western Michigan University

AQ – Tournament

Missouri Valley Conference (9)

Drake University
 University of Evansville
 Illinois State University
 Indiana State University
 Loyola University Chicago

Missouri State University
 University of Northern Iowa
 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
 Valparaiso University

AQ – Tournament

The Summit League (9)

University of Denver
 University of Missouri-Kansas City
 University of Nebraska Omaha
 University of North Dakota
 North Dakota State University

Oral Roberts University
 University of South Dakota
 South Dakota State University
 Western Illinois University

AQ – Tournament

SOUTH REGION

Big 12 Conference (10)

Baylor University
 Iowa State University
 University of Kansas
 Kansas State University
 University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma State University
 Texas Christian University
 Texas Tech University
 University of Texas at Austin
 West Virginia University

AQ – Tournament

Conference USA (14)

University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Florida Atlantic University
 Florida International University
 Louisiana Tech University
 Marshall University
 Middle Tennessee State University
 The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Texas
 Old Dominion University
 Rice University
 The University of Southern Mississippi
 University of Texas at El Paso
 University of Texas at San Antonio
 Western Kentucky University

AQ – Tournament

Ohio Valley Conference (11)

Austin Peay State University
 Belmont University
 Eastern Illinois University
 Eastern Kentucky University
 Jacksonville State University
 Morehead State University

Murray State University
 Southeast Missouri State University
 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
 Tennessee Technological University
 University of Tennessee at Martin

AQ – Tournament

SOUTH REGION CONTINUED

Southland Conference (12)

Abilene Christian University
 University of Central Arkansas
 Houston Baptist University
 University of the Incarnate Word
 Lamar University
 McNeese State University

Nicholls State University
 Northwestern State University
 Sam Houston State University
 Southeastern Louisiana University
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

AQ – Tournament

Southwestern Athletic Conference (10)

Alabama A&M University
 Alabama State University
 Alcorn State University
 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff
 Grambling State University

Jackson State University
 Mississippi Valley State University
 Prairie View A&M University
 Southern University, Baton Rouge
 Texas Southern University

AQ – Tournament

Sun Belt Conference (11)

Appalachian State University
 Arkansas State University
 University of Arkansas at Little Rock
 Coastal Carolina University
 Georgia Southern University
 Georgia State University

University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 University of Louisiana at Monroe
 University of South Alabama
 Texas State University
 Troy University

AQ – Tournament

Independent (2)

Howard University

South Carolina State University

SOUTHEAST REGION

American Athletic Conference (9)

University of Central Florida
 University of Cincinnati
 East Carolina University
 University of Houston
 University of Memphis

University of South Florida
 Southern Methodist University
 Temple University
 The University of Tulsa

AQ – Tournament

ASUN Conference (7)

Florida Gulf Coast University
 Jacksonville University
 Kennesaw State University
 Liberty University

Lipscomb University
 University of North Florida
 Stetson University

AQ – Tournament

Big South Conference (11)

Campbell University
 Charleston Southern University
 Gardner-Webb University
 Hampton University
 High Point University
 Longwood University

University of North Carolina Asheville
 Presbyterian College
 Radford University
 University of South Carolina Upstate
 Winthrop University

AQ – Tournament

SOUTHEAST REGION CONTINUED

Southeastern Conference (14)

University of Alabama
 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
 Auburn University
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Kentucky
 Louisiana State University

University of Mississippi
 Mississippi State University
 University of Missouri, Columbia
 University of South Carolina, Columbia
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Texas A&M University, College Station
 Vanderbilt University

AQ –Tournament

Southern Conference (10)

The Citadel
 East Tennessee State University
 Furman University
 Mercer University
 The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Samford University
 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
 Virginia Military Institute
 Western Carolina University
 Wofford College

AQ – Tournament

WEST REGION

Big Sky Conference (10)

California State University, Sacramento
 Eastern Washington University
 University of Idaho
 Idaho State University
 University of Montana

Northern Arizona University
 University of Northern Colorado
 Portland State University
 Southern Utah University
 Weber State University

AQ – Tournament

Big West Conference (10)

California Polytechnic State University
 California State University, Bakersfield
 California State University, Fullerton
 California State University, Northridge
 University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine
 University of California, Riverside
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 University of Hawaii, Manoa
 Long Beach State University

AQ – Tournament

Mountain West Conference (12)

Boise State University
 California State University, Fresno
 Colorado College
 Colorado State University
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 University of Nevada, Reno

University of New Mexico
 San Diego State University
 San Jose State University
 U.S. Air Force Academy
 Utah State University
 University of Wyoming

AQ –Tournament

Pac-12 Conference (12)

University of Arizona
 Arizona State University
 University of California, Berkeley
 University of California, Los Angeles
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 University of Oregon

Oregon State University
 University of Southern California
 Stanford University
 University of Utah
 University of Washington
 Washington State University

AQ – Regular Season

WEST REGION CONTINUED

West Coast Conference (10)

Brigham Young University
Gonzaga University
Loyola Marymount University
University of the Pacific
Pepperdine University

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

AQ – Tournament

Western Athletic Conference (6)

Chicago State University
Grand Canyon University
New Mexico State University

Seattle University
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Utah Valley University

AQ – Regular Season

Appendix C • Rating Percentage Index

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX BONUS/PENALTY STRUCTURE

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) shall be used as a selection tool. Below is the RPI bonus/penalty structure against non-conference opponents.

RESULT	LOCATION	NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS' RPI RANK	BONUS/PENALTY	SCALE VALUE
Win	Away	1-40	Bonus	Greatest bonus awarded
Win	Neutral	1-40	Bonus	
Win	Home	1-40	Bonus	
Win	Away	41-80	Bonus	
Win	Neutral	41-80	Bonus	
Win	Home	41-80	Bonus	
Tie	Away	1-40	Bonus	
Tie	Neutral	1-40	Bonus	
Tie	Home	1-40	Bonus	
Tie	Away	41-80	Bonus	
Tie	Neutral	41-80	Bonus	
Tie	Home	41-80	Bonus	Lowest bonus awarded

RESULT	LOCATION	NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS' RPI RANK	BONUS/PENALTY	SCALE VALUE
Tie	Away	254-293	Penalty	Lowest penalty imposed
Tie	Neutral	254-293	Penalty	
Tie	Home	254-293	Penalty	
Tie	Away	294-333	Penalty	
Tie	Neutral	294-333	Penalty	
Tie	Home	294-333	Penalty	
Loss	Away	254-293	Penalty	
Loss	Neutral	254-293	Penalty	
Loss	Home	254-293	Penalty	
Loss	Away	294-333	Penalty	
Loss	Neutral	294-333	Penalty	
Loss	Home	294-333	Penalty	Greatest penalty imposed

There is no penalty for losing to a non-DI team.

Appendix D • Officials

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 respective NCAA Division I Women'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 Association's policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Appointments to work as an official for any of the NCAA soccer championships are conditioned on the NCAA Division I Women'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 90% or better score. The test requirement must be fulfilled not later than TBD.
- Officials MUST be registered with ncaasoccer.arbitersports.com in order to be considered and potentially receive an NCAA postseason assignment.
- Officials will not be assigned 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 women's soccer postseason match, an official must have officiated (as a Center Referee) a minimum of six NCAA Division I women's soccer matches in the current season.
- To be selected as an Assistant Referee for an NCAA Division I women'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 women's soccer matches. A combination of Division I 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 for Division I) or approved for a flight by NCAA staff.