



2021 DIVISION I WOMEN'S
SOCCER
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2021-22 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2021-22 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women and three for both men and women. Of the men’s championships, three 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, six 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 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 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, etc.).

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3•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 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, 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 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators and coaches 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 forward the survey to student-athletes.

Section 4 • 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 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 [NCAA Sports Science Institute website](http://ncaa.org). 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](http://ncaa.org).

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 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. Travel policies can be found online [here](#). Please reference Appendix A of the travel policies for reimbursable travel party numbers.

Please reference the NCAA travel policies as they are updated annually [here](#), and the travel policies supersede all other documents.

Section 10 • Division I

Section 10.1 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

Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-917-6511 / kwhitaker@ncaa.org

Ethan Walker

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-917-6476 / ewalker@ncaa.org

Section 1.2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

EAST REGION**Ron Rainey**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
Dartmouth College

MIDWEST REGION**Debra Boughton**

Senior Associate Athletics Director
Northern Illinois University

SOUTH REGION**Duane Bailey**

Deputy Director of Athletics
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

SOUTHEAST REGION**Matt Mott**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
University of Mississippi

WEST REGION**Scott Leykam**

Vice President for Athletics
University of Portland

MIDWEST REGION**Jennifer Klein**

Head Women's Soccer Coach
University of Michigan

SOUTH REGION**Clifton Douglass, chair**

Assistant Commissioner
Conference USA

SOUTH REGION**Lisa Varytimidis**

Deputy Director of Athletics/SWA
Austin Peay State University

WEST REGION**Zack Lassiter**

Deputy Athletic Director - External Operations
Oregon State University

WEST REGION**Keri Mendoza**

Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA
California Polytechnic State University

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
EAST REGION		
Ron Rainey	Dartmouth	Ivy League
Neel Bhattacharjee	Binghamton	America East
Paul Royal	La Salle	Atlantic 10
Tim Santoro	NC State	Atlantic Coast
Kelly Kuss	Bucknell	Patriot
Josh Walters	James Madison	Colonial
Chris Hamblin	Harvard	Ivy League
Eric Teepe	Fairleigh Dickinson	Northeast
Brittany Kolmel	Marist	Metro Atlantic
MIDWEST REGION		
Jennifer Klein	Michigan	Big Ten
Debra Boughton	Northern Illinois	MAC
Sam Lopes	Providence	Big East
Michael Moynihan	Northwestern	Big Ten
John Marovich	Valparaiso	Missouri Valley
Courtney Sirmans	Miami	Mid-American
Michael Thomas	South Dakota	Summit League
Chris Johnson	IUPUI	Horizon
SOUTH REGION		
Clifton Douglass	Conference USA	Conference USA
Duane Bailey	Louisiana Lafayette	Sun Belt
Lisa Varytimidis	Austin Peay	Ohio Valley
Brian Lee	Rice	Conference USA
Paul Hogan	Coastal Carolina	Sun Belt
Derek Burton	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	Ohio Valley
Emma Wright-Cates	Incarnate Word	Southland
Paul Jobson	Baylor	Big 12
Jeremy Fontenot	Southern University, Baton Rouge	SWAC
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Matt Mott	Mississippi	SEC
Jason Hamilton	East Carolina	American Athletic
Lang Wedemeyer	Liberty	ASUN
Michael Coll	UNC Greensboro	Southern
Colby Hale	Arkansas	SEC
Mike Varga	Gardner-Webb	Big South

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NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
WEST REGION		
Zack Lassiter	Oregon State	Pac-12
Scott Leykam	Portland	West Coast
Keri Mendoza	Cal Poly	Big West
Michele "Bud" Nagamine	Hawaii	Big West
Kylie Louw	Northern Arizona	Big Sky
Larry Friend	Air Force	Mountain West
Graham Winkworth	Arizona State	Pac-12
Chris Cissell	Grand Canyon	WAC
Chris Watkins	Gonzaga	West Coast

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Monday, Sept. 20	First published RPI (weekly through selections)
Tuesday, Oct. 5	Preliminary-round bid materials available on ncaa.org
Friday, Oct. 22	Deadline for preliminary-round bid materials to NCAA national office (submitted online)
Monday, Nov. 8	Selection announcement
Friday-Sunday, Nov. 12, 13 or 14	First-round competition
Friday, Nov. 19	Second-round competition
Sunday, Nov. 21	Third-round competition
Friday or Saturday, Nov. 26 or 27	Quarterfinal competition
Friday, Dec. 3	National semifinals
Sunday, Dec. 5	National championship

(Note: If an institution that has a policy against competing on Sundays for religious reasons advances to the semifinals, pending the outcome of the semifinal games, the championship game may be contested on Monday, Dec. 6. The second and third rounds may also be contested on Thursday and Saturday if institutional policies prohibit Sunday play.)

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 Dec. 1 falls on a Saturday, that will count as the first weekend.

FUTURE DATES

2022

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

Section 1•5 Equipment

BALL

The Wilson Forte Fybird 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 64-team, single-elimination tournament. Thirty-one conferences will receive automatic qualification for the 2021 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 48 teams will be paired geographically. First- and second-round conference matchups will be avoided.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

First Round	Nov. 12, 13 or 14
Second/Third Round	Nov. 19 and 21
Quarterfinals	Nov. 26 or 27
Women's College Cup	Dec. 3 and 5

START TIMES

For the preliminary rounds, first-round games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. local time. Friday, Nov. 12, through the weekend, with a completion time of not later than 4 p.m. local time, Sunday, Nov. 14. (Saturday and Sunday competition may not start before noon local time.)

Second-round games will be played Friday, Nov. 19, not before 2 p.m. local time. Third-round games will be played Sunday, Nov. 21, not before noon local time. Institutions without lighted facilities are required to schedule the start time to allow a four-hour window for a daylight opportunity to play the game.

Quarterfinal games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. local time, Friday, Nov. 26, through the weekend, with a completion time of not later than 8 p.m. local time, Saturday, Nov. 27. (Saturday competition may not start before noon local time.)

The game times will be established by the host institution (during the bid process) and approved by the Women's Soccer Committee. At the discretion of the games committee, there will be a maximum 30-minute break between games of a doubleheader.

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

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training opportunities provided by the NCAA and Genius Sports throughout the course of the regular season. For more information, please contact Nick Moeller (nmoeller@ncaa.org) and ncaa-content@turner.com.

TOURNAMENT

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

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

RPI information will be released on ncaa.com weekly beginning Sept. 20 to Nov. 1. 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 Monday, Nov. 8. Teams will be notified of their selection as soon as possible thereafter.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2021 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. Thirty-three 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. Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for additional information related to ground travel at ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information.

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 2021 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 Ethan Walker (ewalker@ncaa.org; 317-917-6476)

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 Friday, Oct. 22.

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 2021 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

**DIVISION I WOMEN'S
SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**



*Host institution for preliminary round games.
All game times are Eastern standard time.
Order of semifinal games determined after quarterfinal round games are completed.
Second semifinal game will begin 45 minutes after conclusion of first game.

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

EAST REGION

America East Conference (10)

University at Albany
 Binghamton University
 University of Hartford
 University of Maine, Orono
 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 (10)

Bryant University
 Central Connecticut State University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus
 Howard University
 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 (10)

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 St. Thomas (Minnesota)
 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 (9)

Austin Peay State University
 Belmont University
 Eastern Illinois 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 (7)

Houston Baptist University
 University of the Incarnate Word
 McNeese State University
 Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University
 Southeastern Louisiana 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 Monroe
 University of South Alabama
 Texas State University
 Troy University

AQ - Tournament

Independent (1)

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 South Florida
 Southern Methodist University
 Temple University
 The University of Tulsa

AQ - Tournament

ASUN Conference (12)

Bellarmino University
 University of Central Arkansas
 Eastern Kentucky University
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Jacksonville University
 Jacksonville State University

Kennesaw State University
 Liberty University
 Lipscomb University
 University of North Alabama
 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 (11)

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, San Diego
 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 (12)

Abilene Christian University
Chicago State University
Grand Canyon University
Lamar University
University of Missouri-Kansas City
New Mexico State University

Sam Houston State University
Seattle University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tarleton State 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 Oct. 31, 2021.
- 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 (6) 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 (6) 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.