



HOST OPERATIONS 2025-26 MANUAL

Division III Soccer

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Information in this document applies to both preliminary rounds and final site competition unless otherwise specified.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees, thank you for being an important part of the 2025 Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Championships. This manual outlines the responsibilities of an institution/conference hosting this round of an NCAA championship. It is essential that each host institution/conference staff become familiar with the information and policies included in this manual.

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host institution/conference, competition site, committee and the NCAA. The primary objective of each individual involved in the administration of the championship shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, institutional staff member and tournament attendee.

DEFINITIONS

Championship: Postseason competition conducted by the NCAA in a particular sport, in which eligible student-athletes and teams of active member institutions compete to determine the division champion (or National Collegiate champion in sports that do not have a separate division championship) in that sport.

Governing Sports Committee: The NCAA membership committee responsible for developing policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the championship under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the applicable division's governance structure and the requirements, standards and conditions prescribed by NCAA Bylaw 31.

Host Institution/Conference: An active NCAA member institution and/or conference selected to serve as host for a championship. The host shall administer the finances of an NCAA championship in accordance with the institutional/conference championship budget, as submitted during the selection process and approved by the governing sports committee.

Local Organizing Committee: A local organization formed in the city where a member institution/conference proposes to host an NCAA championship, to provide to the NCAA services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship. The host institution/conference must be a part of the leadership of the LOC.

NCAA Championships Manager: The staff member(s) representing the NCAA championships and alliances staff assigned to serve as administrator(s) for a championship.

ROLE OF GOVERNING SPORT COMMITTEE

The NCAA's core purpose, values and envisioned future provide the framework for all actions in the committee's administration of the championship and its stewardship of the game. Within the framework and spirit of its charge, the governing sport committee will balance the principle of student-athlete well-being with its efforts to maximize exposure for intercollegiate athletics and revenues from the championship through policies and activities that are subject to the final authority of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee.

ROLE OF HOST INSTITUTION/CONFERENCE

The support, commitment and involvement of the host institution/conference, its key staff members and local media are essential elements in hosting a successful NCAA championship.

The host institution/conference is the local entity responsible for making arrangements for the competition. By submitting a bid, each host institution/conference has agreed to provide services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship.

The responsibilities of the host institution/conference are defined herein. The games management, media and marketing activities associated with the competition are to be administered and approved by the NCAA staff on behalf of the governing sport committee.

The host institution/conference will work in collaboration with the NCAA staff to ensure that the mission of the championship is preserved. The NCAA believes that the most successful host institutions/conferences are those that emphasize service, communication, promotion and marketing of the event, and fiscal responsibility.

ROLE OF NCAA

The NCAA championships and alliances staff, working in conjunction with the NCAA sport committees and other NCAA groups, will lead the planning efforts, management and execution of all NCAA championships and events. The NCAA will oversee all aspects of the championship and its related activities, including facility operations and space allocations, hotel accommodations, media and team operations, hospitality functions and social events, on- and off-field entertainment, fan and sponsor events, television programming, youth events, as well as many other aspects.

The NCAA will work closely with the host institution/conference, competition venue and local organizing committee to ensure that the championship provides a positive and rewarding experience for student-athletes and fans.

2025 NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE ROSTER

Region One Mo White Director of Athletics Connecticut College Phone: Email: mwhite4@conncoll.edu Term Expires: September 2029	Region Two Patrick Colbert Commissioner Commonwealth Coast Conference Phone: 401-338-9373 Email: patrick@cccathletics.com Term Expires: September 2028
Region Three Ben Cross Head Men's Soccer Coach University of Rochester Phone: Email: bc006j@sports.rochester.edu Term Expires: September 2029	Region Four Mark Griffin Director of Athletics/Recreation Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark Phone: 973-353-1458 Email: markg@newark.rutgers.edu Term Expires: September 2028
Region Five Megan Patruno Associate Athletic Director Muhlenberg College Phone: 484-664-3785 Email: meganpatruno@muhlenberg.edu Term expires: September 2028	Region Six Tom Galbraith Director of Athletics Randolph College Phone: Email: tgabraith@randolphcollege.edu Term expires: September 2027
Region Seven Dejan Mladenovic, chair Head Men's Soccer Coach John Carroll University Phone: 724-852-3424 Email: dmladenovic@jcu.edu Term expires: September 2027	Region Eight Michael Zapolski Director of Athletics Augustana College Phone: 309-794-7223 Email: mikezapolski@augustana.edu Term expires: September 2027
Region Nine Brian Sisson Director of Athletics Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Phone: 507-457-1638 Email: bsisson@smumn.edu Term expires: September 2026	Region Ten Miguel Ruiz Head Men's Soccer Coach Cal Lutheran University Phone: 805-493-3629 Email: miguelruiz@callutheran.edu Term expires: September 2027

2025 NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE ROSTER

Region One Molly Wilkie Head Women's Soccer Coach University of Maine, Farmington Phone: 207-434-3999 Email: molly.wilke@maine.edu Term Expires: September 2029	Region Two Stephanie Smyrl Director of Athletics Emerson College Phone: 617-824-8969 Email: steph_smyrl@emerson.edu Term expires: September 2027
Region Three Beth Tiffany Senior Associate AD/SWA Union College (New York) Phone: 518-388-6286 Email: tiffanye@union.edu Term expires: September 2029	Region Four Agath Tsantsaridis Head Women's Soccer Coach Brooklyn College Phone: 718-951-5366 Email: a.tsantsaridis@brooklyn.cuny.edu Term Expires: September 2029
Region Five Susan Kolb Director of Athletics Hood College Phone: 301-696-3494 Email: kolb@hood.edu Term Expires: September 2026	Region Six Tiffany Pins Head Women's Soccer Coach Washington and Lee University Phone: 540-458-8056 Email: tpins@wlu.edu Term Expires: September 2027
Region Seven Dani Gunderson Head Women's Soccer Coach/SWA Muskingum University Phone: 740-826-8319 Email: dgunders@muskingum.edu Term Expires: September 2026	Region Eight Amy Reifert Head Women's Soccer Coach University of Chicago Phone: 773-702-4655 Email: areifert@uchicago.edu Term Expires: September 2029
Region Nine Crystal Lanning Director of Athletic University of Wisconsin-River Falls Phone: 715-425-3246 Email: crystal.lanning@uwrf.edu Term Expires: September 2026	Region Ten Andy Foltz Assistant Athletics Director Pacific Lutheran University Phone: 325-670-1197 Email: foltzae@plu.edu Term Expires: September 2027

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Section 1 • Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Unless expressly permitted in writing by the NCAA (subject to the applicable legislative and/or policy changes at the NCAA), no alcoholic beverages or nonalcoholic beer may be sold or dispensed for consumption in the competition venue from the time the doors open until 90 minutes after the conclusion of the games and practices, nor shall any such beverages be brought to the competition venue during the championship (i.e., during the period from the time access is available to spectators until all patrons have left the competition venue or area used for competition) unless otherwise approved by the NCAA.

If permitted by private lease agreement, alcoholic beverages may be consumed inside the private suites, subject to the host's, venue's, and/or concessionaire's compliance with certain insurance and indemnification requirements imposed by the NCAA. However, alcoholic beverages may not be delivered to private viewing suites on the dates of NCAA practice or competition. Additionally, it is not permissible for alcoholic beverages to be distributed or consumed in the competition venue outside the private viewing suites unless otherwise approved by the NCAA.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Tobacco products shall not be advertised, sold or dispensed at any championship event sponsored by or administered by the NCAA. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the venue.

Section 2 • Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III prohibits private places of public accommodation (e.g., sports arenas) from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the ADA. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

If the host institution/conference receives a request for an accommodation, which may require input from the NCAA, the host institution/conference shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to address the request.

Section 3 • Awards

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION ENHANCEMENT TEMPLATE

To celebrate and enhance the student-athlete experience at the championship site, the NCAA will work with the LOC to implement a unique and fun way to recognize the champion(s) at the end of competition during the awards. These enhancements should help increase the excitement of the awards presentation and the level of championship branding exposure in photos for student-athlete's memories when looking back on their experience.

This should not add any additional time or delay to TV taking the winning celebration.

When considering what enhancements could work at your championship site, please consider your site and playing surface, whether your championship is indoor or outdoor and weather elements could be a factor, how many teams or individual student-athletes you may have participating in the awards presentation and your budget.

In most cases, enhanced staging and unique signage opportunities are great options for both indoor and outdoor sports. These items can be freestanding or attached to another item easily. Other ideas to consider would be logo cut outs, confetti, streamers, pyrotechnics/fireworks, a short video recap of championship performance(s), champion(s) or coach interview, utilizing pep bands or using an emcee or notable sport representative (i.e., Olympic Medalist) for the presentation.

These items can be covered through the operations budget, as well as the LOC budget. The NCAA has preapproved artwork with pricing available. If you need assistance with ideas or ordering the preapproved items, please contact Nathan Arkins at 317-966-6790 or narkins@ncaa.org. Otherwise, please work directly with your primary signage contact at the NCAA on overall ideas, approvals, production and implementation with the operations staff.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

An All-Tournament Team will be selected by the men's or women's soccer committee at the championship finals site only. Eleven men and eleven women will be selected based on performance during the semifinal and/or championship games. There are no position limitations on the all-tournament team. Of the 11 athletes on the all-tournament team, one will be named the outstanding offensive player and another will be named the outstanding defensive player of the championships.

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NCAA shall provide all awards for participation in an NCAA championship. The championship manager will provide a manifest of the awards being shipped to your site. You should inventory each box and award ensuring the appropriate quantity and label for the event.

The championship manager will also describe how the awards will be distributed during the championship event.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

OR

Preliminary Rounds

MTM, Inc., the NCAA national office awards supplier, will send official NCAA participant medallions for the nonadvancing team's squad size (24) to the tournament director prior to competition. When the awards arrive, the tournament director should inventory all awards to be sure they are undamaged, are correctly inscribed and are in the appropriate quantities. The awards boxes should then be retaped, closed and secured in a limited-access area. Each nonadvancing team will be provided with twenty-four (24) medallions at the competition site. Additional awards can be purchased at the following website: services.mtmrecognition.com/ncaa.

Finals

MTM, Inc., the NCAA national office awards supplier, will send official NCAA awards to the tournament manager approximately two weeks prior to the championship. When the awards arrive the tournament manager should inventory

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all awards to be sure they are undamaged, are correctly inscribed and are in the appropriate quantities. The awards boxes should then be retaped, closed and secured in a limited-access area.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams. The following awards will be sent to the tournament director:

Men's Awards	Women's Awards
29 championship watches	24 championship watches (5 watches will be sent to the team postchampionship)
1 national champion team trophy	1 national champion trophy
1 second place team trophy	1 second place team trophy
2 semifinalist team trophies	2 semifinalist team trophies
29 national champion team mini-trophies	29 national champion team mini-trophies
29 2nd place (silver) team mini-trophies	29 2nd place (silver) team mini-trophies
58 semifinalist (bronze) team mini-trophies	58 semifinalist (bronze) team mini-trophies
1 Elite Scholar-Athlete award	1 Elite Scholar-Athlete award

AWARDS CEREMONY

Preliminary Rounds

The awards ceremony will be conducted at center field immediately after the conclusion of each preliminary-round game. Personnel must be in place and alert to setting up the table for the ceremony without undue delay. A six-foot table should be used to hold the awards and should be appropriately draped and NCAA decals affixed (if possible).

Participation awards will be presented to a maximum of 24 individuals for each team competing or in uniform. The participant awards will be presented to the teams at the competition site following their elimination from the championship. Advancing teams will not receive the participation awards.

It is the desire of the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Committees and NCAA staff for nonadvancing student-athletes to be recognized on-field following each game. At minimum, a nonadvancing team should be represented by one (1) coach and one (1) student-athlete during the postgame recognition ceremony. In addition, both teams should remain on the field for the presentation, regardless of how many coaches and student-athletes are actually taking part in the ceremony.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

Finals

The awards ceremony will be conducted at center field immediately after the conclusion of the championship game and each national semifinal game. Personnel must be in place and alert to setting up the table for the ceremony without undue delay. A six-foot table should be used to hold the awards and should be appropriately draped and NCAA decals affixed (if possible). Following each semifinal game, the nonadvancing team will receive a semifinalist team trophy and mini-trophies, and following the championship games, both teams will receive their respective awards. No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

ELITE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD PRESENTATION

The NCAA Elite Scholar-Athlete Award was created to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The Elite Scholar-Athlete Award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships. Award winners must meet certain criteria including being a sophomore or above, participating in their sport for at least two years at their school, being an active member of their team, and being a designated member of the squad size at their championship. The member institution is responsible for submitting its student-athlete who has the highest GPA and meets all other requirements. The NCAA championships and alliances staff and the NCAA

academic and membership affairs staff will determine the winner of this award for each championship and provide the name of the recipient to the NCAA championships manager as well as the local host shortly before the championship begins. The winner's name should not be released to the public until after they are publicly recognized. If appropriate, the championships manager can share the information with the coach of the winning student-athlete to make sure of that person's attendance. However, they should not inform the student-athlete. Mark Bedics or a member of the NCAA media coordination staff will typically send a template of a release and the logo to the sports information director of the winner's institution the morning of the announcement to allow them time to prepare. In addition, the information will be given to the NCAA social media staff in order for them to prepare a graphic which will post shortly after the announcement.

Each championship should provide an appropriate forum to adequately recognize and celebrate this award winner among their peers and fans of the championship. In addition, information about this award winner may be included in local press releases about the championship and in public address and/or video board announcements during the championship.

Award Presentation

When determining the most appropriate time to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award, the NCAA and host staff should evaluate the time and venue that will create the greatest impact and amount of exposure for the award winner while also appropriately honoring and celebrating their accomplishments. The presentation should be semiformal in nature and not be rushed or overshadowed by other presentations or events surrounding it. The award winner should be visible, the announcement clearly audible and the award presentation should receive the full attention and respect of all of those in attendance. The standard award script is listed below:

At this time, we would like to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award. This award was instituted to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The Elite Scholar-Athlete Award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 92 championships.

The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award for Division X (sport) with a GPA of X.XXX in (major, is student-athlete and institution).

Presentation at the Student-Athlete Banquet

This award has traditionally been presented at the student-athlete banquet for most NCAA championships. In many cases the student-athlete banquet provides the best forum for the award presentation and greatest exposure for the winner as it is the one time when all championship participants and administrators are gathered in one place with a controlled, semiformal environment complete with a sound system and set program. Presenting at the student-athlete banquet also alleviates any potential conflicts with the winning student-athlete's participation in or preparation for an NCAA championship event. Guidelines for presentation of this award at the student-athlete banquet are:

- The award should be presented by either the banquet emcee, the NCAA committee chair or the NCAA championships manager.
- The award should be presented near the end of the program and be clearly recognizable as the premier award being given (see student-athlete banquet page for sample run of show).
- The award should be presented after attendees have had a chance to finish their meals.
- If video screens are available, the video slide or footage of the winning student-athlete provided by Van Wagner may be run as the individual is introduced.
- The coach of the winning student-athlete should be informed to help assure the winner's attendance.
- If a photographer is at the student-athlete banquet or championship, a photo of the recipient receiving the award should be taken. This may be used in-venue during competition days to showcase the academic achievement of the student-athlete or provided to the student-athlete as a memento. The host sports information director should arrange to provide the winner's SID with a copy of the photo.
- If the award winner is recognized primarily at the student-athlete banquet, public address and video board announcements should be made whenever possible and applicable at the actual championship for additional exposure to fans who do not have access to the banquet.

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In-venue Presentation

The NCAA and host staffs are encouraged to look for opportunities for the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award winner to be presented their award in the championship venue during a time when most participants and fans are in attendance. While this may not be appropriate for championships that are spread out over multiple venues, large areas, or have multiple games in one day that disperses the crowd chronologically – it should be explored for championships in which the majority of fans are gathered during a predetermined time frame and can provide their undivided attention to the award presentation. The presentation must also not conflict in any way with the student-athlete's participation or preparation for the championship. Examples could be:

- In a championship with two semifinals played on one day, the award winner could be recognized during the semifinal in which they are not participating.
- If the award winner is not participating or completes competition in the championship rounds of a sport but is still in attendance, they may be recognized during breaks between events, weight classes, heats or during a scheduled break in the game.
- The award winner could be recognized during a scheduled opening or closing ceremony in which all participating student-athletes are in attendance and fans are encouraged to attend.

Other In-Venue Recognition

If the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award winner is not introduced live inside of the competition venue, public address and/or video board announcements recognizing the winner should be played during the championship to recognize this individual. Van Wagner will provide the following standard PA announcement sometimes accompanied by a video board slide. The championships manager (or Branding and Fan Experience representative at Equity and Growth championships) will need to provide Van Wagner the name of the winning individual and a headshot photo if a video board is used for the championship.

The Elite Scholar-Athlete, an award founded by the NCAA, recognizes the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The Elite Scholar-Athlete Award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.

The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2025 NCAA Division III Soccer Championship, with a cumulative grade-point average of (list GPA) in (list Major of Study), is (list winner and school: *Jane Doe of State University*).

Press Release

On the day of/or prior to the winner of the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award being publicly recognized, the NCAA media coordination staff will send out a template of a standard press release to the sports information director of the winner's institution and to the NCAA championships administrator. For selected championships, a press release will be written by a member of the communications or media coordination staff and be provided to national media by the NCAA public relations. If appropriate, this press release may also be provided to the host for distribution to local media.

Social Media

The NCAA X account will promote the 92 winners after the on-site announcement has been made. Mark Bedics will work with the social media staff to make sure they have the appropriate information, including photo to make the graphic and the timing of when to post.

For more information on the Elite Scholar-Athlete Award winners, log on to ncaa.org/elitescholarathlete.

LOCKER ROOM PROGRAM

The NCAA has partnered with select NCAA licensees to celebrate the national champions of each of the 92 NCAA championships. Each team champion shall receive a national champions T-shirt and hat to commemorate the experience of winning a national title. A detailed explanation of the logistics of the locker room program will be provided in championship specific section of the manual. However, listed below is a summary of steps that should be followed when implementing the locker room program at all final championship sites.

- The product is for team champions only. Individual championships are not a part of the locker room distribution.
- Please remove all hangtags and stickers (if needed) on the merchandise before being distributed.
- The merchandise should be distributed to the winning team only immediately after the handshake as soon as the game has officially concluded. Extra product (if any) should be given to the team's equipment manager.
- All winning team inquiries about obtaining additional locker room product should be directed to Jared Hunt with Event 1 for T-shirts (jared.hunt@hanes.com) or Jane Ford with Underground Printing for hats (jford@undergroundprinting.com). Please contact David Clendenin, associate director of licensing, at the NCAA national office should you have any questions, dclendenin@ncaa.org or 317-917-6496.

PARTICIPATION

Preliminary Rounds

Due to the financial burden on a host institution, to be consistent with NCAA policy, and to provide each student-athlete participating in NCAA preliminary-round competition the same experience, **mementos will NOT be permitted at preliminary rounds.**

Finals

Participation awards are permissible (one per participant) as long as they meet the conditions outlined in Bylaws 16.1.4.2 and 16.1.4.3 and **are provided by the NCAA selected student-athlete participation awards licensee.** The NCAA championships and alliances group will be responsible for selecting the participation awards that will be provided. The NCAA championship administrator will work with the participating institutions regarding delivery of mementos after championship competition. Participant awards will not be distributed at the site of the championship(s).

Section 4 • Bands, Spirit Squads and Mascots

ADMISSION

A maximum of 25 band members will be allowed to attend free via a gate list. If a band exceeds 25 individuals, those in excess of 25 may not be seated with the band (even without their instruments). Uniformed cheerleaders and/or dance team members and a costumed mascot (total not to exceed 12 plus one mascot) also shall be admitted via a gate list. This list must be provided to the NCAA representative at the participants' meeting.

ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS

Selected artificial noisemakers are allowed during play (cowbells, drums, thundersticks, etc.). Whistles, air horns and electric amplification are still prohibited. Bands may not play when the game is in progress. During NCAA postseason play, the permitted noisemakers will be allowed unless the venue has prohibited these items. Additionally, any artificial noisemakers that event management staff deems as interfering with spectators ability to enjoy or watch the game will be removed.

DESIGNATED AREAS

A maximum of 12 cheerleaders and/or spirit squad members and mascot are allowed on the field at any one time when the game is not in progress. Mascots must stay out of spectator seating areas. Spirit squad and mascots must stay on their team's half of the field. They shall otherwise remain in an area designated by the tournament manager with the approval of the committee. Use tape to designate the boundaries for spirit squad. They are not permitted to roam the stands, even if that is their normal practice during home games. Band members are not permitted to leave their seating area and may only play during half time or warm-up periods and not when the game is in progress. Flags carried by institutions' representatives are permitted on the field during game stoppages, but must not be used to taunt competitors or block spectators' views.

ELECTRONIC AMPLIFICATION

Full bands are not permitted to use electronic amplification. Small (10 members or fewer) bands are permitted to use reasonable electronic amplification. The host institution should be prepared to assist with accommodations.

FIGHT SONGS/MUSIC

If a team does not have a band present, it may provide a tape of the institution's fight song. Alternate band and electronic music (**if only one band and no team music, electronic music**). Only one band can play at a time.

MAXIMUM NUMBER

A maximum of 25 band members plus the director, 12 uniformed spirit squad members plus the sponsor, and one costumed mascot will be admitted free of charge. Live animal mascots are not permitted. The institution may purchase additional tickets for band members; however, no more than 25 will be permitted to play during any session. The host institution should play electronic music from the time the doors open until the bands begin warming up. The host institution may be asked to provide a band in the event none of the participating teams bring a band.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The host institution is responsible for arranging the playing of the national anthem and shall be sung or played prior to the first game of each session.

Finals: The national anthem shall be played before the first women's semifinal game, the first men's semifinal game and before both championship games. The national anthem will be played after player introductions.

SEATING

Bands should be seated in the area usually reserved for the bands. Place bands so as not to interfere with spectators, photographers or teams, subject to the approval of the committee liaisons.

Section 5 • Banquets

Preliminary Rounds. Due to the financial burden on a host institution, to be consistent with NCAA policy and to provide each student-athlete participating in NCAA preliminary competition the same experience, **banquets, socials and/or receptions will NOT be permitted at preliminary round competitions.**

STUDENT-ATHLETE BANQUET (FINALS ONLY)

To celebrate and welcome all participating student-athletes and championship personnel, the host may provide a banquet (or other student-athlete recognition event) on the evening prior to the championship (Friday evening after practices). The number of guests, financial assistance provided by the NCAA and total budget shall be determined after consultation with the NCAA staff. NCAA corporate champions, partners or official equipment suppliers may receive approval to sponsor the banquet, but no local sponsors are permitted. Officials should not be included in this or any social event including the participating coaches and student-athletes.

The NCAA may provide a video featuring the teams and student-athletes advancing to the final site depending on the amount of footage available and cost of obtaining. If practical, the NCAA staff will request the video from the NCAA Broadcasting group or Van Wagner and inform the host.

The host will be responsible for coordinating all other details and logistics of the banquet including location, emcee, speakers, transportation, catering, A/V equipment, a printed program, etc., in consultation with the NCAA staff. The exact run of show and presentations included can be altered slightly to accommodate the number of student-athletes, teams and guests present as well as unique venue, sport or local elements. However, the run of show listed below and the 90-minute time frame should be used as a guiding template. Please note, that a 60-minute event is ideal, and the event should not last longer than 90 minutes.

Words of reflection or invocation are not required, but may be included at NCAA student-athlete banquets. The NCAA supports a flexible policy which allows each host to follow the traditions and protocols of their university. If included, any words of reflection or invocation should be respectful and inclusive of all.

RUN OF SHOW

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 6:30 p.m. | Greet teams and student-athletes, direct to tables or attractions (emcee or NCAA chair) |
| | Soft A/V presentation (e.g. music, slideshow of participating teams and student-athletes, NCAA tribute video, DII or DIII branding video – optional) |
| 6:45 p.m. | Welcome/comments to student-athletes and guests from NCAA committee chair |
| | Welcome/comments to student-athletes and guests from city/host institution |
| 6:50 p.m. | Dinner buffet lines open or plated dinner served |
| 7:20 p.m. | Guest Speaker (optional) |
| 7:40 p.m. | Comments or Q&A by Head Coaches or selected student-athletes (optional)* |
| | 1. Team 1 |
| | 2. Team 2 |
| | 3. Team 3 |
| | 4. Team 4 |
| 7:50 p.m. | Comments by the NCAA committee chair and the presentation of Elite Scholar-Athlete Award |
| | Championship Video (if available) |
| 7:55 p.m. | Closing Comments (emcee with talking points from NCAA or NCAA chair) |

**Comments by head coaches may not be practical at some championships, especially those with a large number of teams or individual qualifiers.*

BEST PRACTICES

While the guidelines above provide a standard framework for the student-athlete banquet, the event should be tailored to suit the needs, size and unique aspects of the championship. The purpose of the event is primarily to congratulate, celebrate and welcome all of the participating student-athletes to the NCAA championship and the host community.

The most successful NCAA student-athlete banquets have often been enhanced by unique venues, décor, interactive features, program enhancements or keepsake items that showcase the uniqueness of the host city or region and their excitement to host the NCAA championship. The NCAA will rely on the creativity of the host for development of these items. The formality of the event, attendee attire, appropriate number and type of speakers, level of interaction between student-athletes, etc., varies from sport to sport. The NCAA point person can help advise the host on sport specific nuances.

The host will assume the lead production role for the student-athlete banquet but should seek the advice and approval of the NCAA point person on such items as location, budget, timing, final run of show, speaker, menu, giveaway items (some may be provided free of charge by NCAA official equipment suppliers) and additional enhancements. Some past student-athlete banquet enhancements that have been well received are listed below. Please note, however, that the potential impact of all possible banquet enhancements on student-athletes should be weighed against appropriateness, available budget and other needs of the overall championship.

SAMPLE ENHANCEMENTS

- Unique venue – A skybox club overlooking the host university's football stadium; a historical or cultural center; an aquarium or museum where brief tours can be incorporated into the programming; an iconic restaurant, theater or arena in the area; a beach party setting; etc.
- Slideshow – Before and/or after the formal presentation, a slideshow of participating team or student-athlete images is shown on video boards or mixed with NCAA branding messages (host would be responsible for collecting images from schools or preliminary round hosts).
- Speakers – Relevance to the participating student-athletes is the most important factor. Former NCAA champions or graduating student-athletes who went on to professional or Olympic fame in the given sport are ideal, however other options available at no or little expense to the host should be explored as some speakers transcend their sport or profession. Examples of previous speakers include: Todd Martin – Tennis, Dot Richardson – Softball, President of the USGA – Golf, Bill Belichick – Lacrosse (Boston), ESPN personalities, comedians, motivational speakers, well-known football or basketball coaches at the host institution, etc.
- Photo opportunities – Opportunities for teams or individuals to pose for a photo in front of a championship backdrop (possibly with the championship trophy) or in conjunction with unique or iconic elements of the area (e.g., with giant hanging shark in Florida, with longhorn steer in Texas, in winners circle at Churchill Downs, overlooking city skyline, football stadium).
- Favors unique to the sport or area – examples include: mini soccer balls, mini lacrosse sticks, baseball shaped cheese – Wisconsin, make-your-own beach flip flops – Florida; please check with your championship administrator regarding budget, appropriateness and possibility of items provided by official equipment suppliers before pursuing.
- Special entrances for student-athletes – red carpet into venue, spotlights, limos, local youth teams wearing team colors or with pom poms/signs to greet the student-athletes.
- Band/DJ/Interactive Games – Generally only appropriate in more informal settings with numerous teams of both genders, relaxed time constraints, fun atmosphere, etc.
- Event 1/Championship merchandise – sales booth or display area with order forms on-site.
- Special Olympics Component – speaker, athletes, etc. (recommended for all DIII championships).

COACHES' ASSOCIATION AWARD GUIDELINES

The primary purpose of NCAA student-athlete banquets is to honor, celebrate and welcome participating student-athletes in a concise and entertaining manner. Coaches' association awards and other presentations not directly related to the championship itself may be considered for inclusion if they are in the best interest of the attending student-athletes:

- The presentation should be relevant and provide a significant enhancement to the banquet programming for the student-athletes (awards or speakers which have limited relation to the championship or significance to the student-athletes will detract from their enjoyment and the attention they pay to other programming).
- The presentation should be brief (in most cases it should be limited to 5-10 minutes, but should never exceed 30 minutes).
- Awards presented should be limited to those presented to participating student-athletes and coaches or those which have some special significance to the student-athletes in attendance.
- The presentation should be secondary in significance and placement in the programming to any official NCAA championship presentations.
- If these conditions are not met, other championship related platforms should be explored by the NCAA to assist the coaches' association.
- All final decisions on inclusion of coaches' association awards, other presentations, scripts and presenters should be made by the NCAA staff with the best interest and overall experience of the student-athlete in mind.
- NCAA staff may call on leadership team members to assist in delivering and explaining the specific decisions to the coaches' association as needed.

Section 6 • Broadcasting/Internet

Please log on to ncaa.com/media for information regarding broadcast/Internet rights.

INTERNET POLICY

The NCAA website, ncaa.com, serves as the official online resource for NCAA championships.

The NCAA and its partners own the Internet rights to all of its 91 championship events. Rights include live statistics, video and audio streaming, electronic commerce, and postevent footage use. The NCAA and its partners own all game action, practice footage, press conferences, one-on-one interviews or any other content on the NCAA website.

Internet Live Statistics

The NCAA reserves the right to deny permission to produce live statistics for NCAA championship play. In the event the NCAA takes on the responsibility of producing a live statistical representation from an NCAA championship event, no other entity will be permitted to do so. Live statistics are considered a protected right as part of a bundled rights agreement, referenced above. For clarification purposes, a live statistical representation includes play-by-play, score updates, shot charts, updated box scores, photos with captions, etc.

In the event the NCAA does not produce live statistics for a specific championship, the host institution is given priority to produce exclusive live statistics. The host institution will be given the same exclusivities the NCAA would reserve for its rights holder in such an instance.

Once it is determined that neither the NCAA or the host institution plan to exercise their exclusive rights, the ability to produce live statistics will be granted – on a nonexclusive basis – to each participating school. A “participating school” is defined as a school playing in the same event at a specific site.

In each case, no commercial advertising is permitted within the live statistics window, unless permission is specifically granted by the NCAA. Any questions pertaining to live statistics should be sent to Nate Flannery, NCAA director of digital and social media (nflannery@ncaa.org).

TELEVISION/RADIO/INTERNET AUDIO COVERAGE

Radio broadcast rights and made for internet audio at any NCAA championship may take place only through advance written request and permission of the NCAA media services group. (Refer to ncaa.com/media.)

All stations broadcasting any round of an NCAA championship shall be required to fill out the NCAA Championship Radio/Internet Streaming form online. To access the form, log onto ncaa.com/media then click NCAA Audio Policy.

Any secondary use of any picture, audio description, film/tape or drawing of the competition taken or made by the accredited organization or individual to whom this credential has been issued (including but not limited to use in delayed editorial or noneditorial, advertising, sales promotion or merchandising) is prohibited without prior specific written approval of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Television stations, networks or cable systems taping NCAA championship competition recognize that any tapes may be used only in connection with a regularly scheduled television newscast within a seven-day period following the competition and the film clip or taped portion of each such showing will not exceed two (2) minutes in length. Videotape game coverage may only be presented on a sports news broadcast after the game being documented has been completed.

Television stations, networks or cable systems are prohibited from making available game film or tape to any other organization, even though the planned use may be editorial in nature, without advance written permission from the NCAA. Such film or tape may be aired only by the specific station or entity to who this credential is issued. These rights may not be assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed to any person, firm or corporation. Any agency wishing to use NCAA film or tape in any other manner must obtain written permission for such use from the NCAA.

Radio stations that have not purchased rights may report on events of the championship for broadcast within a newscast and are not precluded from reporting or updating the score of a game while it is in progress, but they may not provide live play-by-play.

Television/radio stations, networks or cable systems agree to indemnify and save harmless the NCAA, its officers, agents and employees, and each of its member institutions, their officers, agents and employees, of and from any and all claims, demand and causes of action arising out of anything done or purported to have been done by the television/radio stations, networks or cable systems, its agents or assigns.

WEBSITE GUIDELINES

NCAA championships hosts/LOCs have the opportunity to build their own championship microsite to house information about local events, restaurants, volunteer info, etc. The URL for this site should not be promoted and will be linked directly through [ncaa.com](https://www.ncaa.com). For complete guidelines, please see Appendix C.

Section 7 • Championship Presentation/Fan Engagement

BRANDING

Ancillary Events

The NCAA prohibits host institutions/conferences from conducting special ancillary entertainment activities for fans in conjunction with the championship. Should another entity (e.g., convention and visitor's bureau) elect to stage such activities, the following policies shall apply:

- All plans must be approved in advance by the NCAA.
- NCAA marks, logos, name or references to the championship or tickets may not be used.
- No activity connected with the championship may be sponsored by an entity that is not an NCAA Corporate Champion/Corporate Partner (CC/P).
- Such an activity may not take place on property controlled by the competition venue.

No entity may contact NCAA CC/Ps directly. All such contact shall be directed through the NCAA staff.

Logos

The NCAA owns and controls all rights and interests in its name, logo, seal, trademarks and service marks. Use of these marks is prohibited without advance written approval by the NCAA. Host institutions/conferences should review information outlined in NCAA Bylaw 31.6.1. Only official NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners (CC/Ps) and licensees are permitted to use NCAA marks and logos in commercial advertising and promotions, unless written approval is provided by NCAA Marketing. All and any proposed commercial advertising and promotions, if not by a CC/Ps, must be reviewed by NCAA Marketing staff prior to approval and production.

Public Address Scripts

The public address announcer scripts allow game management to keep the flow of the championship moving through the communication of important information to those in attendance. Communicate with your NCAA championship liaison to secure a PA script and run of show for the championship you are hosting.

Video Boards

The NCAA will provide video board content to sites that have such capabilities. The video board content is important to the overall championship experience for student-athletes and those in attendance. Please work directly with your NCAA championship liaison to identify if there is a Van Wagner producer assigned to you (final sites) or if content should be downloaded from the Van Wagner box site directly (preliminary rounds).

Questions related to video board content logistics should be directed to:

Fred Bowen – Senior Producer
Van Wagner
Telephone: 574-807-5287
Email: fbowen@vanwagner.com

Electronic Messages. No host or venue specific electronic messaging or video board advertising may be displayed during NCAA championships, other than those messages promoting the championship and information provided by the NCAA and Warner Media/CBS. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the championship site. All messages must be approved in advance by the championship staff liaison.

IN-VENUE ENTERTAINMENT

NCAA championship hosts are encouraged to explore in-venue entertainment options during the championship to keep fans engaged, excited and to enhance the atmosphere for both the fans and student-athletes. Various potential areas of in-venue entertainment and the guidelines associated with them are discussed below. Please discuss any forms of in-venue entertainment you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for approval.

Break in Action Contests or Promotions

Hosts should consider continuing regular season halftime/quarter break/timeout contests and promotions or creating new, unbiased or nonsponsored versions of these promotions to use during NCAA championships. Entertainment can also include local performance groups or youth scrimmages. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must not include any commercial recognition (unless approved/provided by an NCAA corporate champion, partner or official equipment supplier and signed off by a member of the NCAA Corporate Relations staff).
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- Must not negatively impact the championship playing surface in anyway.
- No links or resemblance to gambling.
- Participants must be randomly selected.
- No bias toward or against any participating team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the contest or promotion.
- NCAA championship merchandise purchased by the host (e.g., extra volunteer apparel, committee or contributor gifts, items or certificates purchased from Event 1) make good prizes for these contests as prizes with commercial recognition would not be permitted.

National Anthem Singers

Hosts are encouraged to explore their resources to bring in local, regional or even nationally recognized celebrities or groups to sing the national anthem (e.g., state beauty pageant winners, recording artists with strong local ties, famous local choir groups or bands). Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Local groups or personal contacts who could provide this service at no cost are recommended.
- No bias toward or against any participating team (e.g., performers should not wear the apparel of a participating team).
- A brief description and “thank you” for the performing group or individual may be incorporated into the script, but no commercial recognition, sponsorship, sales or recruitment messages should be included.
- Anthem should take two minutes or less to perform, however please build extra time into the script for introduction and placement of the color guard (if applicable), and introduction/applause for the performer.

Enhanced Team Introductions

Examples of this could include using special music or video introductions provided by each team, smoke machines or on-field fireworks, inflatable tunnels, youth athletes forming a tunnel or holding hands with student-athletes as they are introduced, local or school bands playing, etc. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- No bias toward or against any participating team and should be equally executed for all participating teams.
- Should be discussed with the NCAA point person in advance.

Musical Entertainment

Participating school bands will be scheduled into the overall championship presentation when they are available. When they are not, the host institution marching band, other school bands or local bands may be appropriate for entertainment during pregame, halftime or other breaks in the action or for greeting fans in the stadium entrance or other congregating area.

Affiliated Award Recognitions

If appropriate, national award winners for the given sport who are in attendance but not competing at the time of the scheduled recognition may be awarded on field during NCAA championships (e.g., Elite Scholar-Athlete Award winner, coaches' association player of the year winner, coach of the year). Please consult with the NCAA point person to determine appropriateness.

Military Involvement

Military involvement in NCAA championships may include national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, band performances of patriotic songs, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, etc. *Please see Military Involvement below for full description and guidelines.*

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

The NCAA is supportive of inviting the military to participate at NCAA championships if their involvement enhances the championship experience for student-athletes and fans while at the same time honoring the military in an appropriate and unobtrusive manner. At many NCAA championships, local or national military groups have been arranged by the host to perform pregame, during halftime or other breaks in the action. These performances have included, but are not limited to, national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, presentation of large flags, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, eagle releases around the national anthem, reunions of troops returning from overseas with their families, honorary recognitions, etc. Please discuss any forms of military involvement which you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for approval.

Guidelines

- Involvement from military groups often requires substantial government paperwork. Fly-overs and parachute jumps will also require FAA approval to be handled by the host. Please allow adequate lead time to coordinate.
- Involvement from national touring military groups such as the Air Force Wings of Blue or Army Golden Knights may require costs of travel such as hotel rooms, per diems, rental vehicles and even air travel if a military transport cannot be arranged.
- Host connections with local military bases may be more cost-effective in arranging military involvement.
- No messages about military recruitment should be incorporated into on-field performances.
- General messages paying tribute to all military personnel and thanking the particular military unit which has performed are encouraged (e.g., "Let's give a big round of applause for tonight's performance from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band... and for all of the American military service personnel who they proudly represent.").
- Request for any type of presence on-site (e.g., booth space, interactive elements, inflatables, giveaway items or space within an NCAA fan festival) is not permitted unless discussed with your NCAA point person who would in turn discuss with the NCAA corporate relationships team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the presentation.
- All performing or volunteering military groups should be provided complimentary access to watch the championship before or after their presentation if possible. Please discuss this with your NCAA point person.
- When several military groups are in attendance and recognized during one game/session of a multiday championship, you may want to consider a theme night "Military Appreciation Day/Night." This should be discussed with your NCAA point person. Marketing should also be involved if you do a theme night.

STUDENT-ATHLETE BANQUET

To celebrate and welcome all participating student-athletes and championship personnel at the final site, the host may provide a banquet (or other student-athlete recognition event). The number of guests, financial assistance provided by the NCAA and total budget shall be determined after consultation with the NCAA staff. NCAA corporate champions, partners or official equipment suppliers may receive approval to sponsor the banquet, but no local sponsors are permitted.

Officials should not be included in this or any social event including the participating coaches and student-athletes. Per NCAA policy, student-athlete banquets (or other celebratory events) are not permitted at preliminary-round sites.

The NCAA may provide a video featuring the teams and student-athletes advancing to the final site depending on the amount of footage available and cost of obtaining. If practical, the NCAA staff will request the video from the NCAA Broadcasting group or Van Wagner and inform the host.

The host will be responsible for coordinating all other details and logistics of the banquet including location, emcee, speakers, transportation, catering, A/V equipment, a printed program, etc., in consultation with the NCAA staff. The exact run of show and presentations included can be altered slightly to accommodate the number of student-athletes, teams and guests present as well as unique venue, sport or local elements. However, the run of show listed below and the 90-minute time frame should be used as a guiding template. Please note, that a 60-minute event is ideal, and the event should not last longer than 90 minutes.

Words of reflection or invocation are not required but may be included at NCAA student-athlete banquets. The NCAA supports a flexible policy which allows each host to follow the traditions and protocols of their university. If included, any words of reflection or invocation should be respectful and inclusive of all.

Coaches' Association Award Guidelines

The primary purpose of NCAA student-athlete banquets is to honor, celebrate and welcome participating student-athletes in a concise and entertaining manner. Coaches' association awards and other presentations not directly related to the championship itself may be considered for inclusion if they are in the best interest of the attending student-athletes:

- The presentation should be relevant and provide a significant enhancement to the banquet programming for the student-athletes (awards or speakers which have limited relation to the championship or significance to the student-athletes will detract from their enjoyment and the attention they pay to other programming).
- The presentation should be brief (in most cases it should be limited to 5-10 minutes, but should never exceed 30 minutes).
- Awards presented should be limited to those presented to participating student-athletes and coaches or those which have some special significance to the student-athletes in attendance.
- The presentation should be secondary in significance and placement in the programming to any official NCAA championship presentations.
- If these conditions are not met, other championship related platforms should be explored by the NCAA to assist the coaches' association.
- All final decisions on inclusion of coaches' association awards, other presentations, scripts and presenters should be made by the NCAA staff with the best interest and overall experience of the student-athlete in mind.
- NCAA staff may call on leadership team members to assist in delivering and explaining the specific decisions to the coaches' association as needed.

STUDENT-ATHLETE RED CARPET ARRIVALS/TEAM WALKS

At many NCAA championships, a red-carpet arrival or team walk featuring the participating teams and their band and/or cheer squads can be a significant fan enhancement. A red-carpet arrival/team walk allows fans to feel a greater connection with the student-athletes through brief personal interaction that provides lasting memories for young fans and may help create a greater overall impression of the championship for both fans and participating student-athletes, if conducted properly. Listed below are some elements to consider before deciding to conduct a red-carpet arrival/team walk, a list of guidelines for a red-carpet arrival/team walk, and a checklist of items needed for the event.

Elements to Consider

- Number of fans - will there be an adequate number of fans to support a red-carpet arrival/team walk and make it a positive experience for the participating student-athletes.

DIVISION III SOCCER

- Timing and location – is there a time and place available in which there will be an adequate number of fans, space and the event will not conflict with the student-athletes' preparation for or participation in the championship (e.g., before each semifinal match concludes, during a highly attended ancillary event surrounding the championship or only before the championship game).
- Equitable participation – will all participating teams have equal opportunities to participate (it is permissible to have a red-carpet arrival/team walk only on championship night with the two final teams only versus semifinal day and championship day).
- Team's experience – this should be a positive experience for all participating student-athletes, and it should not interrupt their team's normal schedule for a competition. It should be communicated to the team's that a 5-15-minute window between teams is needed. Depending on the schedule of the teams you can predetermine the arrival times or if they do not have any other commitments prior to the arrival at the venue, you can allow the teams to pick their arrival time as long as they are between the 5-15-minute window of separation, giving them more control of their schedule and not interrupting their normal game day routine.
- Fan's experience – consider the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walks for the fans as well. Consider using one of the main entrances or going through a fan fest location (if applicable) to the venue so that even if they did not know a red carpet/team walk event was happening, they still might see it and participate.
- Visibility and promotion – is the red-carpet arrival/team walk in a place that will be highly visible and accessible to all fans and/or can it be adequately promoted through social media, ncaa.com, e-blast, signage? Ask each participating team to send out the red-carpet arrival/team walk times to their ticket holders and on their social media platforms as well.
- Timing of buses – Consider the route that the buses will need to drive in order to arrive on the correct side of the street and the time it will take them to get from the hotel to the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk.

Guidelines

- The host staff will have primary responsibility for coordinating and managing the red-carpet arrivals/team walk, as well as all staff, volunteer, equipment and logistical needs associated with them.
- The host staff should work with the NCAA staff point person to determine if red carpet arrival(s) or team walk(s) are appropriate, for advice, approval, look and collateral.
- The host should arrange for a walkthrough of the event with the NCAA point person as well as security, the facility rep, bus drivers, team hosts the event sponsor and/or fire marshal when appropriate.
- If a team has a band and/or spirit squad, communicate to the team that they should also participate in the red-carpet arrivals/team walks. If only one team has a band, ask the other team for a copy of their fight song to play over a speaker, if sound is available at the red-carpet arrival/team walk area.
- Select a time when the most fans can be accommodated and student-athletes will be least inconvenienced, consider what time the venue opens to the fans and what time the teams would normally choose to arrive.
- Student-athletes should wear game apparel or matching team issued warm-up gear.
- Student-athletes should be escorted by staff, volunteers or security to the security check-in area or their locker room.
- Red carpet arrivals/team walks should have stanchions or barricades to create a safe environment for the student-athletes. Security should also be considered.
- No local sponsorship of student-athlete red carpet arrivals/team walks will be permitted.
- A sound system which can be used in conjunction with the red-carpet arrivals/team walks can be effective in communicating which team is arriving, providing fans with additional championship events and for keeping fans entertained with music and/or team statistics.

Checklist

- Carpet – red, blue or black are all acceptable if the venue has one of these colors on hand, otherwise rent red carpet when the budget allows. Carpet is always preferred, but not essential to making this a successful event.
- Stanchions or other form of a barrier between the student-athletes and fans.
- Red carpet arrival/team walk sign or entrance way (e.g., balloon arch), if appropriate.
- Staff or volunteers.
- Security, if appropriate.
- Lighting elements if it is going to be dark out, depending on the time of the arrivals.
- Tents over the carpet if it is raining, unless the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk is already under a covered location, consider cancelation plan (notifying the teams and fans if the weather is not conducive to hold the red-carpet arrivals/team walk).
- Announcements for emcee – instructional, NCAA branding, NCAA corporate champion or partner recognition, team stats, if appropriate.
- Radios or cell phone numbers for communication. Essential for either the team host or bus driver to notify someone at the red-carpet arrival/team walk location of the arrival time changes, if appropriate.
- Other entertainment (e.g., DJ/music, local drum line) to keep fans entertained before and in-between team arrivals, if appropriate.

Section 8 • Commercialism/Contributors

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Activation of Corporate Champion and Corporate Partner Program. The NCAA may request/require that certain areas of the competition site be made available for use by NCAA Corporate Champions or Corporate Partners (CC/Ps) for the purpose of marketing/promotional events/activities. If such requests are made, the host institution will provide requested space or similar accommodations.

Local Organizing Committee Hospitality. If approved by the NCAA, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has the option to host specified events during the championship. Commercial identification of any kind at any LOC function is prohibited unless specifically approved by the NCAA. The NCAA must approve all uses of NCAA logos, names, or other graphics (including school logos). The LOC shall submit detailed proposals (e.g., location, date, time, food and beverage, entertainment, budget), to the NCAA for review and approval at least 60 days in advance of the event. Any such events conducted are conducted at the LOC's expense.

Other Functions. To enhance the experience for participating institutions, fans, and alumni during NCAA championships, the NCAA (in conjunction with a third-party agency) may facilitate an official hospitality program in or outside of the competition site.

PREMIUMS GUIDELINES

Competition Venue shall provide to the NCAA a set of guidelines, similar to those outlined below, that identify items that are not permitted in the venue no fewer than 120 days prior to the first NCAA championship related event. The NCAA will then utilize and share that information with its NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners.

Laser Pointers. Laser pointers of any kind are not permissible.

Noisemakers. Artificial noisemakers of any kind including but not limited to, air horns, electronic instruments, inflatable noisemakers, etc., are not permissible. Facility personnel are responsible for confiscating prohibited items at the entrance points or removing such items from the facility. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification, but they shall not be used as a distraction.

Promotional Items. Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags) with commercial slogans or identification are not allowed on the premises. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, T-shirts, caps, etc., except products sold/distributed by the NCAA or its agents, may not be distributed on the premises.

Signs, Flags, Banners. Large signs, flags or banners are not permissible. It is the facility personnel's responsibility to confiscate all prohibited articles. Items that can be held by one individual, reflect good sportsmanship and do not block the view of other ticketed patrons may be permitted. In no case may a sign, flag or banner be affixed to the facility.

Video Camera/Still Camera Policies. Ticketed patrons shall not bring video equipment into the facility on game days. Still cameras with a lens no longer than four inches are permissible on any day.

NCAA CORPORATE CHAMPION AND CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM

The NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners Program (i.e., corporate sponsors of the NCAA), managed by the NCAA along with Turner and CBS Sports, authorizes the exclusive rights to license NCAA trademarks, tickets and taglines in commercial promotions with respect to the NCAA championships.

The host shall not solicit or permit involvement by any corporations or entities whose products may be in competition with any of the NCAA corporate champions or corporate partners. All proposed commercial involvement must receive prior approval of the NCAA.

NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners are dedicated to emphasizing the role of athletics in higher education, support all 92 NCAA Championships and are granted a wide variety of benefits, including certain category exclusivity around use of NCAA logos, trademarks, designations and championship tickets.

For more information and a current list of corporate champions and partners, please click on the following link:

[NCAA Corporate Champions & Partners](#)

LOCAL CONTRIBUTOR PROGRAM

Currently, local non-CCP corporate entities are not permitted to utilize the NCAA's registered marks, logos, tickets, name or references to the championship in a promotional/commercial manner. If a host institution/conference has an interest in using value-in-kind contributors, the contributor plan must be approved in advance by the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff. The LOC is permitted to involve a local contributor in the championship only as a sponsor of LOC activities or as a ticket package purchaser (pending NCAA approval of said local entities and approval of the arrangement).

Local contributors may only be referred to as "local contributors of the LOC." Local contributors may not use the word "official," "official sponsor of" or "corporate champion/partner" in any manner. Local contributors will not receive any in-venue or on-site recognition/branding/exposure, with the exception of small signage in private hospitality locations; in the souvenir (print or digital) game program, and/or additional digital advertisement space. In being recognized, these local contributors must be referenced as supporters of the local organizing committee, and not of the NCAA. Any recognition, branding and/or exposure creative must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for review and approval.

Local contributors may be provided an opportunity to purchase an advertisement in the souvenir game program, provided the corporation is not a competitor of any NCAA Corporate Champion. All advertisements must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for advance approval. As noted above, local contributors who purchase an NCAA-approved ticket package may not receive recognition of any kind without the advanced approval of the NCAA staff.

NCAA TRADEMARKS

NOTE: These general guidelines do not include merchandise designs. All product designs must be submitted through the NCAA's licensing program administered by The Collegiate Licensing Company. Inquiries should be directed to the NCAA licensing staff. [Click here for more information about the NCAA licensing program.](#)

1. ALL uses of NCAA trademarks or logos must be submitted to the NCAA for approval.
2. [Click here for the most current list of NCAA licensed or owned trademarks.](#)
3. Downloads of NCAA logos may be obtained through the [NCAA Digital Library](#).
4. The NCAA's position on inclusion of ® and ™ marks is first and most prominent use.

The location of the trademark and how it is used is the primary factor in determining if a trademark symbol should be included in text. If the protected logo location is prominent and the primary focus on the page or product design, an ® or ™ in the text is not necessary. However, if the logo location is placed lower on the page or is secondary to the message being delivered, an ® or ™ in the text or header (first use only) should be inserted.

In the case of NCAA Women's Final Four, an ® is required after NCAA and after Women's Final Four. The NCAA owns "NCAA" and "Women's Final Four", but "NCAA Women's Final Four" is not a registered mark in itself: NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

To further expand, if the NCAA primary logo, which displays the registered mark, is used in a prominent position; NCAA Women's Final Four would require an R-ball only after the Four because the NCAA has already been identified as a registered mark. NCAA Women's Final Four®.

5. In radio and television advertising, NCAA should only be pronounced as N-C-A-A or N-C-double-A. It should not be referenced as "N-C-two-A" or in any other fashion.
6. Official names cannot be changed or abbreviated unless specifically trademarked (Final 4, F4).
7. There may be no registration of or use of NCAA marks within internet domain names unless advance approval from the NCAA is secured and ownership of the URL is maintained by the NCAA. Such use of NCAA marks in Internet directories is prohibited; however, members may use an NCAA mark within a member URL, provided such NCAA mark does not appear in the domain name portion of the URL. By way of example, members may use the following URL: www.memberx.edu/ncaa.

Identification of commercially named venues on NCAA materials

- For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the location of an NCAA championship, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships can be printed, in text-only, on any and all pertinent materials bearing NCAA marks (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics).
- The logo of a commercially named venue cannot be used on any materials bearing NCAA logos or trademarks.
- The venue's name and information (without use of logos) will also be included on the dedicated website that the NCAA will provide to sell tickets.

NCAA logo use by commercially named venues

For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the sale of NCAA tickets, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships is permitted to display (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics) the championship site-specific logo as recognition of the event being held in its facility. The NCAA logo must be in the form of a link to a dedicated web page that will be established and/or assigned by the NCAA championship administrator to sell the NCAA tickets.

The following conditions apply to this NCAA logo use:

- The NCAA championship site-specific logo can be used by the venue to communicate the NCAA event as one of the variety of upcoming events at the facility. The NCAA logo must be used only once and only as a part of a group of other logos of events being held at the venue.
- The one-time logo use is limited to the site's "home web page" or "event web page."
- The NCAA logo must be placed in a location on the venue's web page so that there is clear and defined separation between the NCAA logo and any other commercial logos (including that of the commercially named venue). [This is because NCAA Corporate Champions/Corporate Partners and Turner/CBS have graphic exclusivity in the use of NCAA logos and marks.] Logos of the venue's or the website's advertisers/sponsors may be used on the home/event web page even with the NCAA's championship site-specific logo on the same page if those commercial entities are clearly separated from the NCAA logo (e.g., are on a different colored background and are located at the bottom of the website page).
- The venue is not permitted to claim to be "the home," a host or co-host of any session of the NCAA championship.
- The logo provided by the NCAA championship staff cannot be modified in any way.
- ALL uses of NCAA logos must be submitted to the NCAA staff for approval.

NCAA trademarked protection language

NCAA trademarks benefit from consistent "source identification" to the public through basic legal language attributing ownership.

The legal statement should be used on "printed" materials of all types for all NCAA trademarks, except where there is agreement by key staff stakeholders that aesthetic or space limitations prevent legal language. The legal statement is NOT required when the NCAA blue disk or the word NCAA is used alone and part of NCAA-produced materials without any of the conditions below.

- Printed items that display logos of other business entities/organizations (i.e., corporate champions/corporate partners, network partners, official suppliers, official licensees, local organizing committees and NCAA members).
- Printed items that are produced to be "used" by other business entities/organizations including NCAA members and host institutions.
- Printed items produced for advertisement/promotional purposes (i.e., magazine and newspaper ads, NCAA souvenir publication ads, posters, newsletters).

The NCAA requires protection language as outlined below. This does not have to be prominently displayed language and is expected to be included as some form of "mouse print."

The examples below are written only to represent the most typical examples. If you are unsure of exact wording for a specific example, please contact Nathan Arkins at narkins@ncaa.org or 317-917-6222.

For blue disc and/or secondary (word) mark, please use:

- NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark, please use (for example):

- NCAA and March Madness are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- NCAA, NCAA Sweet Sixteen and Road to the Final Four are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark used with other authorized business entities, please use (for example):

- The NCAA, March Madness, Men's Final Four and Women's Final Four are trademarks owned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

NCAA Licensed Trademarks

College World Series and Women's College World Series: The NCAA is the exclusive licensee of these marks, registered by Major League Baseball, in connection with the NCAA Division I Men's Baseball Championship and the Division I Women's Softball Championship.

All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

Helpful Links:

[The NCAA's Advertising and Promotional Standards](#)

[NCAA Trademarks](#)

[NCAA Trademark Protection Program](#)

[NCAA Digital Library](#)

[NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners](#)

OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/LICENSEE SUPPLIERS

The NCAA licensing program is designed to ensure the quality and consistency of all of the NCAA's Championship Event merchandise, protect the intellectual property of the NCAA and our member schools, and generate revenue to enhance programs that support NCAA student-athletes.

Any premiums and/or other merchandise that bear NCAA marks, brackets, taglines or other NCAA references must be produced by an official NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier. There may be royalties or other related costs associated with such items. If the NCAA is unable to identify a current NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier to provide a specific piece of merchandise, the NCAA will work to sublicense (on a short-term basis) a company that can provide the specific item.

For a list of NCAA licensees and official equipment suppliers, ncaa.org/championships/marketing/ncaa-official-licensee-list.

ADVERTISING/SIGNS/"LOOK AND DÉCOR"

- Advertising/Banners/Signs/Displays.** The host shall not permit advertising, marketing identification, banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the general public seating/viewing area of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) (i.e., any place that can be seen from the playing surface or seats), including the scoreboard and the playing surface prior to or during the conduct of the championships, other than NCAA, media partner or NCAA corporate champion/partner branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scoreboards, LED scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements) approved by the NCAA. Any permanently affixed (or previously leased) advertising banners, signs, cup holders, select equipment bearing corporate marks (e.g., TVs, computer monitors, stats monitors or displays), product/exhibit displays (e.g., car displays, branding exhibits/kiosks) shall be covered with décor elements or other NCAA directed elements by the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) and at the expense of the venue(s) as specified by the NCAA, including costs of production and installation and strike. Similarly, for any surrounding areas/facilities that

are to be used by the NCAA for official events, no advertising, marketing, identification, banners, signs, decals, sampling, distribution or displays of any kind shall be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within those areas unless authorized by the NCAA. All professional signage/marks/pennants/banners/retired numbers/etc. may continue to be displayed. NCAA staff representatives have the discretion, during their site visit or when on-site in advance of the tournament, to have the building staff remove a sign/banner. Collegiate championship banners or those with retired numbers of collegiate performers can remain. All usage of marks must follow NCAA brand guidelines and must be approved by NCAA staff in advance.

- b. **Alcohol/Tobacco/Gambling.** All alcohol, tobacco and gambling advertisements/corporate identification within broadcast view or viewable by game attendees in the competition venue bowl must be covered at the expense of the host or venue. Any alcohol, tobacco or gambling advertising that is deemed by the NCAA as not viewable from within the bowl does not need to be covered, whether in the concourse or in ancillary venues. All other advertisements/corporate identification in the noted areas must, at a minimum, not be backlit unless otherwise authorized by the NCAA. This would apply to preliminary rounds and the championship rounds for all the NCAA's 92 championships.
- c. **External Signs.** All exterior venue corporate signage, other than professional franchise identification, must be covered as specified by the NCAA and must be covered with décor elements as specified by the NCAA at the expense of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s).
- d. **Commercially Named Venues.** Commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) may display no more than two preexisting interior signs consisting only of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s)' name at the top of the venue, with placement designated by the NCAA. The competition, practice and ancillary event venue(s) signage design and placement must be approved by the NCAA. If the commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) is an existing NCAA Corporate Champion or Corporate Partner, the NCAA, in its sole discretion, may allow additional branding of the commercially named venue(s).
- e. **Covering existing signage/product branding.** In regard to any signage that is to be covered in accordance with these bid specifications, the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s) shall not limit or prohibit the ability of the NCAA to use signage or other elements of its own third-party designees in covering such existing signage/product branding.
- f. **NCAA Corporate Champion and Partner Branding/Recognition.** The NCAA shall have the right to display branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements, inflatables, projections, kiosks, decals, window clings, lighting, street teams, logos) for the Association, its corporate champions and partners and media partners inside and outside of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s). These locations, include but are not limited to the concourse, within the competition bowl and venue exterior without limitation.
- g. The NCAA shall provide the competition venue with the appropriate stickers/field stencils for the approved playing surface markings for the championship.
- h. If facility approves, patrons are permitted to bring in small signs (signs which can easily be held by one person and cannot block the view of anyone seated around them), as long as any writing or slogans on them are in good taste. In addition, it is permissible for patrons to bring in non-noise-making items (in compliance with NCAA and facility premium guidelines) as long as they do not include any (non-CCP) commercial identification.
- i. At no charge, the NCAA will have full access to, and control of, any and all LED and other digital signage inventory, both internal and external to the competition venue. This includes TV monitors, video screens, video walls, LED fascia, and all external signage, digital or otherwise. This includes any and all digital inventory to be made available at the time of the championship, inclusive of any inventory that may be added by the venue after this bid document is signed.

Section 9 • Drug Testing

The NCAA is dedicated to fair and equitable competition throughout each round of NCAA championships and strongly supports the drug-testing program established by its membership, to safeguard the health and safety of the participating student-athletes.

Comprehensive drug testing details for hosts can be found in the Championship Site Coordinator Manual [here](#).

Section 10 • Facility, Equipment & Space Requirements

NEUTRALITY

Host institutions should keep in mind that **an NCAA event is not a home event**. Neutrality is important; therefore, hosts should not create a “home atmosphere” through the use of players on programs, displaying host institutional signage or similar measures.

CONCESSIONS

Food and beverage prices shall be no higher than similar events or primary tenants in the facility.

Vending. No food, beverage or merchandise, of any nature, may be vended or dispensed in the seating areas, except before games begin. During competition, selling is restricted to the facility concourse and established selling locations.

DECORATING AND ADVERTISING

Banners at facility. The following banners are permissible inside the facility:

- NCAA Banners
- Appropriate institutional (team) banners (authorized by NCAA representative)

Covering. The facility shall not permit any advertising banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the seating area (i.e. any place that can be seen from the playing court or seats), including the scoreboard, during the championship session or practices, other than NCAA banners, as specified by the NCAA. No local/school radio banners are allowed.

Institutional Signage. Institutional signage does not need to be covered. Championship banners may remain if permanent (not hung seasonally). If temporary and hung on a seasonal basis, they must be taken down.

Directional Signs. Directional signs should be posted in all areas used by the participants and the media. NCAA staff can provide directional signage templates if requested.

Table Banner (site specific for finals). The NCAA will provide one banner for the scorer’s table and one for the press tables (finals only) opposite the team benches. The NCAA staff will consult with the tournament manager to determine the dimensions for the banners. No other ornamentation or signage is allowed on the scorer’s table. Cover the scorer’s table with bunting or other appropriate material if the banner does not cover the entire table.

EQUIPMENT

Game Balls - provided for tournament play. The Wilson Vivido, the official NCAA championship soccer ball, will be sent directly to the host from the manufacturer via overnight shipping and should arrive no later than 48 hours prior to the start of competition.

All preliminary-round sites will receive twelve balls per site. These balls shall be used for all games and should be broken in prior to the championship games, if possible. If the soccer balls do not arrive on Thursday, please contact Bryce Peters for men’s sites (317-917-6885; bpeters@ncaa.org) or Ethan Walker for women’s sites (317-917-6476; ewalker@ncaa.org) at the national office.

The final site will receive 36 balls (18 per gender). If the soccer balls do not arrive one week prior to the championship, please contact Bryce Peters or Ethan Walker.

At the completion of the competition, a ball should be given to each participating team. The remaining balls may be given away to spectators through a promotional activity (e.g., youth groups) or retained by the host. There is no obligation to provide balls to officials. The host should provide practice balls, if needed.

Air Horns. Two compressed air horns should be on site.

Public-address system. An adequate public-address system should be on site.

Scoreboard. Scoreboards shall display the names of the participating institutions rather than “Home” and “Visitors.”

Team Names. If the scoreboard does not have the capability of displaying the teams’ names electronically, printed generic home and away signs must be posted on the scoreboard (required at championship site).

Timing Device/Clock. Game clocks must be operational at all practice sessions, and host institution personnel must be on hand to operate the clock during practices.

Video Review. Video review is permissible as long as it is done in accordance with rule 5.7 in the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#). Planned use of video review must be discussed at the administrative meeting and officials’ meeting. If a host plans to provide video review, it must be made available for all games at the site.

Video Screens. If electronic video replay screens are available, they may be used at the facility’s expense. Replays of any games officials’ calls are not permissible. Video screens may not display advertising.

FACILITY USE

The facility shall be available the previous day (or night, if game is to be played under lights). All teams are allowed one (1) one-hour practice on the game field, if weather conditions permit.

FIELD

The playing field should meet all specifications as outlined in the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#). Make sure seating or standing arrangements at the field allow spectators to be no closer than 10 feet, but preferably 20 feet, from touch and goal lines. The field must be properly marked, including coaching and photographers boxes, in accordance with NCAA rules. The facility is expected to be in compliance with all applicable city, state or federal regulations concerning access and seating for the handicapped.

Playability of the game field will be determined by the games committee, in conjunction with the national office.

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Entrances. Entrances must be staffed by an adequate number of persons. Signage should be posted to clearly identify all entrances (i.e., media, player-ticket and band/spirit squad).

Player-Guest Entrance. A gate must be identified to admit patrons holding player-guest tickets.

Team Personnel Entrance. An entrance, near the locker rooms, must be identified for all student-athletes and coaches.

Locker Rooms. A locker room should be provided for each team, and one room for the game officials. Both teams must be afforded comparable game-day accommodations and amenities

Security. Security personnel should be stationed at the door of each locker room (competition days only) after accompanying the teams and officials from the field. Provide security at the door of each locker room to accompany the teams and officials to and from the field. Ensure that the visiting team is met on arrival at the facility for practice and is shown to its locker room.

Supplies. Each locker room must be clean and adequately supplied with towels, toilet paper, water and ice, soft drinks (Coke products), and grease boards, markers and erasers for all practices and games. The committee will inspect the locker rooms prior to the first practice.

Signs. Signs should be posted to identify the teams’ and officials’ locker rooms. A sign reading, “NCAA Use Only” shall be posted on the official’s locker rooms.

Media Areas. The areas used for the media workroom and the postgame interviews should be in close proximity to one another and to the locker rooms in order to facilitate the media’s work and access for coaches and players. There needs to be adequate distance between the interview area and competition field to ensure interviews can be conducted without interruption. The workroom and interview room must be separate rooms (e.g., not one room divided by a curtain). Neither should be adjacent to the hospitality area.

DIVISION III SOCCER

Workroom. The media workroom should be equipped with adequate internet/Wi-Fi capabilities, electrical outlets and other necessary supplies. NCAA logos should be displayed appropriately.

Refreshment Area. A refreshment area should be set up adjacent to or in the media workroom to accommodate the working press throughout open practices and competition. Only NCAA, Dasani and/or generic drinking cups (devoid of commercial identification) should be used in the refreshment area.

Postgame Interview Room. The postgame interview room should be “dressed” appropriately to reflect the prestige of the event by (a) placing NCAA championship signage and logos on the podium and walls; (b) using draping on tables and other areas as necessary; (c) setting up a platform for the interviewees and moderator; (d) providing a riser for photographers and cameramen at the back of the room; and (e) providing a sound system (if necessary). Security personnel should be stationed outside the room to check credentials.

Backdrop (Finals site only): The NCAA will provide a back-drop with the NCAA logos to be hung behind the podium.

Holding Area. An area adjacent to the interview room shall be designated as a holding area for players waiting to be interviewed. It should be situated so players do not have to walk through the actual interview room to reach the holding area. Chairs and water should be provided so players are able to wait comfortably.

NCAA Committee/Games Committee Meeting Room. Room should be large enough to accommodate 20 people comfortably. This area needs to be close to the competition field and not visible to the public.

Athletic Training Room. Provide an athletic training room stocked with towels and other necessary equipment, and staff it with the appropriate personnel prior to and during the games and practice sessions.

PARKING

There should be enough parking spaces adjacent to the facility for the committee, team personnel, game officials, NCAA staff and media. In addition, designate an area for team buses to drop off and pick up passengers.

VIDEOTAPING

Potential hosts must arrange for an elevated area for each team to videotape its own game if it wishes to do so. Each participating team is automatically authorized to videotape its own game; it is not necessary to have them sign any forms.

At the finals site, all games will be webcast live on ncaa.com. The final site host should film each game and provide a copy to the participating teams and officials. The NCAA will not reimburse host institutions to webcast games during preliminary rounds.

CONCESSIONS

Food and beverage prices shall be no higher than at similar events or primary tenants in the facility.

LOCKER ROOMS

Officials

A locker room should be made available for officials. If there are both men and women officials, then an additional locker room should be made available. A sign reading, “NCAA Use Only” shall be posted on the official’s locker rooms.

Teams

A locker room should be provided for each team. If locker rooms are subpar for visiting teams, the host team is expected to use the “least suitable” locker room.

Player Warmup. If locker rooms are not large enough for teams to use as a stretching area, provide separate spaces for two teams to use for stretching and warmup.

Security. Security personnel should be stationed at the door of each locker room (competition days only) after accompanying the teams and officials from the field.

Supplies. Each locker room must be clean and adequately supplied with towels, toilet paper, water and ice, and white boards, markers and erasers for all practices and matches. The committee will inspect the locker rooms prior to the first practice.

Signs. Signs should be posted to identify the teams' and officials' locker rooms.

NCAA SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Entrances. Entrances must be staffed by an adequate number of persons. Signage should be posted to clearly identify all entrances (i.e., media, player-ticket and band/spirit squad).

Player-Guest Entrance. A gate must be identified to admit patrons holding player-guest tickets.

Media Areas. The areas used for the media workroom and the postgame interviews should be in close proximity to one another and to the locker rooms in order to facilitate the media's work and access for coaches and players. There needs to be adequate distance between the interview area and field to ensure interviews can be conducted without interruption. The workroom and interview room must be separate rooms (e.g., not one room divided by a curtain). Neither should be adjacent to the hospitality area.

Postgame Interview Room. The postgame interview room should be "dressed" appropriately to reflect the prestige of the event by (a) placing NCAA championship signage and logos on the podium and walls; (b) using draping on tables and other areas as necessary; (c) setting up a platform for the interviewees and moderator; (d) providing a riser for photographers and cameramen at the back of the room; and (e) providing a sound system.

Holding Area. An area adjacent to the interview room shall be designated as a holding area for players waiting to be interviewed. It should be situated so players do not have to walk through the actual interview room to reach the holding area. Chairs and water should be provided so players are able to wait comfortably.

Athletic Training Room. Provide an athletic training room stocked with towels and other necessary equipment, and staff it with the appropriate personnel prior to and during the games and practice sessions.

OFFICIAL SCORER'S TABLE

There should be enough seats at the scorer's table for the following individuals: scorer, table official, public-address announcer, scoreboard operator and one NCAA representative. If possible, the following also should be seated there: statistics crew of at least four people, additional NCAA representatives (finals only). If applicable, adult supervision should be provided.

Neutrality. All scorer's table personnel must refrain from cheering for either team and from wearing institutional attire; they are considered "neutral" and must behave in such a manner. They should report to the table no later than one hour prior to game time to meet with the game officials and committee.

PARKING

A parking area for the participating teams and tournament officials (i.e., key game personnel, NCAA representative and umpires) should be designated. Parking passes should be provided. For participating teams, five parking passes for those traveling via van, three parking passes for those traveling via bus.

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboards shall display the names of the participating institutions rather than "Home" and "Visitor" for the finals (mandatory) and all tournament games if possible.

SIGNAGE/ADVERTISING

CC/P Signage Requirements. NCAA Corporate Champion and/or Partner banners should be displayed at the entrance for outdoor championships at eye level, preferably.

Each round of every NCAA championship will receive a shipment of official NCAA signage that helps identify the event as an NCAA championship. The signage includes a quantity of banners and decals displaying NCAA logos in a variety of sizes.

DIVISION III SOCCER

Possible uses of NCAA signage include displaying it at the championship site, especially in the competition area within camera angles, and all related championship functions. Signage should always be displayed during news conferences and banquets.

NCAA-produced signage materials may be reused at other championships. Before discarding materials, please check with an NCAA championships representative. Materials containing NCAA marks and logos may not be sold.

Banners Inside Competition Site. The following banners are permissible inside the facility:

- NCAA Banners
- Appropriate institutional (team) banners (authorized by NCAA representative)

NOTE: These banners may be used to cover nonpermissible signage.

Covering. The competition site shall not permit any advertising banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the seating area (i.e. any place that can be seen from the playing field or seats), including the scoreboard, during the championship session or practices, other than NCAA, TV partners and radio banners, as specified by the NCAA. No local/school radio banners are allowed.

Institutional Signage. Institutional signage does not need to be covered. Championship banners may remain.

Directional Signs. Directional signs should be posted in all areas used by participants and the media.

Video Boards and Electronic Messages. No electronic board advertising of any kind or messages promoting non-NCAA events in the facility may be displayed during practice or competition. The following kinds of messages are permissible: announcements of results from other NCAA competition; reminders that NCAA merchandise and concessions are on sale on the concourse; or any public-services announcements or promotional messages specifically provided by the NCAA.

TEAM BENCHES

Benches should be separate from the bleachers and have adequate space for 50 people (bench size). The home bench is located to the right of the scorer's table when facing the table from the field.

VIDEO EXCHANGE POLICY

Host institutions are responsible for filming and providing film of each game to all participating teams at the site of competition for all rounds of the championship. Film must be delivered within an hour of game completion of the last game of the day. Preferred format listed below.

On request and if available, each host should arrange for an elevated area for each team to film its own game. However, filming of an opponent's game is not permitted. Each institution is permitted to use one camera and may film only that portion of the competition in which it participates. The film may not be used for any commercial purposes. An institutional representative shall contact the tournament director at the host institution to arrange for camera space at that site.

Video Exchange Policy. For all rounds of the championship, there will be a direct video exchange with opponents. Each institution will provide its two most recent games. Video must arrive by noon Eastern time on the Monday prior to competition. The preferred format for video exchange is: 1) online file transfer; 2) external file exchange (i.e., flash drive/memory stick). Third-party video access and online video libraries are permissible in addition to the direct exchange.

SCOUTING

Live scouting is permissible at all rounds of the tournament. If in-person scouting occurs, the individual(s) shall pay the regular admission price.

Section 11 • Financial Administration

AUDIT

Sites will be randomly selected for financial and box office audits following the championship.

The NCAA will make every effort to notify sites selected for audits within 30 days after the submission of financial reports, but reserves the right to audit a site up to one year after the championship. Receipts, facility settlements, expense reimbursements and honorariums are subject to change until the audits are reviewed and accepted by the NCAA. If selected for audit, the following documentation will be requested: box office audit reports or sales summaries; ticket purchase invoices or statements; unsold tickets; invoices, contracts or timesheets supporting all expenses; general ledger; bank statements; check copies and reconciliations; and competition venue rental agreement. The documentation should support all information reported on the host financial report.

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

As part of the site-selection process, each prospective host must submit a proposed budget for approval by the NCAA. All receipts and expenses associated with the conduct of the championship competition shall be included in the proposed budget. This includes lodging expenses for officials and site representatives, if applicable. The proposed budget must be submitted and approved by the NCAA prior to the first date of competition of the championship. Additionally, best efforts should be made by the host to reasonably forecast expected ticket sales from the given championship.

The host institution is responsible for adhering to championship expenses as approved by the NCAA, including (but not limited to) competition site rental, maintenance, insurance, printing of tickets, ushers, maintenance personnel, ticket sellers, ticket takers, minor officials, police and security, promotion, publicity, advertising, meetings, banquets, medical staff. Other expenses not included in the original proposed budget must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

It is also incumbent upon the host to understand and remit all necessary taxes related to the sale of tickets to the given championship for sales made by both the NCAA and the host at their given state and locality. All consideration must be given by the host for certain relief of taxes with respect to the NCAA's not for profit status under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, certain championships may be required to provide an outside letter of attestation speaking to their tax status provided by an outside CPA/accounting firm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Host institutions must complete the online financial report, which includes accurately reporting all revenues and expense, within 60 days after the final date of competition at the site (if applicable). An automated email will be generated notifying the host of the final settlement payable/receivable amount. Remittance of any amount due to the NCAA should be made to the NCAA upon approval of the financial report by NCAA staff and receipt of this email. If requested, the host may be required to provide all supporting documentation to validate the revenues and expenses of their site. As a best practice, hosts are encouraged to upload all appropriate receipts, ticket audits and other supporting documentation to their host report on the "documents" tab as documentation supporting their revenue and expense figures.

Financial reports showing net receipts are not considered complete until payment is received at the national office. Institutions that fail to meet the 60-day reporting period will be assessed the following penalties: 60-90 days past due (25% reduction in honorarium), 91-120 days (50% reduction in honorarium) and 121 days or more (100% reduction in honorarium). If there is a shortfall in the funds available to reimburse approved expenses and honorariums, the NCAA will make best efforts to reimburse the host within 5 business days of the report being approved by the NCAA finance and accounting department.

DRUG TESTING EXPENSES

The budget for drug testing expenses should only be completed and returned to Drug Free Sport if the host has been notified that drug testing will occur. The drug-testing budget and expenses are separate from the financial report form. The drug-testing budget form is an appendix in the [drug testing manual](https://ncaa.org/Student-Athlete%20Programs/Health%20and%20Safety) (ncaa.org/Student-Athlete Programs/Health and Safety).

PARTICIPANTS

The NCAA will reimburse the competing institutions for transportation and per diem expenses in accordance with the NCAA travel policies. Once the championship is completed, participating institutions should submit reimbursement through the [Travel Expense System \(TES\)](#) within 45 days of the competition. Please note that if you host a championship, the submission of per diem and/or transportation reimbursement is in addition to the host budgeting and approval process defined above.

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

The NCAA representative's hotel room and tax shall be paid (via direct bill) by the host institution and submitted on the financial report. All other expenses (i.e., per diem, travel) will be paid directly by the NCAA.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation. The NCAA shall pay for the rental of cars for a predetermined number of game officials and the NCAA committee representative(s). The championships staff will approve the individual to get a rental car and the individual will need to call Short's Travel to book.

Local Transportation for Teams. For team sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation, must arrange ground transportation through Short's Travel. Individual sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation receive mileage reimbursement in accordance with the travel policy.

Air Transportation for Teams. If a school is eligible for air transportation, all air travel must be booked through Short's Travel.

NCAA Championship Travel Policies

Section 12 • Game Management

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

The committee, or its site representative, will conduct a mandatory administrative meeting before the first game at each preliminary-round site and at the final site to review championship matters. The meeting should take place at least two hours before the start of the first game. It is mandatory that each institution's head coach attend the meeting. The site representative shall lead the meeting; the tournament director, host SID, head official and host athletic trainer have a role in the meeting.

BALL-ROTATION CREW

The host institution will provide a sufficient number (minimum of six) of ball persons and will make certain that they are on the field one-half hour prior to game time. Their clothing shall not display any commercial identification or institutions' name or mascot and should be distinguishable from competing team colors (i.e., they are neutral parties and should be instructed to behave as such). Each person's duty is to act as a ball retriever to avoid delay of the game. All ball persons shall be instructed by and are under the direct supervision of the game officials.

Age Restrictions. While there is no specific age restriction on the ball-rotation crew, college-age or older is strongly preferred. Seventh or eighth graders are permitted to work as part of the crew, but NOT grades 9-12 in order to avoid potential problems with them as prospective student-athletes.

Uniforms. Championship shirts should be provided for the ball-rotation crew. This can be included as an expense on the financial report. They will be asked to provide their own shorts; however, they should be dressed in the same color. They should wear neutral (nonhost) attire.

GAMES COMMITTEE

The Division III Men's Soccer Committee will designate an NCAA site representative for each preliminary-round site; the host will be notified of this person's name and contact information at least four days before the competition. This representative will serve as chair of the games committee, which for preliminary rounds will be comprised of the host institution's tournament director and the head official.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Backup field. The host institution should be prepared with a backup field on which to conduct competition, should inclement weather make the competition field unplayable.

Dates of competition. The host institution should do everything possible to conduct the competition on the scheduled dates, as there is no guarantee that competition will be able to extend beyond the originally scheduled dates.

PERSONNEL

Announcer. An effort should be made to acquire a professional announcer with experience in announcing lacrosse games. If possible, the announcer should be assisted prior to the competition by a host institution designee, who shall provide typed information on statistics, interesting notes about the participating teams and announcements (e.g., promotional announcements about the next day's matchup).

Game Announcements. Other than player introductions, game proceedings announcements are limited to (a) those of an emergency nature; e.g., paging a doctor; (b) those of a "practical" nature; e.g., announcing that a car has left its lights on; (c) announcements that NCAA souvenir merchandise, game programs and concessions are on sale in the arena; (d) announcements of scores from another NCAA competition site; and (e) the paid attendance figure. It is not appropriate for the public-address announcer to introduce VIPs or to provide information pertinent only to the host institution's activities unrelated to the tournament (Appendix C).

Player Introductions. The visiting team's nonstarters are introduced first numerically, followed by starters numerically and captains, then coaches. Then the home team's nonstarters, starters, followed by coaches. The officials are announced last.

DIVISION III SOCCER

Facility Management. Depending on the facility, the number of people needed in each category will vary. Besides the number that you designate, it is always best to have four or five persons who can fill in at a variety of places. Here are the types of personnel needed:

- Adequate security, with at least two uniformed security persons.
- Ticket sellers.
- Ticket takers.
- Ushers.
- Concession workers.
- NCAA merchandise sellers.
- Host/hostess/escort for officials to and from the locker room.

Game Personnel. Besides officials, the following personnel are needed for each game:

- One official scorer.
- One clock operators and/or one scoreboard operator.
- One public-address announcer.
- At least two qualified statisticians.
- Four ball retrievers (Ball retrievers must be at least 12 year of age and dress in attire that will distinguish them from the competing institutions and other sideline personnel. *NOTE: This attire must adhere to the NCAA logo policy. The host institution is required to train and provide for the safety of the ball retrievers.*)
- Four drug-testing couriers, if applicable.

Head Athletic Trainer. The following are a few of the major responsibilities of the head athletic trainer and should be reviewed with the head athletic trainer prior to your notification as a tournament site:

- Arrange for a physician to be on-call for all games and practices. The head athletic trainer should be able to explain the medical procedures at the coaches' meeting, noting athletic training room hours and services.
- Plan for an athletic trainer to be at every practice and game and present on the field.
- Arrange for medical supplies, water and ice for all practices and games.

Sports Information Director. The Sports Information Director should be someone who has had experience with sports information.

Tournament Director. The tournament director shall be an administrative staff member of the host institution/conference and shall maintain ultimate responsibility for the local operation of the event. Bid proposals from prospective host institutions/conferences shall be authorized by the tournament director.

The other functions of the tournament director are to ensure that the policies of the committee are applied. Specific responsibilities may include direction and supervision of facility arrangements, ticket sales, development of participant information, security, lodging, transportation, promotions, financial administration and adherence to the policies outlined in this manual. The tournament director will also provide the NCAA with a postgame evaluation including suggestions for future conduct of the championship. Please refer to Appendix A for the host checklist and to Appendix B for pregame schedule.

PRACTICE

Each team shall be allowed to practice on the competition field. Security should be provided during practice sessions (including locker room areas).

Alternate Practice Site. The host institution is not obligated to arrange for an alternate practice facility for the visiting teams in the event they arrive early. Practice at an alternate site is permissible, but the visiting team is responsible for making these arrangements themselves.

Closed Practice. All practices are open to the media but closed to the public.

Practice Schedules. Practice access to all designated host-site fields is limited to the day before and the day of competition, weather permitting. If this is not possible, a practice field will be available to all teams the day before the game. The host institution is required to provide one set of goal cages for each team on the practice field and at the alternate indoor facility. For team practices and shootarounds only, there is no limit to the number of student-athletes who can participate. Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 28 players for competition and game warmup, however.

First and Second Rounds. Teams are entitled to one practice opportunity on the competition field for the first and second rounds. This may take place the day prior to competition for 90 minutes. For first-/second-round combined sites, teams will select available practice slots based on distance traveled (i.e., the team traveling the farthest has the first choice). For first-/second-round combined sites, the host team will have the option of practicing on the game field before (9:30 to 11 a.m.) or after (4:30 to 6 p.m.) the 1 p.m. first-round game on Saturday. These times must be adhered to. Additionally, for first-/second-round combined sites, shootarounds on Sunday should be made available 9–9:30 a.m. and 9:35–10:05 a.m.

On game days, each team will be guaranteed 45 minutes on the field for its pregame warmup before the introduction of the players. Pregame warmups will not exceed 45 minutes.

Regionals. Teams will select available practice slots based on distance traveled (i.e., the team traveling the farthest has the first choice).

- Friday: 90-minute time slots (local host time).
- Saturday: There are no practice times at the preliminary rounds on Saturday.
- Sunday: Shootarounds are limited to 30 minutes. For a 1 p.m. regional final game time, shootarounds are 9–9:30 a.m. and 9:35–10:05 a.m. For a 2:30 p.m. regional final game time, shootarounds are 10:30–11 a.m. and 11:05–11:35

On game days, each team will be guaranteed 45 minutes on the field for its pregame warmup before the introduction of the players. Pregame warmups will not exceed 45 minutes.

For all rounds, except the championships, practice times will be assigned during each respective round conference call based upon travel distance for each team to the site. No team will be permitted to practice on the game field at any time other than its officially assigned time. Teams are permitted 90 minutes of practice on the game field (weather permitting). Indoor facilities should only be utilized in the occurrence of inclement weather and not in addition to the assigned 90 minutes of practice time, including warmup.

NOTE: Once practice times are set, they may not be altered on-site unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e., force majeure, weather).

Scoreboard. The scoreboard clock should be used to time practice sessions.

PREGAME PROTOCOL

National Anthem. The national anthem will be played before the first game of each session of competition.

Team Introductions. It is recommended that the following format be used in NCAA tournament games:

- The four officials and the 24 players from each team line up across the middle of the field before the start of the introduction procedures. The officials should be at midfield between the two teams.
- The announcer introduces the officials.
- The announcer introduces the visiting team's reserves, followed by the starters, honorary captains and followed by coach. Each player steps forward when introduced and then retreats to his/her team line.

DIVISION III SOCCER

- The announcer introduces the home team's reserves, followed by the starters, honorary captains and followed by coach. Each player steps forward when introduced and then retreats to his/her team line.

The teams should line up on the side of the field on which their bench is located. Players, coaches and officials are expected to stand at attention during the playing of the national anthem. After both teams have been introduced, the players should shake hands and return to the sideline.

STARTING TIMES

Games Times. Hosts must designate game times in the submitted facility information form by the designated deadline. Game time options are as follows:

	Day 1/Game 1	Day 1/Game 2	Day 2/Game 3
No Lights	11 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	1 p.m.
With Lights**	1 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3 p.m.

NOTE: Hosts with lights have the option of game times.

***The committee's preference is for all games to be conducted during the day. If an institution is unable to host during the day, a request may be submitted with rationale and a waiver may be approved.*

If the host institution wishes to deviate from the prescribed starting times, it must submit a deviation request in the facility evaluation form by Nov. 2. **NOTE: Submitting this information does not guarantee that the soccer committees will grant the deviation request. If the host institution fails to submit this information within the time frame, the soccer committees WILL NOT deviate from the original dates and times.**

At all sites, the match shown higher on the championship bracket will be the first match played. The match shown lower on the championship bracket will be the second match played.

Distribution of Game Protocol Sheets. The tournament manager should distribute copies at the administrative meeting; and, on the day of the game, distribute it to all scorer's table personnel and post the sheets in a visible place in the game officials' and teams' locker rooms. **Please confirm the protocol schedule with NCAA staff prior to distribution.**

STATISTICS CREW

The statistics crew should be set up in accordance with the institution's normal operating procedure (i.e., either at the scorer's table, across from the table or behind the table on risers). If the statistics crew normally is seated at the scorer's table, the committee will make every effort to accommodate this arrangement but may make adjustments if necessary after evaluating such factors as space availability, requirements of television personnel, etc.

TEAM BENCHES

Bench Assignments. The top team on the bracket is the designated home team and shall occupy the bench to the right of the scorer's table (when seated at the scorer's table and looking at the field).

Permissible Number. Teams are limited to 24 players in uniform. Chairs or bench area shall be provided for 40 individuals, which includes two credentials for medical personnel. **NOTE: These two medical credentials are for medical personnel only. They cannot be used for any other personnel. The 40 individuals in the bench area must be institutional personnel or team members; no other individuals (i.e., family members or children) are allowed in the immediate bench area.**

Team Doctor. If an institution wishes to have its own team doctor in the bench area, that individual must occupy one of the bench accommodations, which will count in the bench limit of 40. Under no circumstances may an institution be provided more than 40 bench credentials.

Security. A uniformed security officer should be stationed behind or near the end of each team bench to protect players from spectators if necessary and to accompany the teams to and from the locker room.

All accommodations for teams must be the same. If heaters, tents, etc., cannot be provided in both bench areas or for both teams, they shall not be provided at all.

TRAVEL PARTY/BENCH SIZE/SQUAD SIZE

Squad Size. Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 28 players. Each team must designate its 28 players to be used in that round during the pregame meeting. After the game starts, no replacements will be permitted for any reason. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it automatically shall forfeit the competition.

There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform to the rule.

Official Travel Party. There are 33 individuals in each team's official travel party with not more than 28 participants in uniform. Transportation and per diem will be provided to cover the 33 individuals.

Bench Area. A total of 42 individuals are allowed within the team bench area from the start of the pregame warmup through the entire game, two of which must be designated medical personnel; 41 if only one person is designated medical personnel.

Section 13 • Health & Safety Considerations

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 with event staff and personnel including, among others, those relating to concussion management, catastrophic injury prevention, inclement weather and independent medical care, consulting with institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel as necessary. These requirements and related information can be found in applicable division manuals, sports playing rules and the materials located on the [NCAA Sport Science Institute website](#). A nonexhaustive list of some of the key health and safety considerations is provided below. More detailed information on each of these topics can be found in the [Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes](#) and the [NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook](#).

- Blood-Borne Pathogens and Other Biohazards.
- Catastrophic Incidents and Emergency Action Plans.
- Cleaning and Disinfection.
- Inclement Weather, Air Quality and Other Environmental Considerations.
- Independent Medical Care.
- Medical Facilities.
- Medical Disqualification, Removal and Return to Activities.
- Medical Staff: Resources, Communications, Training and Responsibilities.
- Medical Supplies and Equipment.
- Medical Treatment (including for, among others, the following emergency conditions):
 - Asthma.
 - Burners (Brachial Plexus Injuries).
 - Cardiac Emergencies.
 - Cervical Spine Injuries.
 - Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury.
 - Diabetic Emergency.
 - Head and Neck Injury.
 - Heat Illness and Heat Stroke.
 - Hypothermia.
 - Mental Health Emergencies.
 - Rhabdomyolysis
 - Sickle Cell and Other Exertional and Nonexertional Collapse.
 - Skin Infections.
- Prescription Medications, Banned Substances and Drug Testing.
- Protective Gear and Equipment.
- Sexual Violence.
- Visiting Team Care and Coverage.

In addition, and as a supplement to the legislative and policy requirements and related guidance described above, the following health and safety considerations and expectations will also apply to all championship events.

Ambulance Service

Planned access to an ambulance shall be provided by the championship host. If it is determined that an ambulance should be provided on site, the championship host shall obtain the ambulance service and the incurred cost is reimbursable by the NCAA. Any ambulance used must be equipped in accordance with all applicable government regulations and industry medical and safety standards.

Coaches, Officials, Event Staff and Spectators

Host institutions should consult as necessary with applicable institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel to determine and appropriately plan for the management of emergency and other health and safety incidents involving individuals other than student-athletes that may occur at the championship event or venue.

Medical Staff Credentials and Access

Travel party credentials for participating institutions will include credentials for medical personnel; provided it is the responsibility of the participating institution to include medical personnel in their normal credential numbers. Institutions may include medical staff beyond travel party limits provided they pay for the additional numbers with institutional funds. Competition site access can be secured by acquiring session tickets through purchase or an institutional pass list.

Any medical staff traveling with participating teams will have access to their team participants with the assistance of host medical staff, should an injury occur. If medical staff are not to be seated with the team during any championship event for any reason, they should communicate to host medical staff their seat locations and host medical staff should be prepared to provide all participant medical staff with the necessary credentials to access and provide necessary escort to the team locker room or athletic training room in the event of an emergency. Typically, an access point from the stands supervised by security will allow access by medical personnel to student-athletes.

Portable Immersion Tubs

Portable immersion tubs (hot or cold) are permitted at championship events only where use is a component of an established emergency or other health and safety plan and managed under the direction of sports medicine staff, an athletic trainer or physician in accordance with all applicable institutional and government health regulations and requirements.

Section 14 • Hydration Product

POWERADE

Equipment Information

The NCAA will provide certain championships relevant equipment (sidelines hydration, competition playing equipment, etc.) on a sport-by-sport basis that must be used in all championship activity. The purpose of the equipment is to hydrate student-athletes for competition. Each championship will receive information from the NCAA pertaining to any equipment that will be provided. Following the championships, each host site will be required to provide the NCAA with a completed inventory sheet (template provided by the NCAA) and pictures for proof of performance.

Cups, Coolers and Water Bottles

Drinking cups, water coolers, ice chests, cooler carts and water bottles should be provided for each scheduled practice or competition of any round of an NCAA championship. Participating teams shall place any premix fluid replacement in the NCAA-issued coolers and water bottles when applicable. Only cups, cans, coolers or water bottles may be used during championships that are provided by the NCAA. If applicable, the host may retain the coolers, cooler carts and ice chests after the competition. Reoccurring host sites are strongly encouraged to use the same equipment the following year unless otherwise notified by the NCAA. Participating teams may retain the water bottles and bottle carriers after the competition.

Hydration Program

Coca-Cola will provide a bottled water product (e.g., Dasani), POWERADE powder, and when applicable, POWERADE in bottles. Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice in the NCAA-provided equipment. Equipment carrying any branding other than POWERADE, however, will not be permitted on the sidelines during NCAA championships.

If a championship also receives POWERADE-branded squeeze bottles, they should be provided to student-athletes. Non-POWERADE-branded squeeze bottles brought by teams/student-athletes will not be allowed.

If the host must provide and/or purchase product for any NCAA championship use (e.g., student-athlete banquet, committee tent/suite, hospitality areas, media areas), the host must purchase and provide only Coca-Cola products (e.g., Dasani, POWERADE, Coca-Cola, Sprite).

Competitors of NCAA Corporate Champion Coca-Cola may not provide product (beverages, water, isotonic) for any NCAA championship, even if the competition offers product for free or at a reduced cost. The championship budget will cover the purchase of Coca-Cola beverage products.

Use of NCAA-Provided Coolers from Previous Years

The host may use previously supplied equipment from the NCAA, specifically POWERADE equipment with approval from the NCAA; however, unless approved by the NCAA (which is often possible), they must be used in areas not within television or photographer view [they may not be used on the sidelines or within the competition area(s)].

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact Kevin Alcox for the men (317-917-6085; kalcov@ncaa.org) or Mark Bedics for the women (317-917-6541; mbedics@ncaa.org).

Preliminary-Round Sites NOT Receiving POWERADE-Branded Equipment and Product

The host institution may use items other than POWERADE-branded equipment. These items, however, must not display any commercial marks (e.g., logos and graphics of commercial products such as Gatorade), or such marks must be covered completely (this requirement applies on the sidelines and in competition areas, media areas or any other back-of-house areas).

If the host must provide and/or purchase product for any NCAA championship use (e.g., student-athlete banquet, committee tent/suite, hospitality areas, media areas), the host must purchase and provide only Coca-Cola products (e.g., Dasani, POWERADE, Coca-Cola, Sprite). Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice; however, equipment carrying any branding other than POWERADE, as referenced above, must be absent of any commercial marks.

Section 15 • Insurance

LIABILITY

If event is held on-campus:

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

If event is held off-campus:

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

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

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

Section 16 • Lodging

NCAA Non-Predetermined Preliminary-Round Competition

For all NCAA non-predetermined preliminary round competition, unless otherwise stated, the host institution/agency or the NCAA (see sport specific section for details) shall make reservations for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s) and advise them of the arrangements. The selected hotel properties shall be within no more than 30 miles (30 minutes) of the competition site and be priced at a fair and reasonable market room rate. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athletes. Each participating institution/student-athlete is obligated to confirm or cancel the accommodations.

An institution is obligated to stay at the assigned hotel property. If an institution prefers to relocate, which is generally not approved by the NCAA, to a different hotel the following must occur:

The participating institution will obtain a release for the rooms from the hotel manager in writing and approval from the NCAA. Please note, the institution is responsible for the first night's room charges even if it fails to use those rooms.

The participating institution may use the rooms for persons accompanying the official traveling party if relocating the team only. If a team chooses to relocate to a different hotel, the team is not permitted to move to a hotel (if applicable) where another team or the game officials are staying or at the designated headquarters hotel.

Additionally, if an institution fails to make satisfactory arrangements for use of assigned rooms with the hotel, full charges for the rooms will be billed to the institution. If an institution chooses not to stay at one of the designated hotels, the participating institution must notify both the hotel and the tournament manager by 5 p.m. on practice day or specified date. The NCAA shall provide final approval.

DRUG-TESTING CREW

The host institution will reserve four rooms for members of the drug-testing crew at the headquarters hotel.

GAME OFFICIALS'/NCAA REPRESENTATIVES' HOTEL

The national assignor of officials and the regional assignors will assign four officials for each game via the Arbiter Sports assigning portal. For each official who is required to stay overnight, the host institution shall reserve a single room in a hotel separate from the competing team(s). Likewise, a single room for the NCAA representative, should be reserved either in the same hotel as the team(s) or with the officials.

Room and Tax. The tournament manager will arrange for the officials', NCAA committee, and NCAA representative's hotel room and tax to be master-billed to the institution. This expense should be included on the financial report form. Officials and site representatives are responsible for their incidental charges.

TEAM HOTELS

Preliminary Rounds

The host institution shall make reservations for competing teams in all rounds of competition and advise them of the arrangements. A minimum of 21 double-double nonsmoking rooms shall be reserved for the visiting team at a special rate. Rooms should be held in advance by the tournament manager beginning for the night prior to the practice day. The tournament manager will recommend team hotels of comparable quality, rates and proximity to the facility. Hotels should be as close to the facility as possible, but not be more than 30 minutes from the facility.

Finals

Anthony Travel will contract 20 double-double nonsmoking rooms for teams at a special rate. Rooms will be held beginning the night before the practice day.

NCAA Predetermined Preliminary-Round Competitions and Predetermined Championships

For all NCAA predetermined preliminary-round competition and predetermined championships, Anthony Travel, acting on NCAA's behalf shall contract hotel accommodations for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s). The contracted hotel properties shall be within 30 miles (30 minutes) of the competition site and be priced at a fair and reasonable market room rate. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athlete(s). Teams must stay at an NCAA contracted hotel unless otherwise noted. Hosts are no longer required to secure the rooms. Anthony Travel, the official hotel management provider of the NCAA, will solicit, negotiate and contract all hotel rooms at these sites.

Championship participants are mandated to stay at the NCAA's contracted hotel properties for the event. Any participants staying outside of the NCAA contracted hotel block(s) will not be reimbursed.

The participating institution may use the rooms for persons accompanying the official traveling party.

If an institution fails to make satisfactory arrangements for use of assigned rooms with the hotel, full charges for the rooms will be billed to the institution.

MERCHANDISING

The hotel understands that the NCAA exclusively will have first right of refusal to sell products licensed by the NCAA for merchandising at the selected hotels. If the NCAA executes this right, the hotel agrees to provide space in its lobby, tables, electricity, dedicated phone line and a secure storage location for such sales at no charge to the NCAA merchandising agent. The NCAA guarantees that the merchandise will be displayed in a neat, professional manner.

In return, the NCAA merchandising agent will pay to the hotel a percentage of the net sales from the hotel location. Net sales are defined as gross sales minus sales tax and credit card fees. The percentage rate will be a predetermined, nonnegotiable rate included in the contract between the two parties, except as specified in the following sections.

Section 17 • Marketing

The host institution should designate a marketing contact or marketing team for the championship. This person should be familiar with marketing strategies that have worked in the community to sell tickets and drive attendance. It is the primary responsibility of the marketing contact to work closely with the NCAA Championships Marketing contact to create and implement the championship marketing plan. While many host institutions may have a marketing contact in the athletic department, this individual may also be from the local organizing committee, convention and visitor's bureau, sports commission or a combination thereof. Contact information for the designated marketing contact(s) should be submitted through the Key Contact portion of the Host Reporting System.

EXPECTATIONS

- Know the marketing budget. The NCAA championship tournament manager on your campus or the NCAA Tournament Operations point person can communicate your marketing budget.
- Develop marketing goals. The primary focus should be driving ticket sales and attendance at the championship.
- Map out the time frame to market the championship.
- Determine how to best use the marketing materials provided by the NCAA.
- Establish grassroots initiatives to implement in your local and regional communities.
- Explore opportunities with traditional media (print, radio and television) in your area.

MARKETING PLAN

Host institutions/conferences shall establish a marketing plan in coordination with the NCAA championship marketing contact. All marketing plans, marketing budgets and collateral must be approved by the championships marketing contact prior to implementation. A marketing plan template provided in Appendix E.

CHAMPIONSHIPS ONLINE MARKETING WEBSITE

The NCAA Championships Online Marketing Website is a comprehensive tool designed to help hosts create marketing products which will generate awareness and promote ticket sales for the championship. The NCAA Championships Online Marketing Website can be accessed at ncaachampspromotion.com.

Championship hosts should customize and download all necessary artwork to promote the championship from the online marketing website. Hosts should make every effort to use the artwork provided, produce the items locally and obtain reimbursement for production costs, up to the reimbursable allocation provided for the championship round you are hosting.

Each NCAA Championships host marketing contact and tournament manager will receive an email with the marketing website address, username, password and specific marketing budget allocated for the championship you are hosting. **The reimbursement amount is separate and in addition to from the marketing/promotions budget allocated by host institutions through the championship bid process.** Please contact ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org if you are unable to locate this information.

Customizable artwork templates and marketing resources available on the NCAA Online Marketing Website include:

- Print
 - Poster
 - Flyer
 - Print ad
 - Table tent

- Digital
 - Email blast
 - Banner
 - Social media graphics
- Outdoor
 - Billboard
 - Banner
- Resources
 - Marketing best practices
 - Social media guidelines

If you have artwork needs and/or sizing which may not be available on the NCAA Online Marketing Website, you may submit a special request through the website. Any additional questions can be directed to ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org.

All requests – artwork and reimbursement – must be approved by the national office staff before you proceed. Artwork requests and approvals will be managed through the website. If you do not have a local print vendor, we have listed NCAA preferred vendors on the website.

Collateral should not be created outside of the NCAA Online Marketing Website. The website ensures proper usage of NCAA logos and trademarks, as well as ensures consistent branding across each championship round and all 92 NCAA Championships

Television/Video and Radio Ticket Spots. The marketing website allows hosts of select predetermined championship sites to download video and radio spots for immediate use. Questions regarding the availability of these spots for your championship event should be directed to your NCAA Championship Marketing contact.

:30 Video/Television Spot

The NCAA creates TV-Video Spots for select championship sites and a limited number of predetermined regional rounds.

- All spots are available for download via the NCAA Online Marketing Website.
- Spots may be uploaded to websites, burned onto discs, or sent via email to other parties that may need them.
- Spots are provided in several formats to allow for use over a variety of platforms (e.g. websites, TV commercials, videoboard).
- The video/television spot is available for download in the following file types:
 - HD: apple ProRes LT (104 mbps)
 - SD: dv25 (25 mbps)
 - Web proxy: .mp4 (1.5 mbps)

:30 Radio Spot

- The NCAA creates radio spots for all predetermined championship final sites that are not sold out and for a limited number of predetermined regional rounds.
- The radio spots can be used on radio stations, websites, burned onto discs or emailed.
- The file format available for download is .mp3 (.32 mbps).

NCAA DIVISION III BYLAWS- PERTAINING TO NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP PROMOTIONS

12.5.1.1.2 - Promotions Involving NCAA Championships, Events, Activities or Programs. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of an enrolled student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships or other NCAA events, activities or programs. (Adopted: 1/10/05)

12.5.1.10 - Promotion of NCAA and Conference Championships. The NCAA [or a third party acting on behalf of the NCAA (e.g., host institution, conference, local organizing committee)] may use the name or picture of a student-athlete to generally promote NCAA championships. A student-athlete's name or picture may appear in a poster that promotes a conference championship, provided the poster is produced by a member institution that hosts a portion of the championship or by the conference. (Adopted: 1/11/89, Revised: 1/10/05)

12.6.1.2 - To Intercollegiate Event. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of intercollegiate competition event, provided the organization is not publicly identified as such. A professional sports organization may serve as a financial sponsor of an activity or promotion that is ancillary to the competition event and may be publicly identified as such. [D] (Adopted: 1/10/92, Revised: 1/10/05, 1/14/12)

13.4.1.2 - Conference or NCAA Championships. An institution or conference that is hosting any portion of a conference or NCAA championship may send printed materials promoting the championship event (e.g., ticket application or promotional brochures, flyers or posters) to high school or two-year college coaches or administrators, but not to specific prospective student-athletes, provided: (Adopted: 1/13/10)

- (a) The printed material includes only information relevant to the championship events;
- (b) The printed material is available to the general public, including all high schools in the local area; and
- (c) The printed material contains no information related to the institution's athletics program.

13.14.1.2.1 Exception - NCAA Championships. An institution or conference that is hosting any portion of an NCAA championship may purchase paid advertisements in a high school athletics program to generally promote the NCAA championship, provided: (Adopted: 1/15/14)

- (a) The advertisement includes only information relevant to the championship events;
- (b) The advertisement is available to the general public, including all high schools in the local area; and
- (c) The advertisement does not contain information related to the institution's athletics program or the conference's member institutions.

ANCILLARY EVENTS

The NCAA prohibits host institutions/conferences from conducting special ancillary entertainment activities for fans in conjunction with the championship. Should another entity (e.g., convention and visitor's bureau) elect to stage such activities, the following policies shall apply:

- All plans must be approved in advance by the NCAA.
- NCAA marks, logos, name or references to the championship or tickets may not be used.
- No activity connected with the championship may be sponsored by an entity that is not an NCAA Corporate Champion/Corporate Partner (CC/P).
- Such an activity may not take place on property controlled by the competition venue.

No entity may contact NCAA CC/Ps directly. All such contact shall be directed through the NCAA staff.

LOGO GUIDELINES

The NCAA owns and controls all rights and interests in its name, logo, seal, trademarks and service marks. Use of these marks is prohibited without advance written approval by the NCAA. Host institutions/conferences should review information outlined in NCAA Bylaw 31.6.1. Only official NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners (CC/Ps) and licensees are

permitted to use NCAA marks and logos in commercial advertising and promotions, unless written approval is provided by NCAA Marketing. All and any proposed commercial advertising and promotions, if not by a CC/Ps, must be reviewed by NCAA Marketing staff prior to approval and production.

PUBLIC ADDRESS AND TEXT BOARD SCRIPTS

The public address announcer scripts allow game management to keep the flow of the championship moving through the communication of important information to those in attendance. Communicate with your NCAA championship liaison to secure a PA script and run of show for the championship you are hosting.

VIDEO BOARDS

The NCAA will provide video board content to sites that have such capabilities. The video board content is important to the overall championship experience for student-athletes and those in attendance. Please work directly with your NCAA championship liaison to identify if video board content will be provided directly or if downloading from the NCAA FTP site is necessary.

Questions related to video board content logistics should be directed to:

Fred Bowen – Senior Producer
Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment, Inc.
Telephone: 574-807-5287
Email: bowen@vwbsn.com

Electronic Messages. No host or venue specific electronic messaging or video board advertising may be displayed during NCAA championships, other than those messages promoting the championship and information provided by the NCAA and Turner/CBS. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the championship site. All messages must be approved in advance by the championship staff liaison.

IN-VENUE ENTERTAINMENT

NCAA championship hosts are encouraged to explore in-venue entertainment options during the championship to keep fans engaged, excited and to enhance the atmosphere for both the fans and student-athletes. Various potential areas of in-venue entertainment and the guidelines associated with them are discussed below. Please discuss any forms of in-venue entertainment you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for suggestions and approval.

Break in action contests or promotions. Hosts should consider continuing regular season halftime/quarter break/timeout contests and promotions or creating new, unbiased or nonsponsored versions of these promotions to use during NCAA championships. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must not include any commercial recognition (unless approved/provided by an NCAA corporate champion, partner or official equipment supplier).
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- No links or resemblance to gambling.
- Participants must be randomly selected.
- No bias toward or against any participating team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the contest or promotion.
- NCAA championship merchandise purchased by the host (e.g., extra volunteer apparel, committee or contributor gifts, items or certificates purchased from Event 1) make good prizes for these contests as prizes with commercial recognition would not be permitted.

DIVISION III SOCCER

National anthem singers. Hosts are encouraged to explore their resources to bring in local, regional or even nationally recognized celebrities or groups to sing the national anthem (e.g., recording artists with strong local ties, famous local choir groups or bands). Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Local groups or personal contacts who could provide this service at no cost are recommended.
- No bias toward or against any participating team (e.g., performers should not wear the jerseys of a participating team).
- A brief description and “thank you” for the performing group or individual may be incorporated into the script, but no commercial recognition, sponsorship, sales or recruitment messages should be included (unless approved/provided by an NCAA corporate champion, partner or official equipment supplier).
- Anthem should take two minutes or less to perform, however please build extra time into the script for introduction and placement of the color guard (if applicable), and introduction/applause for the performer.

Youth sport team recognitions. The introduction of local youth sport teams on-field before NCAA championships can often add excitement, tie in the community, provide additional PR and help drive attendance through not only the youth athletes, but also their parents, family and friends. This is encouraged if it is appropriate for the championship. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must be unobtrusive to the competition and allotted warm-up time for the student-athletes.
- Youth teams recognized should be younger than high school age to avoid any possible recruiting concerns.
- Must not include any commercial recognition (unless approved by the NCAA).
- The youth group being represented must provide chaperones, transportation, permission forms and assume all supervision of the youth teams while they are at the championship.
- The host should provide detailed information to the youth group regarding parking/drop off procedures, entry to the stadium, meeting location, instructions for the presentation, seating after the presentation, etc.
- The host should provide on-field staff or volunteers to guide the youth group through the presentation.

Enhanced team introductions. Examples of this could include: using special music or video introductions provided by each team, smoke machines or on-field fireworks, inflatable tunnels, youth athletes forming a tunnel or holding hands with student-athletes as they are introduced, local or school bands playing, etc. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- No bias toward or against any participating team.
- Should be discussed with the NCAA point person in advance.

Musical entertainment. Participating school bands will be scheduled into the overall championship presentation when they are available. When they are not, the host institution marching band, other school bands or local bands may be appropriate for entertainment during pregame, halftime or other breaks in the action or for greeting fans in the stadium entrance or other congregating area.

Affiliated award recognitions. If appropriate, national award winners for the given sport who are in attendance but not competing at the time of the scheduled recognition may be awarded on field during NCAA championships (e.g., Elite Scholar-Athlete Award winner, coaches’ association player of the year winner, coach of the year). Please consult with the NCAA point person to determine appropriateness.

MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

Military involvement in NCAA championships may include national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, band performances of patriotic songs, fly-bys, parachute teams, precision drill teams, etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING GUIDELINES

The official NCAA social media pages and official hashtags are located here: ncaa.org/socialmedia

Host Promotion of Championships

A lot of hosts already have an established presence in social media. Examples are school, LOC, Sports Corporation, venue or city pages/accounts. These pages/accounts are all acceptable places to promote hosting of an NCAA championship through the use of marketing messages and products supplied from the NCAA (links, web banners, flyers, etc.). The NCAA also promotes the championships (and the host involvement) on the appropriate NCAA social media pages/accounts. If the championship does not have an official NCAA page on a social media site, a host is still not permitted to create a page for it. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the other established pages/accounts, as necessary. Collaboration is encouraged through the use of cross-posting on Facebook (@ linking within text to drive fans to each other's pages) and mentions on Twitter (@ links to show coordination in posts). In addition to collaboration, idea-sharing is also encouraged and can be coordinated through the championships Assistant Director of Social Media, cdion@ncaa.org.

A host should not create a social media account or page (*Facebook page, Twitter (X) feed, Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr account, etc.*) **solely devoted to promoting an NCAA championship.** These pages become outdated, distract fans from established pages and fracture the NCAA message.

Top considerations when planning for social media event marketing:

1. **Know your social media audience.** Utilize account analytics to learn about your fan demographics and monitor the engagement levels on your posts. Figure out what engages your fans.
2. **Encourage community.** Ask for feedback and opinion. This helps engage the user and may provide you with some good input. Also, reply to user questions with correct and helpful answers.
3. **Cross-post.** Cross-posting or mentioning others will help increase your visibility and spread credit throughout social media platforms.
4. **Use images.** Pictures are necessary to grab attention and interest. Users are more likely to engage versus text only.
5. **Be concise.** This is required on Twitter (140 characters) but should also be used on Facebook and other platforms without this limit. Get to the point within two sentences. Less than that, if possible.
6. **Lead your video.** You have mere seconds to garner a user's attention on social media. Make sure your videos have an immediate point of interest to keep users engaged.
7. **Like or Follow people to help you.** Networking with members of the media, partner organizations and constituents on Twitter and Facebook is just as beneficial as in real life. On Facebook, like their pages, cross-post to them when you mention them or make them one of your favorites. On Twitter, retweet, join in on hashtags (#NCAA) and mention feeds in your posts.
8. **Keep it light.** While it is important to stay on message and deliver the facts, this is social media, after all. Have fun with it.
9. **If you hesitate about posting something, you probably shouldn't.** There are no redos in social media. A "delete" doesn't mean you can delete someone seeing it.

Please send direct questions to Chris Dion, cdion@ncaa.org, or send ideas or news to the general box, socialmedia@ncaa.org.

ENHANCEMENTS

Templates to enhance championships presentation and fan engagement can be found in the appendix section.

Section 18 • Media/Credentials

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host school/conference, facility and the NCAA. The primary objective of everyone involved in the administration of the championship, shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, administrator and tournament attendee.

Note that health and safety protocols related to preparedness, response and protocols might have an effect on the media services detailed below, with any changes provided to all hosts in advance of each championship.

BROADCASTING/INTERNET

Please log on to ncaa.com/media for information regarding broadcast/internet rights.

CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS

NCAA championship records are available in PDF format at ncaa.org – ncaa.org/championships/statistics/ncaa-records-books.

CREDENTIALS

All media credentials are authorized and issued by the host or NCAA media coordinator. The NCAA provides credentials for all final championship sites and selected preliminary rounds sites. Hosts should contact the NCAA media coordinator or championships administrator to confirm who will produce credentials for preliminary sites. **PDF templates are available for preliminary round credentials if desired. Please contact Jenn Rodgers (jroddgers@ncaa.org) for more information.** If you are producing your own credentials, the “Conditions Placed on Use of Credentials” should be placed on the back of all credentials. That text, located at ncaa.com/credentialterms, should also be visible at credential pickup.

The following is a sample of the types of credentials that can be produced, if applicable:

- All Access – For event management-type people who need access to every area, including game surface.
- Event Management – For event management staff who does not need all access (based on space and demand, it may not be necessary to produce an event management and an all-access pass).
- Media – For members of the media to provide them access to press areas (press box, media room, interview room, locker rooms (postgame only)).
- Participant – For student-athletes, coaches, equipment managers (essentially anyone in the official travel party).
- Photo – For still photographers and television camera operators (if the contest is not going to be televised) to allow them access to appropriate areas [playing surface, locker rooms (postgame only), press box and media room].
- SID – For sports information directors of the participating teams (may allow access to media areas and locker rooms as needed).
- Television Network – If the game is going to be televised by ESPN, Turner Sports, etc., those entities should have their own credential to allow them to specific places such as the truck compound.

It is up to the tournament director to determine which areas may be accessed with each credential type.

CREDENTIAL QUALIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Final-Round Site - Approximately one month before the start of final site competition, the site media coordinator should send credential application information to media representatives who regularly cover intercollegiate athletics in their markets. The information should direct media to ncaa.com/media, which includes credential application instructions, credential criteria and links to the NCAA media policies. The site media coordinator will approve or deny all credential requests in the online credentialing system (Sport Systems) Credential system training sessions will be conducted. The system will notify via email all media members who apply for credentials whether their request has been approved or

denied. If a media member is granted a credential, the site media coordinator is responsible for sending that member of the media information regarding game times, press conference schedules, credential pickup times and location, parking and any other pertinent information.

Preliminary-Round Site – Preliminary-round/site media coordinators should send a credential request form to members of the local media to determine who will be covering the event.

****** Working credentials will not be mailed. The media coordinator should issue credentials individually at an appropriate site at the venue or at the designated headquarters hotel. A government-issued photo ID is required to pick up credentials. Credentials are nontransferable and will only be issued to the person whose name appears on the credential. Credential pickup for others is not allowed.

CREDENTIAL BOARDS

The NCAA will provide credential boards to all final sites. These are to advise security personnel at the competition venue which credentials are allowed into specific areas of the venue. For credentials that are not allowed into a specific area, use a black marker to cross out the credentials not permitted.

FINAL RESULTS BOOKS AND STATISTICS

The final results book for team championships should include, at a minimum, final statistics and results as well as a quote sheet from at least the two head coaches (inclusion of at least one student-athlete per team is preferred). For individual/team championships, the media coordinator should include quotes from at least any individual champion(s) as well as from the head coach of the team champion, if applicable. It is preferred to also include quotes from a student-athlete of the team champion and the head coach of the second-place team. The final book also may include a cover sheet, recap, postgame notes, and/or a play-by-play summary.

The host institution shall provide complete statistics of all NCAA championships competition.

FLIP CARDS

Flip cards should be provided to all media members for easy reference to participating team information, where applicable. The flip cards should include all players on the roster and a minimum of their uniform numbers along with the head coach and any assistants. The flip card should include team results as well as standard information regarding the game, such as date, location and opponent.

INTERNET POLICY

The NCAA website, ncaa.com, serves as the official online resource for NCAA championships.

The NCAA and its partners own the Internet rights to all of its 92 championship events. Rights include live statistics, video and audio streaming, electronic commerce, and postevent footage use. The NCAA and its partners own all game action, practice footage, press conferences, one-on-one interviews or any other content on the NCAA website.

Internet Live Statistics

The NCAA reserves the right to deny permission to produce live statistics for NCAA championship play. In the event the NCAA takes on the responsibility of producing a live statistical representation from an NCAA championship event, no other entity will be permitted to do so. Live statistics are considered a protected right as part of a bundled rights agreement, referenced above. For clarification purposes, a live statistical representation includes play-by-play, score updates, shot charts, updated box scores, photos with captions, etc.

In the event the NCAA does not produce live statistics for a specific championship, the host institution is given priority to produce exclusive live statistics. The host institution will be given the same exclusivities the NCAA would reserve for its rights holder in such an instance.

Once it is determined that neither the NCAA nor the host institution plan to exercise their exclusive rights, the ability to produce live statistics will be granted – on a nonexclusive basis – to each participating school. A “participating school” is defined as a school playing in the same event at a specific site.

In each case, no commercial advertising is permitted within the live statistics window, unless permission is specifically granted by the NCAA. Any questions pertaining to live statistics should be sent to Nate Flannery, NCAA director of digital and social media (nflannery@ncaa.org).

MEDIA GUIDES AND POSTSEASON GUIDES

The NCAA or host media coordinator should notify each school that qualifies for the championship how many media guides and/or postseason guides should be sent to the championship site and/or if media guides and postseason information should be uploaded to the NCAA box library. If wanting to provide a printed version, the media coordinator should provide an overnight address where the schools can send the information (their office or the facility) and a deadline as to when it should arrive. Consider security when selecting the location where these materials will be shipped.

MEDIA ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel. If necessary, the media coordinator should arrange for a block of rooms to be set aside for media, preferably at the headquarters hotel. Media members should be given a contact/link at the hotel whom they can call or link to make reservations; this can be listed on the credential application form along with the room rate and deadline for making reservations.

Meals. Media meals are not required at all championships. Disbursements should be guided by the budget which was originally submitted by the tournament manager and approved by the NCAA national office.

Parking. Media parking should be provided at all championship host sites. The media coordinator should determine if it would be more effective to use parking passes or a parking list. If passes are used, the host institution must generate them. Media shuttle systems may also be used provided any costs are approved in advance by the specific sport committee and NCAA championships staff liaison.

Media Workroom. If necessary, a media workroom should be designated at each site, where media members can file stories following competition. The workroom should provide an adequate amount of media seating, electrical outlets, complimentary wireless internet access and a pool of high-speed internet lines, if possible. Each school's media guides and/or postseason guides, along with any materials the host institution distributes (statistics, game notes, quotes, etc.), should be located in this area.

NEWS FILM AND MINI-CAMS

Please visit ncaa.com/media for updated information related to television, video and ENG policies.

OFFICIATING QUESTIONS/POOL REPORTER

The host media coordinator shall appoint one member of the media to serve as the pool reporter at the competition site and must be approved in advance by the NCAA staff. In most cases, the media coordinator should designate the reporter from the Associated Press or the local newspaper as the pool reporter. The pool reporter should be clearly designated on the media seating chart and should be listed on the starting lineup sheets (if applicable) distributed prior to competition.

When a game includes a potential fighting situation that results in a technical foul and/or ejection of a participant, a rules interpretation is requested or there is a clock or timing issue, the pool reporter shall accompany the NCAA staff representatives to the officials' locker room to receive an interpretation in order to enhance the media's understanding of the activities that occurred. Interpretations are not given if the situation in question is a judgment call. Prior to entering the officials' locker room, the pool reporter shall go to the interview room or media workroom to speak to other media members and compile a list of questions to ask the involved official.

The host media coordinator, who will prepare the statement, will distribute the information to the media after it is reviewed and approved by an NCAA staff representative. Any statement involving an official's interpretation can be read by the news conference moderator in the interview room while the statement is being distributed.

If the involved official does not elect to speak to the pool reporter, the referee will decide whether the referee or the standby official will provide the interpretation on behalf of the officiating crew. The interpretation shall apply exclusively to the specific situation and will only be used to provide an interpretation of a rule.

PERSONNEL

Each media coordinator is responsible for organizing workers to assist in the media operations of the championship. It is important to remind volunteers that they may see very little of the championship competition because of their responsibilities and the NCAA will not pay any expenses. All volunteers should be a minimum of 16 years or older. It is preferred that all media coordination volunteers have experience with media relations or championships.

The number of workers will depend upon the media demand for the games at the site. Communication with the participating SIDs and the media coordinator's knowledge of the area media will help with advance planning.

The following is a basic list of duties for volunteers (if applicable):

- Copy Machine Personnel – Photocopies materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Credential Distribution – Pass out credentials to the media; check government-issued photo ID.
- External PA – Announcer for fans.
- Internal PA – Announcer for the media.
- Locker Room Attendant – Person to identify when the locker room is open and closed to the media.
- Mixed Zone Coordinator – Coordinates interviews in the mixed zone in events such as track and field and swimming and diving. Depending on the number of participants, this individual may need several assistants.
- Note Takers – Compiles worthy notes during and after the game or day.
- Photo Marshall – Makes sure photographers work in approved event coverage locations. Hands out photo armbands, if necessary.
- Press Conference Moderator – Introduces players and coach; directs questions from media.
- Quote Takers – Records postgame quotes from the press conferences/locker rooms. A minimum of one person should be designated to take quotes for each team. They should get quotes from the head coach and student-athletes.
- Results Disseminator – Transmits stats, notes, quotes, through appropriate delivery means (website, email, social media, etc.).
- Runner(s) – Distributes photocopied materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Spotter – Helps the official scorer identify assists and any other assistance for official scorer.
- Stat Crew – Records the official stats. Note that when applicable, NCAA LiveStats software must be used at all NCAA championships.
- Team Escorts – People to escort the coaches and student-athletes to the postgame press conference.

NEWS CONFERENCES

The media coordinator, or a member of the coordinator's staff, shall attend all press conferences, including any conducted before the start of championship play. A media coordinator can decide to have a prechampionship news conference if the number of media or interest in the championship warrants it. If a formal press conference will be held, the media coordinator should produce name (table) tents to place on the dais/riser to identify coaches and student-athletes.

ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS. With permission from the NCAA, exceptions may be made to the policy.

The open locker room policy applies to all formal press conferences and to any interview requests for coaches and/or student-athletes not involved in the press conferences. Failure to do so may result in a misconduct finding, as determined by the respective sport committee.

NOTE: In the event that a student-athlete has been selected for drug testing, all media obligations must be fulfilled before going to the drug-testing center.

1. **Individual Championships with no Postevent News Conference.** Student-athletes are allowed a maximum 10-minute cooling-off period following an event before meeting with the media. If ready before 10 minutes, the student-athlete can participate in interviews sooner. However, student-athletes are not allowed to leave the competition area before conducting media interviews. Interviews will be conducted in the mixed zone or interview

room. A student-athlete who is competing in more than one event on a given day may ask the media coordinator to delay the interview period until after the student-athlete's final event of the day. The only exception to this is if a record is set, and then the student-athlete should be made available to the media shortly after that event. If time prohibits this, the media coordinator should get a quote from the student-athlete and distribute it to the media.

2. **Individual Championships with a Formal News Conference.** Student-athletes are allowed a maximum of a 10-minute cooling-off period following an event before meeting with the media. If ready before 10 minutes, the student-athlete can participate in interviews sooner. In individual championships, typically only the winner(s) needs to report to the press conference. If media requests warrant having the runner-up participate in the news conference, that person should answer questions before the champion.
3. **Team Championships with a Formal News Conference.** The losing team shall have a 10-minute cooling-off period before reporting to the interview room. The cooling-off period starts once the head coach and all of the student-athletes have reached the locker room area. The winning team will report to the interview room immediately following the completion of the losing team's press conference. (Note: For some championships, the governing sport committee has determined that the winning or visiting team should go first to the press conferences, before the losing team. Please refer to championship manual for the sport.)

It is mandatory for the head coach and at least one student-athlete to report to the press conference following the cooling-off period. However, media coordinators should request a minimum of two student-athletes. A coach can shorten the cooling-off period but cannot extend it.

As soon as one media member enters a locker room, it will be open to all media members. Locker rooms are open to the media for a minimum of 30 minutes, provided media are present the entire time.

The head coach must complete all NCAA championship media obligations before honoring any in-season radio or television contracts. Coaches or student-athletes may only conduct interviews with rights-holding television or radio networks (including ESPN or NCAA Radio Network, but not school radio stations) before the press conference following the conclusion of a game. These interviews are permitted during a period totaling no more than four minutes for all interviews, immediately after the game. The media coordinator or designee has the responsibility to terminate the four-minute interview period, NOT the network/station that has purchased rights. (Assistant coaches are not obligated to the entire media staffing the championship and may grant postgame radio interviews at any time after the conclusion of the game.)

Moderator Duties

1. The moderator should give pertinent game statistics (i.e., leading rushers, passers, tacklers, game records) to media while they wait for the first team to arrive. Statistics should be distributed to the media, coaches and student-athletes as soon as they arrive.
2. Media coordination representatives should obtain the names of the student-athletes who will be attending the press conference and give them to the host or NCAA media coordinator, who then will provide them to the moderator so that they can be announced in advance.
3. The moderator should open the press conference by asking the head coach for his/her opening statement.
4. After the coach's comments, the moderator should invite questions from media.
5. If necessary, the moderator should direct a question to student-athletes to get them involved, if the media do not do so.
6. Limit the losing team to 10 minutes and the winning team to 20 minutes.
7. The moderator should keep the flow of the press conference moving. If there is a gap of time between questions, limit questions to one more and then thank the head coach and student-athlete(s).

Press Conference Setup. Each host media coordinator should designate an interview room or area at the facility, and an individual to coordinate the activities in it. The interview area should have a public address system and an elevated head table.

Media coordinators should use an audio mixer (mix down unit) in the interview area to permit individuals using microphones to attach their equipment to it, eliminating the presence of audio equipment and/or operators in front of, or adjacent to, the speakers at the dais.

The following is a checklist of suggested minimum requirements for the interview room:

- Seating for a minimum number of media or VIPs (check with the previous host for an approximate number)
- Risers or an area with an unobstructed view for television cameras
- Table for a minimum of 4-6 interviewees
- Sufficient electrical outlets
- Sufficient lighting for dais and workspaces
- Mult box
- Wireless microphones

For selected NCAA championships, press conference backdrops, interview room table tents and microphone flags will be sent to the institution by the NCAA. Quotes shall be distributed to the media immediately following each press conference.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Commercial use of any still photographs is prohibited unless permission is obtained from the NCAA. Specific areas will be designated for photographers, and these areas will be limited by priority and space. Please see Appendix G for further information regarding photography done at the championships.

PHOTOGRAPHY AREA POLICIES

The media coordinator shall be prepared to designate “photographer positions,” should media requests warrant it. “Prime” positions should be given to NCAA Photos and/or Getty Photos, or otherwise rotated among members of the media. All special requests (i.e., placing a remote camera on the backboard) must be approved by NCAA staff or site representatives.

PROGRAMS

Championships will feature either a printed or digital game program, which the NCAA and LEARFIELD Publishing has the exclusive right to post/distribute at the competition venue during the championship. No competing publications, whether sold or free of charge, are permitted at NCAA events where printed programs are available. Any publications delivered to the venue are the property of LEARFIELD before, during and after the event.

LEARFIELD will be responsible for all program production, including editorial content, layout and design, advertising and printing. Championship media contact should provide LEARFIELD with text and photos for editorial pages about host institution/venue/city, if requested by LEARFIELD. Any pages promoting the host institution/venue/city will not be display advertisements; those interested in purchasing advertising space for sponsors, etc., should contact Clerrinda Queen (clerrinda.queen@learfield.com).

LEARFIELD encourages the host institution/venue to distribute supplemental handouts (i.e., updated statistics and notes), provided any such materials:

- Are only distributed with the purchase of a program.
- Do not include information available in the program.
- Do not include advertisements.

The host should not include expenses for such supplements in the championship budget and/or financial report. All supplemental content is subject to NCAA and LEARFIELD approval.

RADIO/INTERNET AUDIO COVERAGE

Radio broadcast rights and made for internet audio at any NCAA championship may take place only through advance written request and permission of the NCAA media services group. (Refer to ncaa.com/media.)

All stations broadcasting any round of an NCAA championship shall be required to fill out the NCAA Championship Radio/Internet Streaming form online. To access the form, log onto ncaa.com/content/audio-policies-0.

SCOUT VIDEO COORDINATOR

A scout video coordinator is permitted to film the game from an upper video position. A credential also may be issued to a team videographer. The scout video coordinator will receive a media credential and may only film the game of the team represented by the video coordinator. Representatives of participating institutions may record the network telecast of any game at the site, using a video distribution outlet in the video distribution area. The institution must provide its own recording equipment.

SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

Media coordinators should provide preferred seat locations for media agencies that regularly staff games played by the participating and host institutions.

SECURITY

Security personnel should be instructed to protect the working media areas and interview area, especially before and after each game, and to limit access in all restricted areas to individuals wearing credentials.

STATISTICS REPORTING TO THE NCAA

The host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official championship results to the Association's website, ncaa.com, with the NCAA providing delivery information. At the conclusion of each championship contest or session (preliminary rounds and finals), please forward information that specifies the division, sport, round, date and official results, and provide a brief game/event summary. On the final day, the email should include the all-tournament and Most Outstanding Player selections.

Institutions should send all information as follows:

- Email the information to NCAA-Editorial@warnermedia.com. Specify the division, sport, round and region in the subject area.
- Paste the text (official results, including date of competition, round, etc.) directly into the message box.
- Attach HTML box score, if available.

TEAM VIDEOGRAPHER

Institutions are permitted to videotape championships competition by their teams or their individual student-athletes for archival, coaching or instructional purposes. Each institution is permitted to use one camera and may videotape only that portion of the competition in which it participates. The videotapes may not be used for any commercial purposes. An institutional representative shall contact the event coordinator at the host site to arrange for camera space at that site. For the latest information and policies in regard to team content, go to "Team Content Policy" link at ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services.

INTERNET

Complimentary wireless internet access must be available at all championship rounds for media use. The host institution may NOT assess an additional "hookup fee" to any media agency. Any wireless charges should be charged to the host or reflected in the proposed budget.

TELEVISION

If an NCAA championship is to be televised, the media coordinator will be notified by the NCAA championships liaison, media coordinator or member of the broadcast staff. This person will relay any needs specific to television, such as power, press row space, etc., to the host media coordinator. Information about NCAA broadcasts can be found online at ncaa.com/media.

LIVE STREAMING

For final sites of all nontelevised championships, ncaa.com will provide live streaming of the contest. For all other nontelevised rounds, the NCAA encourages all hosting institutions to provide a live stream of the event.

Apply for NCAA internet streaming rights online at ncaa.com/rights-request. Questions about Internet streaming can be directed to Nate Flannery (317-917-6523; nflannery@ncaa.org).

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS MICROSITE GUIDELINES

NCAA Championship hosts and LOCs are welcome to build a city specific microsite to house local information regarding things-to-do, travel tips, restaurants, volunteer info, etc. The primary purpose of the microsite should welcome fans enhance their experience in preparation for traveling to your city. The following information should assist you with the creation of a local microsite.

NOTE: The URL for your microsite should not be promoted and will be linked directly through ncaa.com. It should be clean of all corporate marks. Additionally, the information provided on your localized site should not duplicate any information available on ncaa.com.

DINING, SHOPPING AND ATTRACTIONS

The following topics are permissible to house within your microsite:

- Local fan gathering and entertainment locations.
- Shopping and dining.
- Special attractions.

LOCAL NEWS

The microsite can contain story modules to promote local press releases or additional information pertaining to hosting the event. This should not include information about the competition.

VENUE AND TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

City transportation and host venue details should be included within the microsite; the following are topic suggestions for this section:

- Venue address.
- Venue parking map and details, Google map.
- Venue security information.
- Public transportation options.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

The microsite can contain additional details to recruit and register volunteers. A general overview, schedule and registration information are commonly found details within this section.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Hotel, car rental and other travel accommodations should link to: ncaa.com/travel.

SELECTIONS, PRELIMINARY ROUNDS AND BROADCAST SCHEDULE

All information regarding the details of selections, all preliminary rounds and broadcast schedules should be linked to ncaa.com with the use of the ncaa.com logo.

EMAIL SIGN UP

Fans who would like to receive more information can sign up to receive newsletters from the NCAA. The following link should be included for email sign up: ncaa.com/newsletter-signup

LOGO USAGE

For championship logos, please submit a request to access the NCAA Digital Library at ncaa-logo.pd.dmh.veritone.com/user/login;requireLogin=true.

COPYRIGHTS, LICENSING, TRADEMARKS AND CORPORATE MARKS

The following are guidelines for use of NCAA trademarks and the process for requesting licensing for photos:

Host cannot promote or click thru to any URL other than ncaa.com.

- Host corporate partner marks or any commercial advertising are prohibited from being displayed on the microsite.
- The NCAA primary logo must be displayed more prominently than any other logo and must precede or be placed above any other identification marks. If the microsite is built within an existing site's framework, exceptions will be made at the NCAA's discretion.
- Photos from previous years' championships can be accessed by submitting a request form here: ncaaphotos.photoshelter.com/contact
- The microsite must adhere to fair and equitable treatment for ALL participating student-athletes and schools.
- Trademark script must be included on the homepage of the site. This text can be in a mouse print format at the bottom of the page as follows: *NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

A complete list of NCAA trademarks and trademark protection can be found by [clicking here](#).

SOCIAL MEDIA

All social media icons should link to the appropriate NCAA-hosted platforms for the championship. The official list of NCAA social media pages and hashtags may be found at ncaa.com/social.

MOBILE VERSION

The NCAA championship information pages will be mobile friendly. In order for the microsite to convert to mobile devices, pages will need to be created for use on a mobile site.

LOCAL CONTRIBUTOR RECOGNITION

The LOC/host institution is able to recognize their local contributors under the following guidelines:

- In text form only.
- The NCAA's logos need to be removed from that specific page.
- The link to this page is not in main or sidebar navigation (bottom navigation only).
- This page is entitled "Local Contributors."
- Include text at the bottom of the page indicating the local contributors are not sponsors of the NCAA and all of the CC/PS are listed within that text.

MICROSITE EXAMPLES

If you would like to review an approved championship microsite, please reference one of the following pages:

- Utah March Madness First & Second Round: uteathletics.com/ncaa/
- Oklahoma City Women's College World Series Microsite: visitokc.com/wcws/

PHOTOGRAPHY

NCAA Photos (also known as Clarkson-Creative/Clarkson) will be on site for the final day of competition, unless otherwise specified. Hosts institutions are not required to have a photographer when Clarkson is not on site. An additional photographer may be hired by NCAA staff to shoot additional days and ancillary events, if the staff so chooses. For those instances, it is necessary to have the hired photographer(s) complete the photography services agreement.

All photographers will agree to the NCAA Championship Photography Terms and Conditions upon requesting a credential. Photo sales on site are strictly prohibited.

Images for use by NCAA member institutions are available at a special rate and are bound by the following rights:

“For official NCAA member institution athletic department website and publications only. Other reproduction, distribution, and/or display print production is prohibited unless specified in writing.”

For internal member institution use, please contact Clarkson-Creative at info@ncaaphotos.com with the name of the image(s) you would like to purchase, and an online transaction will be set up to download the image(s). All images should be credited, where it appears, to: ©Photographer’s Name/NCAAPhotos. For all other uses, please contact Andy Krause (Andrew.Krause@gettyimages.com).

Any other entity, with the exception of the NCAA membership, seeking a championship event photo must license it through Getty Images. To license an NCAA championship event photo, please visit on.ncaa.com/NCAAonGetty.

For additional questions regarding championship photography, please contact Nate Flannery (nflannery@ncaa.org; 317-917-6222).

NCAA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS

The official NCAA social media pages and official hashtags can be found here: on.ncaa.com/SocialAccounts

Host Promotion of Championships

A lot of hosts already have an established presence in social media. Examples are school, LOC, Sports Corporation, venue or city pages/accounts. These pages/accounts are all acceptable places to promote hosting of an NCAA championship through the use of marketing messages and products supplied from the NCAA (links, web banners, fliers, etc.). The NCAA also promotes the championships (and the host involvement) on the appropriate NCAA social media pages/accounts. If the championship does not have an official NCAA account on a social media site, a host is still not permitted to create a page for it. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the other established methods, as necessary. Collaboration is encouraged through the use of cross-posting on Facebook (@ linking within text to drive fans to each other’s pages) and mentions on Twitter (@ links to show coordination in posts). In addition to collaboration, idea-sharing is also encouraged and can be coordinated through the championships associate director of social media, cdion@ncaa.org.

A host should not create a social media account or page (Facebook page, Twitter (X) feed, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.) solely devoted to promoting an NCAA championship. These pages become outdated, distract fans from established pages and fracture the NCAA message.

Top considerations when planning for social media event marketing:

1. **Know your social media audience.** Utilize account analytics to learn about your fan demographics and monitor the engagement levels on your posts. Figure out what engages your fans.
2. **Encourage community.** Ask for feedback and opinion. This helps engage the user and may provide you with some good input. Also, reply to user questions with correct and helpful answers.
3. **Cross-post.** Cross-posting or mentioning others will help increase your visibility and spread credit throughout social media platforms.
4. **Use images.** Pictures are necessary to grab attention and interest. Users are more likely to engage versus text only.
5. **Be concise.** Get to the point within two sentences. Less than that, if possible.
6. **Lead your video.** You have mere seconds to garner a user’s attention on social media. Make sure your videos have an immediate point of interest to keep users engaged.
7. **Like or Follow people to help you.** Networking with members of the media, partner organizations and constituents on Twitter and Facebook is just as beneficial as in real life. On Facebook, like their pages, cross-post to them when you mention them or make them one of your favorites. On Twitter, retweet, join in on hashtags (#NCAA) and mention feeds in your posts.

DIVISION III SOCCER

8. **Keep it light.** While it is important to stay on message and deliver the facts, this is social media, after all. Have fun with it.
9. **If you hesitate about posting something, you probably shouldn't.** There are no redos in social media. A “delete” doesn't mean you can delete someone seeing it.

Please send direct questions to Chris Dion, cdion@ncaa.org, or send ideas or news to the general box, socialmedia@ncaa.org.

Section 19 • Meetings/Schedule of Events

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING

A mandatory administrative meeting will be held by the committees or by the designated site representative for the competing teams, officials and games committee before the opening round of the tournament to review championship matters. The meeting should take place virtually the evening before practice day (ideally) or at minimum 3 hours prior to the game. It is recommended that a designated administrator other than a member of the coaching staff and the head coach attend the meeting. Failure to attend this meeting may result in a misconduct violation.

NCAA REPRESENTATIVE(S)

The soccer representative(s) at each site will meet the day before competition begins with the tournament manager, media coordinator and facility manager. If requested by the site representative, additional personnel may participate. The NCAA staff will provide the committee representative and the tournament manager with a checklist to review during the meeting.

OFFICIALS' MEETING

See Section 21 for more information.

Section 20 • Merchandise/Licensing

ADMINISTRATION

The NCAA licensing department has oversight for the event merchandising program at all rounds and sites of NCAA championships. All licensing and merchandising questions should be directed to David Clendenin (317-917-6496; dclendenin@ncaa.org).

AVAILABILITY

An online ordering system will be available to participating institutions interested in ordering Event 1, Inc., merchandise in advance of the championship. Orders will be shipped by Event 1 directly to the participating institution's campus.

GENERAL POLICIES

The NCAA retains the exclusive right to sell souvenir products at all rounds and sites of the 92 championships; host institutions/conferences and sponsoring agencies for all NCAA championships are required to sell items provided by the official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser. The official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser is Event 1.

Event 1, Inc. will enter into an agreement with the official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency and will supply merchandise and inventory reconciliation forms to the official vendor. The official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency at the site of the championship(s) is responsible for complete retail vending accountability, including full responsibility for inventory. When the requirements listed below are met, the host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee for providing these services. The 20% commission fee will be from net sales, which is defined as gross sales minus taxes and credit card fees. The following is a list of the requirements that must be met to qualify for the 20% commission fee:

- a. Receive and count in all merchandise upon arrival from Event 1, Inc., as well as receiving all reorders required to meet customers demand. Reorders could arrive any day of the week and could be as early as 8 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday.
- b. Locked and supervised storage adequate to accommodate all championship merchandise.
- c. Immediate notification (within 24 hours of receipt) to Event 1, Inc. of any discrepancies in initial inventory counts. Nonnotification will represent host or vendor acceptance of initial inventory provided by Event 1, Inc.
- d. Total management, control and accountability of the merchandise. If goods are lost, stolen or damaged, those goods are the responsibility of the host institution/conference or vendor.
- e. Everything sent must be returned to Event 1 within two days of the conclusion of the event.
- f. An appropriate number of selling locations and sellers throughout the facility in order to meet the demands of the projected crowds.
- g. Selling locations that are well displayed and fully stocked prior to the public's access to them.
- h. Strict adherence to the merchandising and display standards as outlined below:
 - Merchandise made available for sale at all times during the event.
 - Each item neatly displayed with correct prices clearly marked.
 - Merchandise should be neatly folded at all times.
 - Neatly dressed personnel that are customer-oriented.
 - Skirted tables for display and checkout.
 - Display boards and grids to properly display product at all selling locations.
 - Selling locations located in high traffic and easily located locations.
 - Vendor shall be responsible for hanging any display or signage material provided by concessionaire.
 - Keeping selling areas clean and neat at all times.

- Restocking of back-up inventory in a fast and efficient manner.
 - Transferring merchandise between the slower and higher volume stands to meet the demands of the consumers.
 - Providing electricity and either hard internet lines or dedicated secured Wi-Fi network connection to support the merchandise sales effort at no extra cost.
 - Calling Event 1, Inc. to request reorders should sales warrant.
- i. A complete inventory accounting of all merchandise sold with a final inventory count and merchandising report supplied to Event 1, Inc., no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the event.
 - j. Total gross sales revenues and a final copy of the inventory report must be sent to Event 1, Inc., within two business days of the conclusion of the event.
 - k. The remaining inventory forwarded to Event 1, Inc., or the next event site as determined by Event 1, Inc., within two days of the conclusion.
 - l. Having met each of the above requirements, Event 1, Inc. will pay to the host institution/conference, sponsoring agency or its assigned vendor, a commission equal to 20% of sales net of taxes and credit card service fees. The host institutions will keep commissions earned and the remaining money owed to Event 1 must be sent within seven days of the conclusion of the event.

The host institution/conference may not sell or allow for sale any merchandise that infringes upon the exclusive rights of Event 1, Inc.

Institutional Merchandise. A buy-out option can be made with Event 1/NCAA when the host institution/conference wants to sell merchandise that features the host mark or logo at the NCAA competition. This can only be done when the host institution/conference agrees to purchase the entire product that Event 1 provides. The host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee of net sales, gross sales minus credit card fees and taxes, on product supplied by Event 1. The host institution or official vendor will provide the NCAA 15% of sales (net of taxes and credit card service fees) of all non-NCAA championship merchandise. The quantity of NCAA merchandise available for sale shall not be less than a comparable shipment to a comparable site of the previous year's championship.

Reordering Process. The host institution/conference may contact Event 1 to place an order for additional merchandise during the event. The concessionaire must contact Event 1 no later than the conclusion of each day to evaluate inventory levels. The more time Event 1 has to react to the request, the better the chance a reorder can be processed and shipped in a timely manner. Event 1 cannot guarantee that additional merchandise will be available.

Event 1 will provide an event manual, which will include the contact information for the event coordinator assigned to the event as well as additional merchandising guidelines.

DIVERSE SUPPLIERS

The NCAA strongly encourages the participation, directly or indirectly, when possible, by diverse businesses in providing goods and services in support of NCAA championships and requests local organizing committees/hosts to explore opportunities for diverse businesses to provide any necessary goods and services for awarded championships. At the NCAA, diverse suppliers are defined as entities that are majority (at least 51%) owned, managed and controlled by ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities or veterans. At a minimum, we encourage local organizing committees/hosts to ensure that at least 10% of the suppliers invited to participate in the championship are diverse suppliers.

Section 21 • Officials

Officials for all NCAA postseason games shall be appointed by the respective soccer committee in conjunction with the NCAA national (and regional) coordinator for officials using a comprehensive list based on input from the regional advisory committees, conferences and other officiating organizations.

A sports committee or games committee may not require membership in any specific officials' association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in an NCAA meet or tournament. Officials shall be selected and assigned by the sports committee or games committee, which shall ensure that officials adhere to the Association's policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use.

Furthermore, officials must conduct themselves in a manner befitting intercollegiate athletics. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Participating teams will be advised of the officials assigned to their competitions at the administrative meeting, and should not be notified of the assigned officials prior to this time.

FEES AND EXPENSES

The NCAA will be responsible for the payment of **ALL** officials' fees, transportation and per diem. Officials will be paid by the NCAA using RefQuest. Officials will be provided specific instructions relative to their payment. **Lodging expenses will continue to be the responsibility of the host institution/conference and submitted for reimbursement through the host reporting system.**

HOTEL

Officials' hotel rooms and tax is the responsibility of the host and should be included in the host's budget. Officials are responsible for incidental charges.

As a reminder, these expenses should be listed on the financial report prior to the competition. **The officials may not be housed with the teams.**

OFFICIALS' MEETINGS

The NCAA representative will meet with the officials (separately from the coaches' meeting), at least one-and-a-half hours before the start of competition, to review responsibilities, distribute NCAA patches and answer any questions.

PATCHES

Hosts will receive four patches per game no more than 24 hours before the start of competition. NCAA patches for the officials should be worn on the upper left front of the shirt. Patches other than the NCAA patch, excluding the American flag, are not to be worn on the uniform or jacket. Note: If uniform or jacket has an American flag where the NCAA patch is to be worn, the NCAA patch is to be worn below the American flag.

SELECTION

Selection and assignment of officials for all tournament games will be made by the men's soccer committee, based on recommendations submitted by the NCAA national soccer assignor and NCAA conferences/associations. Officials shall adhere to the association's policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use.

Three field officials and one alternate official will be assigned to officiate each game.

UNIFORMS

Referees shall wear uniforms outlined in the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#).

Section 22 • Participating Teams

ADMITTANCE TO FACILITY

Participating institutions must submit a pass list to the soccer committees at the mandatory prechampionship meeting. This list will provide the names of the teams' official traveling parties who should be admitted into the facility.

TEAM HOSTS

At the finals site, each team should be assigned a host to assist it during its stay. In addition, a member of the national soccer committee will serve as a team liaison to each participating team.

Section 23 • Practices

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

It is recommended that each participating institution have an administrator accompany the team to closed practices to ensure that only those individuals affiliated with the institution or designated by the coach (again, excluding media) are allowed in the closed practice. This individual may be an athletic trainer, sports information director (SID) or another administrator, but not a member of the coaching staff or a student.

ALTERNATE PRACTICE SITE

The host institution is not obligated to arrange for an alternate practice facility for the visiting teams in the event they arrive early. Practice at an alternate site is permissible, but the visiting team is responsible for making these arrangements themselves. Practice at the competition site is not permissible, other than a maximum of one hour the day before and one hour the day of scheduled competition.

BENCH PERSONNEL/SQUAD SIZE

Squad size for each team shall include a maximum of 24 student-athletes in uniform. A maximum of 50 persons, which includes two medical personnel, may be within the team bench area from the start of the pregame warmup through the entire game. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies are located online at [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](https://www.ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information).

CLOSED PRACTICE

All practices prior to competition are closed practices to all but the institutions' official traveling parties and selected others that the coach authorizes to attend practice (e.g., parents of players, selected colleagues). Members of the media, including a team's local media that might be traveling with the team, are not permitted to attend closed practices under any circumstances. If the event is televised, network talent may observe closed practices, but coaches are under no obligation to give interviews. Television technicians may be in the area (if necessary) for televised game preparation.

LENGTH

All participating teams shall be allowed no more than a one-hour practice on the day before the game on the field on which the championship competition will be played (weather permitting). The one-hour period includes setup time. If weather conditions are averse, no teams shall be permitted on the competition field. Alternate practice facilities should be available for each team. The NCAA regional chair, in consultation with the host institution, has final approval over the practice schedule, taking into consideration factors such as travel arrangements and potential missed class time. On the day prior to competition, there is no limit to the number of student-athletes who can participate in practice.

Section 24 • Programs

This championship will feature a digital game program that can be viewed online or downloaded at no charge. This program will be available online generally no later than two days prior to the first day of the event.

All digital programs available can be found at ncaa.com/gameprograms.

CONTENT/EDITORIAL

LEARFIELD Responsibilities

Responsible for all program production, including editorial content, layout and design, advertising, and printing.

Host Responsibilities

Media contact should provide LEARFIELD with text and photos for editorial pages about host institution/venue/city, if requested by LEARFIELD.

Any pages promoting the host institution/venue/city will not be display advertisements; those interested in purchasing advertising space for sponsors, etc., should contact Clerrinda Queen (clerrinda.queen@learfield.com).

PROMOTION

The NCAA will provide a PDF including a QR code that links to the digital program, a URL where the digital program can be accessed and imagery of the NCAA's Corporate Champions and Partners. This PDF, or digital handout, is also shared with participating schools for their promotional use.

If you would like this information ahead of time, please contact your NCAA administrator.

Best Practices

Below are a few best practices for promoting the championship digital program.

- Distribute the digital handout to fans.
- Create signage to direct fans to the digital program by using elements on the digital handout.
- Post the link on athletics and school-affiliated websites.
- Share the link on athletics and school-affiliated social media outlets.
- Share the link with student-athletes, faculty, alumni organizations and local media outlets, and any other group that may have interest.

SUPPLEMENTAL HANDOUTS

At championships sites where a digital program is available, LEARFIELD allows the host institution/venue to distribute supplemental handouts (i.e., updated statistics and notes) provided any such materials:

- Do not include any advertisements, local sponsor logos, etc.
- Include the QR code and URL to the digital program.
- Include the NCAA Corporate Champions and Partners imagery.

Printed supplements may be distributed free or sold, with all proceeds retained by the host. The host should not include expenses for such supplements in the championship budget and/or financial report.

All supplemental content is subject to NCAA and LEARFIELD approval.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your NCAA administrator or Chad Laytham (chad.laytham@learfield.com) at LEARFIELD.

Section 25 • Safety and Security

The NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop Best Practices for all NCAA championships. The SSAG developed these Best Practices based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own experience and knowledge. All hosts and competition venues are strongly encouraged to refer to the [Best Practices for Venue Safety and Security](#) when developing a safety and security program.

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

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

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

Please submit your final safety and security plan, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team Contact Information form. Items must be submitted once the opportunity to host has been awarded.

Unless otherwise expressly authorized by applicable law, no firearms or weapons are permitted on these premises for NCAA championships and events, excluding authorized law enforcement officers. Failure to abide may subject you to ejection as well as other applicable discipline or action. The foregoing shall not limit the applicable equipment used in and for fencing and rifle competitions in accordance with NCAA rules, at the venues for such competitions.

WEATHER

If the tournament director and/or site representative determine that weather conditions could alter the approved championship event schedule, they should promptly contact the NCAA championship administrator with a summary and details of the anticipated weather/environmental issue and proposed alternate schedule prior to making or announcing any formal changes.

Lightning and Weather Detection Service

The NCAA has made arrangements to provide a lightning detection and weather monitoring system to all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. This system will assist the event management staff and the NCAA site representatives in case of inclement weather during the championship. A tournament staff member should be dedicated to weather monitoring. This service is provided complimentary so that all sites will have the resources available to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, spectators and event management staff. Both the site representative and host tournament director should request to include their emails and/or phone numbers via text to the weather monitoring system so updates will be received. The site representative and tournament director should also ensure that the address identified in the monitoring system is the actual physical location of where the event is taking place. It is also recommended that the tournament director make contact with a local meteorologist to further facilitate weather and environmental monitoring.

Section 26 • Ticketing

TICKET POLICIES /OPERATIONS

- 1. Ticket Design/Printing.** If championship tickets must be printed, the NCAA will manage the design and printing of the tickets, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The NCAA will forward artwork of the proposed ticket design to the LOC/host and competition venue for review and input. The NCAA logo shall be the only logo used on the front or back of the tickets unless specifically authorized by the NCAA. The name of the host institution/conference may be printed on the front of the ticket(s) and/or on the cover of the ticket booklet. The NCAA will coordinate the printing of the tickets unless the NCAA directs the LOC/host or competition venue to coordinate the printing. The LOC/host shall incur all expenses associated with ticket printing, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA.
- 2. Ticket Pricing.** With input and a recommendation from the LOC/host, the NCAA shall establish all ticket prices, including tickets for suites and standing room only. One hundred percent (100%) of the revenues from ticket sales shall be included in the championships receipts to help offset the NCAA guarantee (if applicable), championship expenses, and further revenue sharing opportunities. Revenue from the sale of championship tickets and championship-related event tickets will be exempt from sales, amusement, entertainment taxes and other surcharge obligations to the extent possible. The NCAA is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization. If a tax exemption is not applicable, then all applicable taxes and rates shall be disclosed (disclose in the sport-specific facility questionnaire) and any increases in the tax rates from the time the bid was submitted shall be absorbed by the bid respondent or rebated back to the NCAA.

Since all members of the general public must have a ticket in order to enter the facility, a minimum number of ticket windows must remain open until the conclusion of the event. During first-, second- and sectional rounds, only daily ticket should be sold; there should be no all-session tickets sold during the preliminary rounds of the championship.

Special Ticket Plans. Any special ticket plans (e.g., senior citizens, youth groups) must be approved in advance by the NCAA national office.

Ticket Prices.

First and Second Sectional Rounds - Minimum Ticket (Prices Per Session)		Semifinals and Finals Minimum Ticket Prices (All Sessions)
\$6	General Admission	\$15
\$3	Senior Citizens	\$10
\$3	Students	\$10
\$2	Children Ages Three to 12	\$5

The NCAA does not allow complimentary tickets to its championships. However, the NCAA will permit the purchase of tickets to use for championship promotional efforts. All ticket promotions must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

- 3. Control of Ticket Sales.** The NCAA shall control all ticket sales for the championship, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The LOC/host and competition venue shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners (e.g., primary ticket sales system provider, official ticket and hospitality package provider, official ticket exchange). The NCAA shall not be responsible for securing an exemption to any exclusive contracts the LOC/host, competition venue or surrounding areas/facilities might have, nor will the NCAA be responsible for any buyout or other means necessary to secure such an exemption.

Admittance to the competition venue on game days will be by ticket or NCAA-issued credential only. Every individual, regardless of age, must have a game ticket for admission, unless specified by the NCAA or venue policy. Unless specifically granted an exception, the NCAA requires that the competition venue utilize a ticket scanning system at all general public access points into the competition venue. The host venue system will be used for access control, box office walk-up sales and day of event issue resolution in the box office.

- 4. Control of Venue Seating.** The NCAA shall control all seating assignments within the competition venue, including club seating, press boxes, hospitality clubs and restaurants.

The NCAA shall be responsible for determining the allocation and the location of all ticket allotments.

The LOC/host or competition venue may not resell allotted championship game tickets at any price, nor may enter into a sponsorship agreement or hospitality/travel package agreement with any ticket broker, tour packager or other secondary ticket marketer to provide championship tickets in return for other considerations unless specifically authorized by the NCAA.

5. Suites.

- a. The competition venue shall stipulate a quantity of private viewing suites available for the sole use of the NCAA or its designees at the time of the bid. All revenue from such suites will belong to the NCAA.
- b. The NCAA will provide tickets, as necessary to the LOC/host and/or competition venue for those suite holders displaced to fulfill the NCAA suite seat requirements.
- c. Subject to NCAA approval, suites not made available to the NCAA or its designees shall remain under the control of the competition venue, but the face value ticket revenue for such suite seats will belong to the NCAA.
- d. Suite holders will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the suite to which they have purchased tenant rights. The venue's box office staff if assigned by the NCAA, shall solicit and confirm suite purchases by suite holders. At that time, suites not purchased by suite holders will be made available to the NCAA for additional use/sales opportunities in accordance with the agreed upon financial parameters.

6. LOC/Host Ticket Policies.

- a. **Allocation.** For all championships other than Division I men's basketball, the NCAA shall allocate to the LOC/host a maximum of 10% of the saleable competition venue seats. These tickets shall be used to accommodate LOC/host guests, including but not limited to local contributors.
- b. **Budget Relief.** At its sole option, the NCAA shall notify the LOC/host of certain budget relief that may be provided in exchange for a reduction in the LOC/host ticket allotment.
- c. **Ticket Allocation Limitation.** No more than 20 tickets shall be made available from the LOC/host or competition venue to any one entity without NCAA approval.
- d. **Assignment Information.** The LOC/host shall provide the NCAA with the names of those individuals assigned to each seat within the LOC/host's ticket allocation.

Subject to NCAA approval, the assignment of general public seats is the competition venue box office's responsibility, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA. The seat locations shall be designated by the NCAA. The competition venue must be in compliance with all applicable city, state or federal laws and regulations including those concerning access and seating for individuals with disabilities and their companions and assist with inquiries from ticket purchasers or holders in need of accessible seating or companion seating. Additionally, the box office shall assist with all lost, stolen or misdirected ticket issues. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to process and distribute lost, stolen or misdirected tickets.

7. Competition Venue Responsibilities.

- a. **Seating Manifest.** The competition venue shall forward the NCAA a complete ticket manifest with a PDF or CAD drawing of the venue's configuration and cooperate fully with any NCAA ticketing partners.
- b. **Broadcast Partner Site Survey.** The NCAA's broadcast partner, in conjunction with the NCAA and the competition venue, may conduct a site survey approximately nine months in advance of the championship to determine the host set location, camera locations and determine the need for "seat kills."
- c. **Final Manifest.** Upon completion of the site survey and determination of "kill" seats, the competition venue shall provide the NCAA with a final seating manifest, reflecting all saleable seats, available suites and available hospitality/party suites.

- d. **General Public Assignments.** Subject to NCAA approval, the assignment of general public seats is the competition venue box office's responsibility. The seat locations shall be designated by the NCAA. The competition venue must comply with all applicable city, state or federal laws and regulations including those concerning access and seating for the disabled and assist with inquiries from ticket holders in need of disabled tickets. Additionally, the box office shall assist with all lost, stolen, or misdirected ticket issues. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to process and distribute lost, stolen, or misdirected tickets.
- e. **Participating Institutions' Tickets.** The competition venue's box office shall send the paper or mobile tickets allocated to the participating institutions by a date agreed upon by the NCAA and venue. An invoice, manifest, seating diagram, instructions and payment deadline information shall be sent with the participating institution's tickets. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to ship paper tickets.
- f. **Sales Reports.** The competition venue's box office shall be responsible for providing the NCAA with timely and accurate sales reports. Reports should be provided on a regular basis, as directed by the NCAA. The competition venue's box office shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners in providing the reports.
- g. **Final Ticket Database.** Each host conference, institution and/or venue must provide ticket purchaser information to the NCAA upon request, as well as, at the conclusion of the competition. Collecting purchaser information is essential for marketing efforts and postevent purchaser surveys which allow the NCAA to improve the championships experience. All relevant purchaser information must be submitted in an Excel or CSV file. The information should include, but not be limited to: Last Name, First Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Email, Phone Number and purchase information such as Total Seats Purchased and Total Purchase Price.

2025-26 STANDARD TICKET BACK DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE

The NCAA's standard ticket back language is posted online at ncaa.com/ticket-terms.

The ticket back language should be placed on the back of all ticket stubs, but if it cannot be done (e.g., no new ticket stock is produced), this language must at a minimum be posted at all ticket windows for patrons to see, be included as an insert with the ticket mailing, etc. Patrons must be put on notice regarding the restrictions.

Section 27 • Transportation

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Teams eligible for air travel must arrange make arrangements through Short's Travel. Short's can be reached at 866-655-9215 or by email at ncaalo@shortstravel.com.

Institutions that fly, and are eligible for NCAA paid transportation on-site, will be required to use Short's Travel (STM Driven) to book on-site ground transportation. Short's Travel (STM Driven) can be reached at 844-814-3939 or at ncaachamps@stmdriven.com.

The home side ground transportation will be arranged by the institution in accordance with NCAA safety standards. Institutions that are eligible to drive to the championship will book ground transportation independently in accordance with the NCAA safety standards and seek reimbursement through the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES).

Expense reimbursement for participation in championships will be filed through our online system. The TES can be found at travel.ncaa.org.

All NCAA Championship travel information can be found [here](#).

PARKING

The host institution is responsible for securing complimentary parking at team hotels for team buses and any courtesy vehicles provided, if possible. The competition venue shall provide a designated complimentary parking area for team buses and courtesy cars at the competition venue.

Section 28 • Volunteers

GOAL AND RECRUITMENT

A volunteer program for the championship should be implemented to accomplish the following goals:

- Provide an enthusiastic and warm welcome to participants and guests.
- Answer questions and provide information to visitors.
- Contribute to the general excitement surrounding the championship.
- Assist the LOC with championship operations.

Championship volunteer programs should represent the student-athletes and communities we serve, embrace diversity and be inclusive of individuals from all backgrounds and identities. The NCAA and the LOC shall encourage recruitment and participation of volunteers from a talent pool of individuals that reflect diversity across all aspects, including race, age, sex, class, national origin, creed, educational background, religion, gender identify, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and work experiences. The LOC/host institution should keep the NCAA's commitment to diversity top of mind as they assign volunteers to the various roles and responsibilities throughout the championship.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must sign a volunteer release waiver. Individuals with driving responsibilities MUST be 25 years of age or older.

Student-athletes or prospect-aged individuals MAY NOT be recruited in any way different than general public volunteers. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) cannot make a specific volunteer presentation to student-athletes of the host institution/conference. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals may apply to volunteer in the same manner as individuals from the general public. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals must be selected by the same criteria as the general public applicants.

The NCAA may request additional volunteers from the LOC as necessary.

WAIVERS

Each volunteer must sign a waiver of liability before the start of the championship (Appendix). If there is a written agreement governing volunteer service, a release component must be added if one does not already exist. After the championship, all waivers shall be collected and kept on file, in case requested.

APPAREL

The NCAA will coordinate ordering and production of the apparel through the NCAA volunteer apparel program. BDA Sports and Event 1 have been selected as the official NCAA volunteer apparel providers for all 2025-26 championships. The NCAA will offer its Corporate Champions/Partners the opportunity to help offset the cost. The champion/partner would be permitted to place one logo on each apparel item, if a separate apparel item is provided for these volunteers.

The championship logo and the licensee's mark will be embroidered on the apparel. The licensee's logo may appear on the right chest or sleeve. The licensee's logo may be no larger than 2¼ inches square.

The LOC will distribute uniforms during the required volunteer training sessions to ensure each volunteer's commitment. When ordering uniforms, the LOC will ensure that apparel includes women's styles and sizes.

The games management staff, media coordination staff and host media operations staff should be included in overall volunteer numbers and should receive volunteer apparel.

NOTE: Hosts shall work in collaboration with the championship administrator on the selection, ordering and distribution of volunteer apparel.

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Appendix A • Checklist for NCAA Division III Soccer Hosts

WEEK OF GAME

- ___ 1. Send instruction packet to the athletics director(s) of the visiting institution(s) notifying them of game, practice and meeting schedules and arranged hotel accommodations.
- ___ 2. Obtain names and contact information of appointed officials from NCAA staff. NCAA staff will provide within 24 to 48 hours following selections.
- ___ 3. If necessary, secure rooms for the officials.
- ___ 4. Notify game officials of game and meeting schedules.
- ___ 5. Communicate with the NCAA site representative on the game, practice and meeting schedules. Secure a hotel room for the NCAA site representative and communicate with this person. Review participant call agenda with NCAA site representative prior to the call.
- ___ 6. Obtain necessary insurance coverage, per Executive Regulation 1-21-(b) and submit confirmation to the NCAA championship manager.
- ___ 7. If notification is received, implement drug-testing procedures, including facility and personnel requirements, as detailed in information from the NCAA national office. If drug testing is confirmed for your site, you will be notified early in the week.
- ___ 8. Make sure seating or standing arrangements at the field allow spectators no closer than 10 feet, but preferably 20 feet, from touch and goal lines.
- ___ 9. Field arrangements.

Check proper markings, including coaching and photographers boxes, in accordance with NCAA rules. see the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#).
 - ___ a. Check and secure goals and nets.
 - ___ b. Check scoreboard/clock to ensure proper operation.
- ___ 10. Arrange for the following equipment at game site: Adequate public-address system, two watches, two compressed air horns, scoreboard, pencils and an American flag properly displayed. NCAA banners also should be displayed, if available.
- ___ 11. Arrange for playing/performing of the national anthem before each session.
- ___ 12. Arrange for half-time refreshment for teams and officials.
- ___ 13. Arrange for drinking cups, ice and water for players at each bench.
- ___ 14. Display names of teams on scoreboard. Avoid home and visitor designation.
- ___ 15. Assign locker rooms for the teams and supply marker boards or blackboards with markers or chalk in each room.
- ___ 16. Assign a locker room for the officials for pregame, half time and postgame purposes.
- ___ 17. Assign scorers, timers, statisticians and announcer. It is recommended there be two timers and a recorder for subs, goals and penalty kicks. Spell out duties of each official.

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- ___ 18. Confirm that the field is secured to control ticket sales.
- ___ 19. Arrange for ticket sellers and takers.
- ___ 20. Arrange for security for the following:
 - ___ a. Officials;
 - ___ b. Teams;
 - ___ c. Bench area (pre- and postgame);
 - ___ d. Spectator areas;
 - ___ e. All entry gates; and
 - ___ f. Ticket takers/concessions.
- ___ 21. Arrange for medical assistance. The presence or planned access to a physician for prompt medical evaluation of the situation, when warranted. An ambulance available at the site is also preferred. An emergency action plan must be identified to ensure quick responses should an ambulance service be needed.
- ___ 22. Arrange a location for merchandise and assign personnel to sell NCAA championship merchandise.
- ___ 23. Have a practice field available the day prior to competition (or night, if game is under lights). Visiting teams should be allowed to practice on the game field, if at all possible.
- ___ 24. Have practice balls available, if needed.
- ___ 25. Advise team(s) of the training supplies, equipment and facilities which will be available or provided.

DAY OF PRACTICE

- ___ 1. Teams will be allowed one hour of practice on the game field the day prior to competition. If weather conditions are adverse, neither team shall be permitted on the game field. Alternate practice facilities should be available for each team. The host institution in consultation with the NCAA site representative shall determine available practice time slots. The NCAA regional chair will determine the practice schedule taking travel arrangements and potential missed class time into consideration. At the finals, practice times will be assigned by the committee.
- ___ 2. Check locker room accommodations.
- ___ 3. Make laundry arrangements.
- ___ 4. Make certain practice field is set up, goals have proper nets and field is properly marked.
- ___ 5. Ensure that athletic training staff accommodates any needs of visiting teams.
- ___ 6. Provide each team an opportunity to practice with the game balls.
- ___ 7. Put together coaches' packets to include: participant passes, game day agendas and administrative meeting agenda.

GAME DAY

- ___ 1. Meet with NCAA representative, coaches and other key personnel at least two hours before the game. Choice of uniform is to be decided earlier in the week in consultation with the NCAA committee. In all competitions, the home team wears white or light-colored jerseys and socks and the visitors wear dark jerseys and socks. Colors must be contrasting. Confirm these arrangements and bench assignments. The home team will be the top team listed on the bracket. The site representative will chair the meeting and cover other relevant topics.
- ___ 2. Provide team roster form for competing teams.
- ___ 3. Provide game balls to teams for warmups.
- ___ 4. Setup the game field for team practices at least one hour prior to game time.
- ___ 5. The NCAA representative should be in the immediate vicinity during the competition.
- ___ 6. Provide a scorekeeper for all games.
- ___ 7. Provide completed box scores for each team, including half-time statistics, if available.
- ___ 8. Provide meeting space for pregame meetings (administrative and officials).
- ___ 9. Note ticket price minimums.
- ___ 10. Review crowd-control policy.
- ___ 11. Distribute a condensed information sheet providing the times, assignment of officials, method of introduction, time between games, color of uniforms, benches, etc. Distribute this information to coaches, press, and radio and television personnel.
- ___ 12. Work with competing teams to establish a pass gate for team personnel.
- ___ 13. If scheduled at your site, implement postgame drug-testing procedures as instructed by the NCAA national office and the on-site crew chief.
- ___ 14. If a game is suspended or postponed, the host institution AND the NCAA representative must contact men's NCAA contact Kevin Alcox (office: 317-917-6085; cell phone: 317-749-9783). Only after contacting the NCAA national office may the game schedule be altered.

POSTGAME

- ___ 1. At the completion of the game, an official game ball should be presented to each team. Only one game ball per team, per site is required to be given; teams competing in multiple games at a given site are not required to receive more than one game ball.

Report the score to the NCAA championship manager and also submit it to the NCAA website by emailing it to ncaa-content@turner.com.

Submit financial report to the NCAA within 60 days. The proposed budget and financial report form may be accessed on the NCAA Website at championships.ncaa.org. Please note that the online form is password protected. Your institution's athletics director should have the necessary membership database username and password on file. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the NCAA.

Appendix B • Game Day Schedule

The following schedule is to be used for all sessions during the men’s and women’s soccer championships.

Game Clock

60:00	Teams may begin warm-up.
15:00	Game rosters submitted and exchanged.
10:00	Captains and officials meet.
	Teams clear field.
	Public-address welcome.
	Introduction of officials and players.
	1. Officials. (In center circle)
	2. Visiting team nonstarters, followed by starters. (All to midfield, in front of bench)
	3. Home team nonstarters, followed by starters. (All to midfield, in front of bench)
	National anthem.
	Teams shake hands; designated away team moves to shake designated home team’s hands.
0:00	Game begins.
45:00	Kickoff • First half
15:00	Halftime • Start immediately as teams exit field
0:00/45:00	Kickoff • Second half

Overtime Procedure

5:00	Intermission after regulation time.
10:00	First overtime period (sudden victory).
2:00	Intermission.
10:00	Second overtime period (sudden victory).
5:00	Intermission.

Penalty-Kick Procedure (See Rule 14 of the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#).)

Second Game of Session (if applicable)

Teams for second game are guaranteed a 30-minute warm-up on the game field.

40:00	Teams may begin warm-up.
30:00	Game rosters submitted and exchanged.
10:00	Captains and officials meet.
	Teams clear field.
	Introduction of officials, coaches and players.
	1. Officials. (In center circle)
	2. Visiting team nonstarters, followed by starters. (All to midfield, in front of bench)
	3. Home team nonstarters, followed by starters. (All to midfield, in front of bench)
	Teams shake hands; designated away team moves to shake designated home team's hands.
0:00	Game begins.
45:00	Kickoff • First half
15:00	Halftime • Start immediately as teams exit field
0:00/45:00	Kickoff • Second half

Overtime Procedure

5:00	Intermission after regulation time.
10:00	First overtime period.
2:00	Intermission.
10:00	Second overtime period.
5:00	Intermission

Penalty-Kick Procedure (See Rule 14 of the [2024 and 2025 Soccer Rules](#).)

Appendix C • NCAA Championship Microsite Guidelines

NCAA Championship hosts and LOCs are welcome to build a city specific microsite to house local information regarding things-to-do, travel tips, restaurants, volunteer info, etc. The primary purpose of the microsite should welcome fans enhance their experience in preparation for traveling to your city. The following information should assist you with the creation of a local microsite.

Please note: the URL for your microsite should not be promoted and will be linked directly through ncaa.com. It should be clean of all corporate marks. Additionally, the information provided on your localized site should not duplicate any information available on ncaa.com.

Dining, Shopping and Attractions

The following topics are permissible to house within your microsite:

- Local fan gathering and entertainment locations
- Shopping and dining
- Special attractions

Local News

The microsite can contain story modules to promote local press releases or additional information pertaining to hosting the event. This should not include information about the competition.

Venue and Transportation Information

City transportation and host venue details should be included within the microsite; the following are topic suggestions for this section:

- Venue address
- Venue parking map and details, Google map
- Venue security information
- Public transportation options

Volunteer Information

The microsite can contain additional details to recruit and register volunteers. A general overview, schedule and registration information are commonly found details within this section.

Travel Information

Hotel, car rental and other travel accommodations should link to: ncaa.com/travel.

Selections, Preliminary Rounds and Broadcast Schedule

All information regarding the details of selections, all preliminary rounds and broadcast schedules should be linked to ncaa.com with the use of the ncaa.com logo.

Email Sign Up

Fans who would like to receive more information can sign up to receive newsletters from the NCAA. The following link should be included for email sign up: ncaa.com/newsletter-signup/sports

Logo Usage

For championship logos, please submit a request to access the NCAA Digital Library at ncaa-logo.pd.dmh.veritone.com.

Copyrights, Licensing, Trademarks and Corporate Marks

The following are guidelines for use of NCAA trademarks and the process for requesting licensing for photos:

Host cannot promote or click thru to any URL other than ncaa.com.

- Host corporate partner marks or any commercial advertising are prohibited from being displayed on the microsite.
- The NCAA primary logo must be displayed more prominently than any other logo and must precede or be placed above any other identification marks. If the microsite is built within an existing site's framework, exceptions will be made at the NCAA's discretion.
- Photos from previous years' championships can be accessed by submitting a request form here: commerce.wazeedigital.com/license/home/ncaa.do
- The microsite must adhere to fair and equitable treatment for ALL participating student-athletes and schools.
- Trademark script must be included on the homepage of the site. This text can be in a mouse print format at the bottom of the page as follows: *NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

A complete list of NCAA trademarks and trademark protection can be found by [clicking here](#).

Social Media

All social media icons should link to the appropriate NCAA-hosted platforms for the championship. The official list of NCAA social media pages and hashtags may be found at ncaa.com/social

Mobile Version

The NCAA championship information pages will be mobile friendly. In order for the microsite to convert to mobile devices, pages will need to be created for use on a mobile site.

Metrics

Host institutions should provide analytics to Nate Flannery (nflannery@ncaa.org) and Levida Maxwell (lm Maxwell@ncaa.org). At a minimum, analytics should include the following five categories:

- Referral Pages
- Page Views
- Time spent on site
- Click thru information
- Unique Visits/Traffic Numbers

Local Contributor Recognition

The LOC/host institution is able to recognize their local contributors under the following guidelines:

- In text form only
- The NCAA's logos need to be removed from that specific page.
- The link to this page is not in main or sidebar navigation (bottom navigation only).
- This page is entitled "Local Contributors".
- Include text at the bottom of the page indicating the local contributors are not sponsors of the NCAA and all of the CC/PS are listed within that text.

Microsite Examples

If you would like to review an approved championship microsite please reference one of the following pages:

- Utah March Madness First & Second Round: uteathletics.com/ncaa/
- Oklahoma City Women's College World Series Microsite: visitokc.com/wcws/

Once your site has been developed, please send the URL to Nate Flannery (nflannery@ncaa.org) for review and approval.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Nate Flannery
Championships & Alliances
317-917-6222
nflannery@ncaa.org

Appendix D • Public Address Announcer Responsibilities

The public address announcer represents an important role in the administration and the conduct of the championship. The announcer is responsible to the NCAA representative at each site.

1. No special announcements shall be made without committee approval with the exception of reporting of scores from other NCAA championships sites/events.
2. The announcer shall be impartial in delivering information over the public-address system. If the competition is played at the traditional home site of a participant, the announcer shall adhere to NCAA procedures rather than those that may have been in effect during the regular season. The announcer shall:
 - a. Identify the player who scores and the player who assists (if applicable) for both teams with equal vigor.
 - b. Announce referee's timeout and injury timeout.
 - c. Not criticize the decisions of the officials.
 - d. Not incite the crowd for or against one team.
3. If, because of technical difficulties, the official game time is kept by the alternate official at the official table, the announcer should provide the time remaining at two-minute intervals prior to the last two-minutes of each half. The time should then be announced in 30-second intervals and at every dead-ball situation.
4. The announcer shall meet with the committee representative prior to the game to review time schedules, coordination of the national anthem, starting lineups, the actual kick-off and the start of the second half, etc.
5. The announcer shall also review the NCAA's crowd control statement and facility procedures with the committee representative and the tournament manager. (These may include notes regarding exits, seating, safety measures, first-aid stations, and protection of the playing field after the game.)
6. In the event debris is thrown on the field or other incidents interfere with the conduct of the game, the game official may remove the teams from the playing field. In such event, the announcer shall make the following announcement:

"The game officials and the personnel of both teams have been directed by the NCAA to remain off the playing field until playing conditions are proper for continuance of the game. Let's extend to the participants the (*championship*) sportsmanship they deserve."
7. An announcer shall not recognize corporate contributors or tournament sponsors.
8. All emergency calls and announcements must be approved by the NCAA representative.

Appendix E • NCAA Championships Host Marketing Plan

Host Information.

Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Host Institution/Entity: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Host Marketing Team.

Host Institution, Venue and Other (Sports Commission, CVB, etc.) Marketing Team Members (names, titles and contact information for all key contributors to your marketing efforts, including internal and external).

Name	Title	Role	Contact Information

Championship Information.

Division: I _____ II _____ III _____ National Collegiate _____

Gender: Men's _____ Women's _____ Mixed _____ Sport _____

Championship Date(s): _____

Venue Name: _____ Event Capacity: _____

Ticket Sales Information.

List all ticket package options – adult, youth, student, senior, group, family, etc. – and pricing including all-session, and single session, etc.

Ticket Type	All-Session Price	Single-Session Price	Other Price
Adult			
Youth			
Student			
Senior Citizen			
Group			
Family			
Other			

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Point of Sale Opportunities. Please describe all ways fans can purchase tickets, e.g., online, telephone, box office.

Target Markets. Define your target market based on the dates and times of the championship games you are hosting. Your target market should be specific to your site and identified demographic target. Additionally, you should identify other target markets. Please list in priority order.

General demographics of your target market:

- 1.
- 2.

Specific target markets:

- 1.
- 2.

Marketing Plan Objectives. Outline your goals and objectives for the championship. Specifically, how do you plan to meet the ticket sales goal and key dates to meet those objectives?

Host/LOC Resources:

Resources:	Host	LOC	Community (CVB, Chamber of Commerce, Sports Commission, etc.)	Venue	Other
Database Name & Size:					
Website Address:					
Video/LED Board:					
Print Publications:					
Facebook Fans:					
Twitter Followers:					

Local Event Calendar Listings:					
Other:					

Marketing Plan. Please outline your specific marketing strategies, including all traditional and nontraditional marketing efforts focusing on local, regional and national (if applicable) efforts.

	Details (describe activation)	Timeline/Dates
Grassroots Efforts:		
E-mail Blasts:		
Social Media:		
Cross Promotions During Events:		
Group Sales:		
Online:		
Radio:		
Print Publications:		
Outdoor:		
TV:		
Other:		

Marketing Budget.

Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs: \$
 NCAA Online Marketing Website Budget: \$
 Total Marketing Budget: \$

Indicate specific dollar amounts and how funds will be spent below.

Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs Allocation:	Budgeted	Actual Cost

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Online Marketing Website Budget:	Budgeted	Actual Cost
Trade (List all trade and value below):		
TOTALS	\$	\$

Host Marketing Timeline. Please identify specific marketing activations, key milestones and target dates below.

Month	Marketing Activation	Milestone/Goal	Target Date
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		

Appendix F • Ticket Back Disclaimer

2025-26 STANDARD TICKET BACK DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE

The NCAA's standard ticket back language is posted online at ncaa.com/ticket-terms.

The ticket back language should be placed on the back of all ticket stubs, but if it cannot be done (e.g., no new ticket stock is produced), this language must at a minimum be posted at all ticket windows for patrons to see, be included as an insert with the ticket mailing, etc. Patrons must be put on notice regarding the restrictions.

Appendix G • Assumption of Risk, Release and Waiver of Liability and Indemnity Agreement

Event: _____ (the “Event”)

Participant’s Name (Please print): _____ (the “Participant”)

Participant’s Age: _____

In consideration for permitting Participant to participate as a volunteer in the Event as directed by the relevant staff, the undersigned, for themselves, and for their respective heirs, personal representatives and assigns, agree as follows:

Assumption of Risk: The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree that they understand the nature of the Event; that Participant is qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate therein; that there are certain inherent risks and dangers associated with the Event; and that, except as expressly set forth herein, they, knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, Participant’s participation in the Event.

Release and Waiver: The undersigned hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the National Collegiate Athletic Association and its member institutions, _____

_____ or any subdivision thereof, and each of them, their officers and employees, (collectively, the “Releasees”), from and for any liability resulting from any personal injury, accident or illness (including death), and/or property loss, however caused, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant’s participation in the Event, except for those caused by the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: The undersigned also hereby agree to INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD the Releasees HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities including, but not limited to, attorney’s fees, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant’s participation in the Event, except for those arising out of the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

Permission to Use Likeness/Name: The undersigned further agree to allow, without compensation, Participant’s likeness and/or name to appear, and to otherwise be used, in material, regardless of media form, promoting the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and/or its championships, events and activities, including those of its representatives and licensees.

Severability: The undersigned expressly agree that the foregoing assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of _____ and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: The undersigned have read this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the same. The undersigned fully understand this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, that the undersigned are giving up substantial rights in connection therewith, and that its terms are contractual, and not a mere recital. The undersigned acknowledge that they are signing this agreement freely and voluntarily.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor
(if Participant is under the age of 18)

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor
(if Participant is under the age of 18)

Date

Appendix H • Student-Athlete Red Carpet Arrivals/Team Walks

At many NCAA championships, a red carpet arrival or team walk featuring the participating teams and their band and/or cheer squads can be a significant fan enhancement. A red carpet arrival/team walk allows fans to feel a greater connection with the student-athletes through brief personal interaction that provides lasting memories for young fans and may help create a greater overall impression of the championship for both fans and participating student-athletes, if conducted properly. Listed below are some elements to consider before deciding to conduct a red carpet arrival/team walk, a list of guidelines for a red carpet arrival/team walk and a checklist of items needed for the event.

Elements to consider

- Number of fans – will there be an adequate number of fans to support a red carpet arrival/team walk and make it a positive experience for the participating student-athletes.
- Timing and location – is there a time and place available in which there will be an adequate number of fans, space and the event will not conflict with the student-athletes' preparation for or participation in the championship (e.g., before each semifinal match concludes, during a highly attended ancillary event surrounding the championship or only before the championship game).
- Equitable participation – will all participating teams have equal opportunities to participate (it is permissible to have a red carpet arrival/team walk only on championship night with the two final teams only versus semifinal day and championship day).
- Team's experience – this should be a positive experience for all participating student-athletes and it should not interrupt their team's normal schedule for a competition. It should be communicated to the team's that a 5-15 minute window between teams is needed. Depending on the schedule of the teams you can predetermine the arrival times or if they do not have any other commitments prior to the arrival at the venue, you can allow the teams to pick their arrival time as long as they are between the 5-15 minute window of separation, giving them more control of their schedule and not interrupting their normal game-day routine.
- Fan's experience – consider the location of the red carpet arrivals/team walks for the fans as well. Consider using one of the main entrances or going through a fan fest location (if applicable) to the venue so that even if they did not know a red carpet/team walk event was happening, they still might see it and participate.
- Visibility and promotion – is the red carpet arrival/team walk in a place that will be highly visible and accessible to all fans and/or can it be adequately promoted through social media, ncaa.com, e-blast, signage? Ask each participating team to send out the red carpet arrival/team walk times to their ticket holders and on their social media platforms as well.
- Timing of buses – Consider the route that the buses will need to drive in order to arrive on the correct side of the street and the time it will take them to get from the hotel to the location of the red carpet arrivals/team walk.

Guidelines

- The host staff will have primary responsibility for coordinating and managing the red carpet arrivals/team walk, as well as, all staff, volunteer, equipment and logistical needs associated with them.
- The host staff should work with the NCAA staff point person to determine if red carpet arrival(s) or team walk(s) are appropriate, for advice, approval, look and collateral.
- The host should arrange for a walkthrough of the event with the NCAA point person as well as security, the facility rep, bus drivers, team hosts the event sponsor and/or fire marshal when appropriate.
- If a team has a band and/or spirit squad, communicate to the team that they should also participate in the red carpet arrivals/team walks. If only one team has a band, ask the other team for a copy of their fight song to play over a speaker, if sound is available at the red carpet arrival/team walk area.
- Select a time when the most fans can be accommodated and student-athletes will be least inconvenienced, consider what time the venue opens to the fans and what time the teams would normally choose to arrive.
- Student-athletes should wear game apparel or matching team issued warm-up gear.
- Student-athletes should be escorted by staff, volunteers or security to the security check-in area or their locker room.
- Red carpet arrivals/team walks should have stanchions or barricades to create a safe environment for the student-athletes. Security should also be considered.
- No local sponsorship of student-athlete red carpet arrivals/team walks will be permitted.

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- A sound system which can be used in conjunction with the red carpet arrivals/team walks can be effective in communicating which team is arriving, providing fans with additional championship events and for keeping fans entertained with music and/or team statistics.

Checklist

- Carpet – red, blue or black are all acceptable if the venue has one of these colors on hand, otherwise rent red carpet when the budget allows. Carpet is always preferred, but not essential to making this a successful event.
- Stanchions or other form of a barrier between the student-athletes and fans.
- Red carpet arrival/team walk sign or entrance way (e.g. balloon arch), if appropriate.
- Staff or volunteers.
- Security, if appropriate.
- Lighting elements if it is going to be dark out, depending on the time of the arrivals.
- Tents over the carpet if it is raining, unless the location of the red carpet arrivals/team walk is already under a covered location, consider cancellation plan (notifying the teams and fans if the weather is not conducive to hold the red carpet arrivals/team walk).
- Announcements for emcee – instructional, NCAA branding, NCAA corporate champion or partner recognition, team stats, if appropriate.
- Radios or cell phone numbers for communication. Essential for either the team host or bus driver to notify someone at the red carpet arrival/team walk location of the arrival time changes, if appropriate.
- Other entertainment (e.g., DJ/music, local drum line) to keep fans entertained before and in-between team arrivals, if appropriate.

Military Involvement

The NCAA is supportive of inviting the military to participate at NCAA championships if their involvement enhances the championship experience for student-athletes and fans while at the same time honoring the military in an appropriate and unobtrusive manner. At many NCAA championships, local or national military groups have been arranged by the host to perform pregame, during halftime or other breaks in the action. These performances have included, but are not limited to: national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, presentation of large flags, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, eagle releases around the national anthem, reunions of troops returning from overseas with their families, honorary recognitions, etc. Please discuss any forms of military involvement which you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for approval.

Guidelines

- Involvement from military groups often requires substantial government paperwork. Fly-overs and parachute jumps will also require FAA approval to be handled by the host. Please allow adequate lead time to coordinate.
- Involvement from national touring military groups such as the Air Force Wings of Blue or Army Golden Knights may require costs of travel such as hotel rooms, per diems, rental vehicles and even air travel if a military transport cannot be arranged.
- Host connections with local military bases may be more cost-effective in arranging military involvement.
- No messages about military recruitment should be incorporated into on-field performances.
- General messages paying tribute to all military personnel and thanking the particular military unit which has performed are encouraged (e.g., “Ladies and gentlemen let’s give a big round of applause for tonight’s performance from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band... and for all of the American service men and women who they proudly represent.”).
- Request for any type of presence on-site (e.g. booth space, interactive elements, inflatables, giveaway items or space within an NCAA fan festival) is not permitted unless discussed with your NCAA point person who would in turn discuss with the NCAA corporate relationships team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the presentation.
- All performing or volunteering military groups should be provided complimentary access to watch the championship before or after their presentation if possible. Please discuss this with your NCAA point person.
- When several military groups are in attendance and recognized during one game/session of a multi-day championship, you may want to consider a theme night “Military Appreciation Day/Night.” This should be discussed with your NCAA point person. Marketing should also be involved if you do a theme night.

Student-Athlete Autograph Sessions

At many NCAA championships, an autograph session featuring the participating teams or individual student-athletes can be a significant fan enhancement. An autograph session allows fans to feel a greater connection with the student-athletes through brief personal interaction, provides lasting memories for young fans and may help create a greater overall impression of the championship for both fans and participating student-athletes if conducted properly. Listed below are some elements to consider before deciding to conduct a student-athlete autograph session, a list of guidelines for an autograph session and a checklist of items needed for the autograph session.

Elements to consider

- Number of fans – will there be an adequate number of fans to support an autograph session and make it a positive experience for the participating student-athletes.
- Timing and location – is there a time and place available in which there will be an adequate number of fans, space and the event will not conflict with the student-athletes' preparation for or participation in the championship (e.g., after each semifinal match concludes, during a highly attended ancillary event surrounding the championship).
- Equitable participation – will all participating teams or individual student-athletes from various schools have equal opportunities to participate.
- Student-athlete experience – this should be a positive experience for all participating student-athletes, so the amount of time they are signing should not be excessive (30-60 minutes); if certain student-athletes will need to sign shortly after they have been eliminated from competition this should be evaluated; the student-athletes overall time commitments for the day should also be evaluated.
- Visibility and promotion – is the autograph session in a place that will be highly visible and accessible to all fans and/or can it be adequately promoted through in-stadium announcements, prepromotion and signage to direct fans to it.

Guidelines

- The host staff will have primary responsibility for coordinating and managing student-athlete autograph sessions and all staff, volunteer, equipment and logistical needs associated with them.
- The host staff should work with the NCAA staff point person to determine if autograph session(s) are appropriate, for advice, approval of autograph session plans, look and collateral.
- The host should arrange for a walkthrough of the event with the NCAA point person as well as security, the volunteer coordinator, the facility rep, the event sponsor and/or fire marshal when appropriate.
- NCAA (and NCAA Corporate Champion) branding for the autograph area may be provided, please check with your NCAA point person.
- Select a time when the most fans can be accommodated, and student-athletes will be least inconvenienced.
- 30-60 minutes in length.
 - o May be split so each team or different groups of individuals sign at separate 30-60 minute periods.
 - o If a large number of teams or individuals are signing simultaneously, it is recommended that they are split into separate autograph areas to accommodate more fans.
- Student-athletes should wear game apparel or matching team issued warmup gear.
- Student-athletes should have easy access to autograph tables or be escorted by staff, committee, volunteers or security to allow for ease of entry and exit.
- One item signed per person to keep lines moving (use your own discretion if crowds are sparse).
- Photos with student-athletes are discouraged or limited to keep lines moving (use your own discretion if crowds are sparse).
- Space for cue lines and separate exit points which do not interfere with regular venue traffic flow or flow between autograph areas.
- LOC staff or volunteers allocated to each autograph area to help form cue lines, keep lines moving, refresh autograph materials, direct people to exits and cut off lines when necessary.
- Any autograph materials provided to fans must be produced by or approved by the NCAA point person.
- No local sponsorship of student-athlete autograph sessions will be permitted.
- A sound system (and/or video board) which can be used in conjunction with the autograph session can be effective in communicating directions, recognizing sponsors and for keeping fans in line entertained with music (and/or video highlights).

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- Consider how fans who do not want autographs can receive the poster or autograph card without standing in line, how teams will receive extra copies of the autograph item and how a sponsor could receive autographed items without standing in line.

Checklist

- Autograph tables, including skirting (approximately three student-athletes per 8' table).
- Chairs.
- Autograph card or poster (provided or approved by the NCAA).
- Pens (Sharpie's recommended).
- NCAA provided branding items.
- Zip ties, tape and other necessary items for affixing banners and signage.
- Staff or volunteers (minimum of two per autograph area).
- Water or other refreshments for student-athletes (Dasani, Powerade or other Coca-Cola product when possible, otherwise unmarked).
- Security (if appropriate).
- Pipe and drape backdrop behind autograph tables (if appropriate).
- Bike rack or Tensa barrier for lines (if appropriate).
- Easels or other free-standing directional or student-athlete/team identification signs (if appropriate).
- Individual name plate/table tent identifying each student-athlete (if possible and appropriate).
- Floor tape to create arrows or lines on the floor (if appropriate).
- Tents to shade student-athletes (if appropriate).
- Rubber bands for posters (if appropriate).
- Announcements for emcee – instructional, NCAA branding, NCAA corporate champion or partner recognition (if appropriate).

Appendix I • Guide to Live Streaming



Tupelo Raycom is responsible for video content and live productions at thousands of events annually. Since 2010, in partnership with Turner Sports and NCAA.com, Tupelo Raycom has provided championship coverage for hundreds of NCAA events. Its team will work with each host to ensure that live video streams from the championship are high quality and stress free.

Network Connection

To deliver a high quality video production, we require 20 Mbps sustained upload speed with dependable QoS, dedicated to one wired Internet connection. This will connect to a Ubiquiti gateway appliance to route the network to our equipment. Support staff utilizes TeamViewer to diagnose and troubleshoot our equipment once on site, therefore, this connection must allow TeamViewer access. It is extremely important that the IP network be addressed early in the planning process. Our team will arrive a day or two prior to the event to test network connectivity with Turner Sports. An IT representative from the host venue should be available on site at this time, but must be available by phone to work through any issues during setup and throughout the event.

Equipment

The producer and equipment will need to be located within 100' of the host network port. All equipment can be placed on one or two 8' tables. Please provide four chairs for announcers and production crew. NCAA.com broadcasts generally utilize three to four cameras. The location of cameras varies greatly by sport. In all cases, the cameras are cabled to the production position. Tupelo Raycom will request photos and/or a diagram of the venue during the planning process. Also, if the institution has streamed events in the past, an idea of where cameras have been located is helpful. The broadcast equipment requires minimal power. A standard power outlet (dedicated 20 AMP single phase 110V outlet. Non-GFI) will suffice. If available, an audio feed from the public address system should be provided to the production position on a standard XLR connector.

Equipment Receiving/Shipping

Broadcast equipment will typically be shipped to the site via special courier. The shipment will contain on average 20-22 boxes ranging from cases the size of a laptop to larger boxes up to 100lbs. Once the equipment is set, the host will need to identify a location to store empty boxes that can be locked. Following the event, our on-site producer will coordinate pickup of the equipment.

Crew/Announcers

Turner Sports provides all necessary equipment for a successful NCAA.com broadcast. The production crew and announcers are secured by Tupelo Raycom and Turner Sports.

If the host institution already has contacts with local camera operators, a production company or announcers, please pass that information along. We are happy to work with local crews and/or students at host institutions.

Event Specific Accommodations

We will make every effort to accommodate video needs host institutions might have. Identifying these needs early in the planning process is important. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding the NCAA.com championship productions. All live broadcasts can be found on NCAA.com.

For additional information, please contact Tupelo Raycom Director of Production, Remote Andrea Crawford at acrawford@tupeloraycom.com

Appendix J • Guide to Live Stats

WARNERMEDIA



2025-26 Host Site Stats Document

NCAA LiveStats

NCAA.com is now fully integrated with NCAA LiveStats. Hosts that utilize NCAA LiveStats, a representative from WarnerMedia will contact you to confirm your scoring software. You should not have to do anything differently for these sports.

Hosts not Utilizing NCAA LiveStats

WarnerMedia and StatBroadcast will be collaborating this academic year to transmit live stats to NCAA.com for championship events. As an NCAA championship host, your assistance is greatly appreciated in making this a success. Transmitting stats to NCAA.com is **REQUIRED** for your hosted event.

Downloading NCAA Broadcastr

StatBroadcast's latest version of the Broadcastr software is required for setup. If you have a lower version previously installed, you will need to update in order to continue.

Please visit <http://www.statbroadcast.com/ncaa/setup/> for all information on downloading, setting up, and testing StatBroadcast on your scoring computer.

Note: You may need Administrator access to your computer to install this software. If you are receiving errors overwriting files, you may need your Campus IT staff to temporarily unlock your computer.

If you are using Presto Stats, please contact Jason Venson (Jason.venson@wbd.com), for alternate instructions.

Please note: StatBroadcast is not affiliated with any other software.