PRECHAMPIONSHIPS 2026-27 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2026-27 academic year, the Association will sponsor 94 national championships — 43 for men, 49 for women and two for both men and women. Of the men's championships, four are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, 10 are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

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

Sections one through nine apply to policies applicable to all 94 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1•1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3•2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

championships can be improved for future NCAA student-athletes. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via QR code found on the back of NCAA-issued championship credentials.

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

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

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

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

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaw 22.4.1 in the NCAA Division I Manual, 17.1.10 Bylaw in the NCAA Division II Manual and 12.5.3 Bylaw in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met: (Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 1/9/96 effective 8/1/96)

(a) Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and (Revised: 1/10/95)

(b) The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed four square inches in area (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. (Revised: 1/11/94, 1/10/95, 7/21/26 effective 8/1/26

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Division III

Section 10•1 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams within a regular-season that emphasizes regional competition and minimizes missed class time; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences and at-large teams.

Section 10•2 Commencement Conflicts

[*Reference: Bylaw 31.1.4.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.*]

If an institution's commencement conflicts with participation in the championship, it shall inform the NCAA championship manager in writing one week before the selection date for the governing sport committee to consider an accommodation and a change to the championship schedule.

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

- Applies to team sports only.
- The governing sport committee, in consultation with participating institutions, may reschedule the game on the nearest possible date.
- Does not apply to predetermined finals sites.
- The governing sport committee shall make a good-faith effort to accommodate participating institutions in non-predetermined preliminary-round contests with multiple teams participating at the same site.

Section 10•3 Gameday the DIII Way

Division III promotes an atmosphere that is a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics, for everyone through Gameday the DIII Way. Gameday the DIII Way establishes an expectation for championship hosts, coaches, student-athletes and spectators to focus on the common standards of safety, responsiveness, dignity and experience while participating or attending a championship event. We ask that each participant and attendee be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Gameday the DIII Way.

Section 10•4 Religious Conflicts

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

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before May 1 of the preceding academic year to be excused from competing on that day. The notification shall be valid for a period of two years. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team or an individual competitor to compete before the time originally scheduled.

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

Division III Soccer

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Staff Contact Information

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Section 1•2 National Committee

MEN'S SOCCER

Current members of the committee are:

REGION I

Mo White
Athletic Director
Connecticut College

REGION II

TBD

REGION III

Ben Cross
Head Men's Soccer Coach
University of Rochester

REGION IV

Shawn Tucker
Director of Athletics
Rowan University

REGION V

Megan Patruno
Associate Athletic Director
Muhlenberg University

REGION VI

Tom Galbraith
Athletic Director
Randolph College

REGION VII

Dejan Mladenovic
Head Men's Soccer Coach
John Carroll University

REGION VIII

TBD
Director of Athletics
Augustana College

REGION IX

TBD
Director of Athletics
St. Mary's University of Minnesota

REGION X

Miguel Ruiz
Head Men's Soccer Coach
California Lutheran University

For additional information about Division III Men's Soccer Championship, contact:

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Dejan Mladenovic
Head Men's Soccer Coach
John Carroll University
440-503-3996 / dmladenovic@jcu.edu

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Current members of the committee are:

REGION I

Molly Wilkie
Head Women's Soccer Coach/Asst. AD
University of Maine, Farmington

REGION II

Stephanie Smyrl, chair
Director of Athletics
Emerson College

REGION III

Beth Tiffany
Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA
Union College (New York)

REGION IV

Agath Tsantsaridis
Head Women's Soccer Coach
Brooklyn College

REGION V

John McNichol
Head Women's Soccer Coach/Assoc. AD
Wilkes University

REGION VI

Tiffany Pins
Head Women's Soccer Coach
Washington and Lee University

REGION VII

Dani Gunderson
Assistant Commissioner
Ohio Athletic Conference

REGION VIII

Amy Reifert
Head Women's Soccer Coach
University of Chicago

REGION IX

Justin Newell
Director of Athletics
Knox College

REGION X

Andy Foltz
Associate Athletics Director
Pacific Lutheran University

For additional information about Division III Women's Soccer Championship, contact:

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Stephanie Smyrl, chair
Director of Athletics
Emerson College
617-824-8969 / **steph_smyrl@emerson.edu**

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Saturday, Aug. 29	First reporting due to statistics website, 2 p.m. Eastern time.
Monday, Oct. 5	NPI/regional ranking release.
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Bid portal opens for preliminary rounds.
Wednesday, Oct. 7	National committee calls.
Thursday, Oct. 8	NPI release.
Monday, Oct. 12	NPI/regional ranking release.
Wednesday, Oct. 14	National committee calls.
Thursday, Oct. 15	NPI release.
Monday, Oct. 19	NPI/regional ranking release.
Wednesday, Oct. 21	National committee calls.
Thursday, Oct. 22	NPI release.

Monday, Oct. 26	NPI/regional ranking release.
	Daily NPI reports through selections.
Wednesday, Oct. 28	National committee calls.
Thursday, Oct. 29	NPI release.
Monday, Nov. 2	NPI/regional ranking release.
	Deadline for submitting proposed budgets/facility evaluations for first, second and sectional rounds of the championship.
Wednesday, Nov. 4	National committee calls.
Thursday, Nov. 5	Videoconference with potential preliminary-round hosts and site-representatives, 11 a.m. Eastern time.
Sunday, Nov. 8	Deadline for uploading scores to statistics website, noon local time.
	National committee selection calls.
	NPI ranking release.
Monday, Nov. 9	Men's – 64-team field announced, 11 a.m. Eastern time.
	Women's – 64-team field announced, 11:30 a.m. Eastern time.
Tuesday, Nov. 10	Videoconferences with first- and second-round participating teams, hosts, and NCAA site representatives.
***Sat.-Sun, Nov. 14-15**	First- and second-round competition (16 on-campus sites).
Sunday, Nov. 15	Four sectional sites announced for men and women.
Tuesday, Nov. 17	Videoconferences with sectional participating teams, hosts, and NCAA site representatives.
***Sat.-Sun, Nov. 21-22**	Sectional competition (four on-campus sites).
Monday, Nov. 23	Videoconference with semifinalists, NCAA liaison, committee and championship host, 11 a.m. Eastern time.
Thurs.-Sun., Dec. 3-6	NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Championships. (Men first on even years.)

**Institutions with a Sunday No-Play policy will compete on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.*

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Selections	Monday, Nov. 9
***1st and 2nd Rounds**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14-15 on campus
***Sectionals**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21-22, on campus
Semifinals and Final	Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 3-6, at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio (men first even years)

**Institutions with a Sunday No-Play policy will compete on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.*

DATE FORMULA

- First- and second-round games – Saturday and Sunday, one weekend before sectionals.
- Sectionals – Saturday and Sunday, one weekend before Thanksgiving.
- Semifinals and Final – Thursday and Saturday, or Friday and Sunday, one weekend after Thanksgiving.

NOTE: Institutions with a Sunday No-Play policy will compete on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.

FUTURE DATES

NOTE: All future dates are tentative and are subject to change.

2027 Dates

Selections	Monday, Nov. 8
***1st and 2nd Rounds**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13-14, on campus
***Sectionals**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20-21, on campus
Semifinals and Final	Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 2-5, at F.N.B. Stadium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (women first odd years)

2028 Dates

Selections	Monday, Nov. 6
***1st and 2nd Rounds**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11-12, on campus
***Sectionals**	Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18-19, on campus
Semifinals and Final	Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 30-Dec. 3, TBD

**Institutions with a Sunday No-Play policy will compete on Friday and Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.*

Section 1•4 Equipment

BALL

The Wilson NCAA VIVIDO soccer ball will be used in all NCAA soccer tournament games. These balls will be sent by the manufacturer to the tournament manager at the host institution for each round of postseason competition. The host institution will be responsible for "breaking in" the game balls before each tournament game. Orange balls must be requested by the Monday prior to weekend contests. They must also be returned after the contest to Wilson.

Section 1•5 Rules

[Reference: Bylaws 17.34 18.6 and 31.1.6 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The 2026 championship will be conducted according to the **2026 and 2027 NCAA Soccer Rules and Interpretations Book**.

SUSPENDED GAMES

In the case of inclement weather or other factors leading the referee to suspend a game, the officials, games committee and coaches shall refer to the NCAA Men's and Women's Soccer Rules. For NCAA championship competition, a game must be played for the full 90 minutes (as opposed to 70 minutes for the regular season) to be considered a complete game. If a game is suspended or postponed, it will be the decision of the games committee and the referee to determine if the game can be continued that day. If conditions dictate that the game cannot be completed, the NCAA site representative and tournament manager must contact Kevin Alcox (**kalcox@ncaa.org**) for men and Kelly Whitaker (**kwhitaker@ncaa.org**) for women. Only after contacting one of them may a game be suspended until the next day or moved to an alternate site. Teams should be prepared with footwear for any playing surface.

Section 1•6 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Competing teams shall have both light- and dark-colored jerseys, and light- and dark-colored stockings available. In preliminary-round competition, the home team must wear a uniform light in color and in clear contrast with the visiting team. However, in the event of a conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to wear jerseys and stockings in clear contrast to those worn by the visiting team.

For the semifinals and final, the games committee will determine the home teams. Student-athletes competing in the championship shall wear the official uniform of their institution in competition and related ceremonies. This applies to both warmups and competitive uniforms.

A team's stockings must be the same color as the jersey. Shorts may differ in color from that of the stockings and jerseys but shall be matching in color and uniform in style. It is required that any visible garment worn under the jersey or shorts shall be a solid color and it is recommended that it matches the dominant color of the respective garment. Goalkeepers should bring multiple options to ensure no conflict with opponent and officials.

LOGOS

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Divisions I and II Manuals, and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The provisions of Bylaw 12.5.4 (Divisions I and II) and Bylaw 12.5.3 (Division III) indicate that an institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, headbands, T-shirts, wristbands, visors or hats, and towels) that are worn by student-athletes in competition may bear a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal trademark, not to exceed 2¼ square inches, including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram).

In addition, an institution's official uniform cannot bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's that is in addition to another logo or that is contrary to the size restrictions.

A student-athlete representing an institution in intercollegiate competition is limited to wearing apparel items that include only the logo (not to exceed 4 square inches) of an apparel manufacturer or distributor. The student-athlete may not wear any apparel that identifies any other entity, other than the student-athlete's institution. (Only one postconstructive impermeable institutional logo or marking that does not exceed 9 square inches may be applied to the uniform). Additional or alternate logos are not permitted.

These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes and any and all credentialed personnel in the bench area during the conduct of competition, which includes any practices and pregame or postgame activities.

Section 1•7 Video Exchange Policy

For all rounds of the championship, video exchange will be done through HUDL. The two most recent games completed prior to selection must be uploaded to HUDL by 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday after selections, Hosts will be responsible for filming and uploading all prelim contests to HUDL immediately after each game(s). If games are not posted by this time, the soccer committee may review this as a failure to adhere to policies and procedures and could result in a fine.

More information about the exchange platform will be provided to participating schools after selections.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The Division III Soccer Championship provides a field of 64 teams in a single-elimination tournament. Sixteen four-team sites will conduct first- and second-round play on the first weekend of the championship. The 16 second-round winners will advance to the four, four-team sectionals. Four teams will advance from the sectionals to the semifinals.

First- and second-round sites will be announced by the NCAA Division III Soccer Committees immediately after team selections Monday, Nov. 9. Sectional sites will be announced Sunday, Nov. 15.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, it becomes impossible to play a match(es) during the championship, the committee is authorized to determine which team or teams advance in the bracket.

A championship bracket can be found in **Appendix A**. A summary of the automatic-qualifying conferences and their members is listed in **Appendix B** for men and in **Appendix C** for women.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following is a tentative schedule of activities to be held in conjunction with the championships:

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Men's Practice

Men's Community Engagement

Men's Banquet

Thursday, Dec. 3

Women's Practice

Women's Community Engagement

Women's Banquet

Men's Semifinals

Friday, Dec. 4

Men's Practice

Women's Semifinals

Saturday, Dec. 5

Women's Practice

Men's Final

Sunday, Dec. 6

Women's Final

NOTE: Awards Ceremony occurs immediately after each match.

START TIMES

Preliminary Rounds

Three-Game Sites	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.

**Hosts with lights have the option of game times with or without lights.*

Deviation From Game Times

A host institution desiring to deviate from the above times shall indicate its requested start time(s) on the facility evaluation form and notify its regional national committee representative by 5 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Alternate times noted are not guaranteed and must be approved by the sport committee.

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.

PRACTICE

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. All practices held the day before games will be closed with the exception of credentialed media and credentialed participants. The host institution is required to provide one set of goal cages for each team on the practice field and at the alternate facility.

Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 24 student-athletes for competition. For practices and game warmup, there is no limit to the number of student-athletes who can participate.

For practice and warmups, the game clock will start at the designated time from the schedule regardless if the participating team is on the field.

On game days, each team is guaranteed 45 minutes on the game field for its pregame warmup before the introduction of the players.

For all rounds, except the semifinals/final, practice times will be assigned during each respective round conference call based upon travel distance for each team to the site. Teams only will be permitted to select a practice time offered. If hosting, provide as many options as possible to accommodate any schedule conflicts. 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 - Please contact Kevin Alcox [men's soccer] or Kelly Whitaker [women's soccer] if 90 minutes is not possible). Indoor facilities should be used only in the occurrence of inclement weather and not in addition to the assigned 90 minutes of practice time, including warmup. Arrival day/time is not a factor in order of practice selections. The team traveling the farthest will select first and host last.

TRAVEL PARTY

Squad Size	24 individuals
Official Travel Party	29 individuals
Bench Size	Active roster and sport administrators

Additional Information/Requirements on Team Personnel

Squad Size. Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 24 players eligible to participate in the game. Each team should designate its 24 players to be used in that round during the pregame meeting. 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 29 individuals in each team's official travel party. The members of the official travel party will receive a credential, and transportation and per diem will be provided to cover the 29 individuals. The bench and travel party credentials will be distributed at the team hotel.

Bench Area. For all NCAA championship games, the home bench is located to the right of the scorer's table when facing the field.

The maximum bench size is the official team roster and any sport administrators. The 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. No photography is allowed in bench area.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem will be played once per session (one session is equal to all games played on the same day at the same site).

Section 2•2 Results

SCORE REPORTING

The score-reporting and stats-reporting processes are now combined for Division III soccer. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (**web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login**), and this information will then be transferred into the NPI system for use by the sport committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to SIDs in a memo from the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Marcus Thatcher (**mthatcher@ncaa.org**) .

Men's and Women's Soccer NPI Rankings

The Division III men's and women's soccer committees will release regional rankings on the following dates:

- Oct. 5
- Oct. 8
- Oct. 12
- Oct. 15
- Oct. 19
- Oct. 22
- Oct. 26
- Oct. 29
- Nov. 2
- Nov. 5
- Nov. 8

The committees will rank seven teams in each region based on the NPI ranking.

Section 2•3 Selections Information

[Reference: Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected not later than Monday, Nov. 9.

NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated.

The committee will announce the bracket for the championship on Nov. 9. The selection show will be streamed live on ncaa.com. The bracket and press release will be available following the selection show on ncaa.com.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 64-team field will consist of two selection pools: AQs and at-large berths. AQ berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2026-27 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AQ. Based on the sponsorship data, the following allocations will be implemented for the 2026 championship:

Men's Soccer

Bracket	64 teams	Based on 2025-26 eligible institutions
Automatic Qualifiers	42 teams	
At-large	22 teams	

Women's Soccer

Bracket	64 teams	Based on 2025-26 eligible institutions
Automatic Qualifiers	43 teams	
At-large	21 teams	

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Men's Automatic Qualification

The 42 conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2026 championship are as follows:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference
American Rivers Conference
American Southwest Conference
Atlantic East
Centennial Conference
City University of New York Athletic Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin
Collegiate Conference of the South
Conference of New England
Empire 8
Great Northeast Athletic Conference
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
Landmark Conference
Liberty League
Little East Conference
Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth
Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom
Midwest Conference
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
New England Small College Athletic Conference
New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
New Jersey Athletic Conference
North Atlantic Conference
North Coast Athletic Conference
Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
Northwest Conference
Ohio Athletic Conference
Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Presidents' Athletic Conference
Skyline Conference
Southern Athletic Association
Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference
St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
State University of New York Athletic Conference
United East Conference
University Athletic Association
Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
USA South Athletic Conference
Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

A listing of all evaluation regions is listed in **Appendix B.**

Women's Automatic Qualification

The 43 conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2026 championship are as follows:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference
American Rivers Conference
American Southwest Conference
Atlantic East
Centennial Conference
City University of New York Athletic Conference
Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin
Collegiate Conference of the South
Conference of New England
Empire 8
Great Northeast Athletic Conference
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
Landmark Conference
Liberty League
Little East Conference
Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth
Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom
Midwest Conference
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
New England Small College Athletic Conference
New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
New Jersey Athletic Conference
North Atlantic Conference
North Coast Athletic Conference
Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
Northwest Conference
Ohio Athletic Conference
Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Presidents' Athletic Conference
St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Skyline Conference
Southern Athletic Association
Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference
State University of New York Athletic Conference
United East Conference
University Athletic Association
Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
USA South Athletic Conference
Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference

A listing of all evaluation regions is listed in **Appendix C.**

AT-LARGE SELECTION

To be considered during the at-large selection process, an institution must play at least 50% of its competition against Division III in-region opponents, unless a waiver has been approved by the Division III Championships Committee.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

In-region competition is defined as:

- All competition within an institution's defined region.
- All competition within a 500-mile radius from one institution to another.
- All competition against conference opponents.
- All competition against conference opponents. All competition within an institution's membership geographical region (Bylaw 21.12.1). The country is divided into four membership regions as listed below. For most institutions, this should result in a more expanded list of potential in-region opponents than in the past.

  Region 1
  Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont

  Region 2
  New York, Pennsylvania

  Region 3
  Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

  Region 4
  Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

The NCAA Travel Expense System mileage calculator will be used to confirm distance from campus to campus (**web1.ncaa.org/TES/exec/TES/exec/miles**).

COUNTABLE COMPETITION

[Reference Bylaw 31.3.4.1.1 in the NCAA Manual.]

For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Bylaw 20.8.4.4) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

In addition, only games listed on the institution's originally submitted schedule will be considered for tournament selection purposes. Postseason games decided by the penalty-kick tiebreaker procedure shall be considered as ties for selection purposes. The addition of games not listed on the institution's published schedule as an aid for selection shall not be considered.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Transportation and per diem expenses will be provided for an official traveling party of a maximum of 29. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at **ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information**.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

NCAA Power Index (NPI) is a system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when relevant).

The NPI weights for men's soccer are the following:

Win%/SOS	H/A Win/Loss	QWB	QWB Multiplier	Overtime	Minimum Wins
15/85	1.0/1.0	54.00	0.750	100/0	10.0

The NPI weights for women's soccer are the following:

Win%/SOS	H/A Win/Loss	QWB	QWB Multiplier	Overtime	Minimum Wins
20/80	1.0/1.0	54.00	0.500	100/0	8.0

See **Appendix D** for further explanation of the NPI Weights.

Section 2•5 Bracketing Principles (Pairings)

The following bracketing principles will be in effect.

1. Protection of top-eight seeded teams in the bracket.

   In brackets greater than 32 teams, teams will be protected based on the seed lines of No. 1s and No. 2s (based on NPI ranking at the time of selection).

   a. NPI rank 1-4 will be No. 1s. NPI rank 5-8 will be No. 2s.

   b. No. 1s and No. 2s will be bracketed based on quarterfinal matchups providing a possibility that the top eight (8) teams could each advance to the round of eight.

   c. No. 1s and No. 2s will be paired in the quarterfinals based on current bracketing principles (i.e., geographic proximity is maintained).

   Brackets will be built outward based on protecting the quarterfinal matchups that will protect No. 1s and No. 2s while maintaining geographic proximity.

2. Remaining teams will continue to be grouped in clusters according to natural geographic proximity. Teams shall then be paired according to geographic proximity. A team may be moved to numerically balance the bracket if geographic proximity is maintained. Teams shall be paired and eligible according to geographic proximity (within 500 miles). An exception may be granted when there are not enough teams within the 500-mile radius to fill the region. Geographic proximity shall take precedence over seeding for teams below the top-8 seeds.
3. Teams from the same conference shall not play one another in the first round.
4. The highest-seeded team that meets all selection criteria shall be selected as the host institutions, provided that geographic proximity is maintained and they meet all site selection criteria.

The top team on the bracket is the designated home team and will wear the light (white) colored jersey.

Section 2•6 Site Selection

PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

Any institution or conference interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's and/or Women's Soccer Championships must submit a proposed budget and a safety and security form, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution's key contact and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal. Please note that in order to submit a bid, you must first locate the desired championship in the championships "Available for Bid" section and select "Start Bid." **A separate proposed budget must be submitted for each round that an institution or conference is interested in hosting**.

Member institutions can regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email **championshipbid@ncaa.org** or contact the respective championship manager.

The deadline to submit all materials for hosting preliminary rounds is **Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. Eastern time.**

CRITERIA

The Division III Championships Committee has prioritized the site-selection criteria in the following order for Division III championships:

1. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations.
2. Geographical location (including such factors as rotation of sites, weather conditions, accessibility and transportation costs).
3. Attendance history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.
4. Hosts will be selected based on meeting the minimum hosting requirements and maintaining geographic proximity. Seeding may be a consideration when selecting hosts but is not determinative.

In addition, the soccer committees include the following site-selection deliberations:

- Preference is given to grass/grass-like surfaces; and
- The potential host must have played the majority of its home games on the field it is submitting for consideration.

A competing institution that cannot charge admission at its home facility and/or cannot establish a barrier to separate the spectators from the field of play, and/or does not have a field that meets minimum-size requirements (70 yards x 115 yards) may not serve as host.

An evaluation will be made of institutional facilities to determine if they are acceptable for championship play. Selection of host sites will be based partly upon the quality of the playing facility. A facility evaluation form must be completed online with **a deadline of Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. Eastern time.**

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is **Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. Eastern time**.

In addition to projected ticket sales and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials lodging.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Committees/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Game officials will be paid by the NCAA via RefQuest for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

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

FACILITY PROFILE

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

NOTE: Amenities for all teams must be equal (i.e., tents, heaters). If amenities cannot be provided for all, they shall not be provided at all.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

The host for each championship round must complete a financial report form, which is incorporated as part of the proposed budget form and located on the NCAA website. A separate financial report form must be submitted for each round of competition. Each form must be submitted to the NCAA not later than 60 days after the conclusion of the competition. Failure to submit the report within 60 days will result in financial penalties.

KEY CONTACTS FORM

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA Championships, which can be found here. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program.

As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your venue. Your safety and security plan documents should be uploaded in the Documents tab of the facility profile, under in the Safety and Security Plan section.

If an institution wishes to submit this information via email, please send it to Kevin Alcox (kalcox@ncaa.org) or Kelly Whitaker (kwhitaker@ncaa.org).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Kevin Alcox (**kalcox@ncaa.org**) or Kelly Whitaker (**kwhitaker@ncaa.org**), or email **championshipbid@ncaa.org**.

JOINT HOSTING INFORMATION

The NCAA Division III Championships Committee has approved a recommendation from the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Soccer Committees to establish hosting guidelines for institutions whose men's and women's teams earn berths in their respective championships. The committees established these guidelines to eliminate potential conflicts created by hosting both championship events, to assist institutions in preparing for hosting opportunities and to ensure the opportunity of providing a quality championship experience for all teams involved in both championships.

Institutions with both men's and women's teams in the championships will follow these hosting guidelines:

	1st/2nd Round	Sectionals
Even Years	Men host	Women host
Odd Years	Women host	Men host

If conflicts prevent another institution from hosting while following these guidelines, the combined men's and women's committees will determine which team will play first at the same site.

The men's and women's committees are concerned with conflicts created when institutions attempt to host both men's and women's championship events, and the impact those conflicts have on the committees during site selection, and on the institution during the administration of the events. The committees prefer that institutions not host both men's and women's events in the same round of the championships.

The committees also recognize that some institutions with both teams in the championships, while recognizing their limitations in hosting both events, may face administrative pressure having to choose to host one championship event over another. The committees believe these guidelines can alleviate this administrative pressure. The committees' primary concerns include the following:

- The potential for field conditions to deteriorate, particularly in the second games;
- The institutional administrative pressure to host both championship events and/or to choose between which championship event it will host if it cannot host both events;
- The magnification of weather issues if an institution attempts to host both championship events; and
- The condition and availability of practice facilities.

While the hosting preferences of the joint men's and women's soccer committees are noted above, there may be some instances when the committees are unable to follow these due to the number of variables that must be taken into consideration when selecting host sites, which may also include the conduct of other Division III fall championships. If such instances arise, the joint soccer committees will determine the most reasonable hosting scenarios for the championships, given all factors that must be taken into account.

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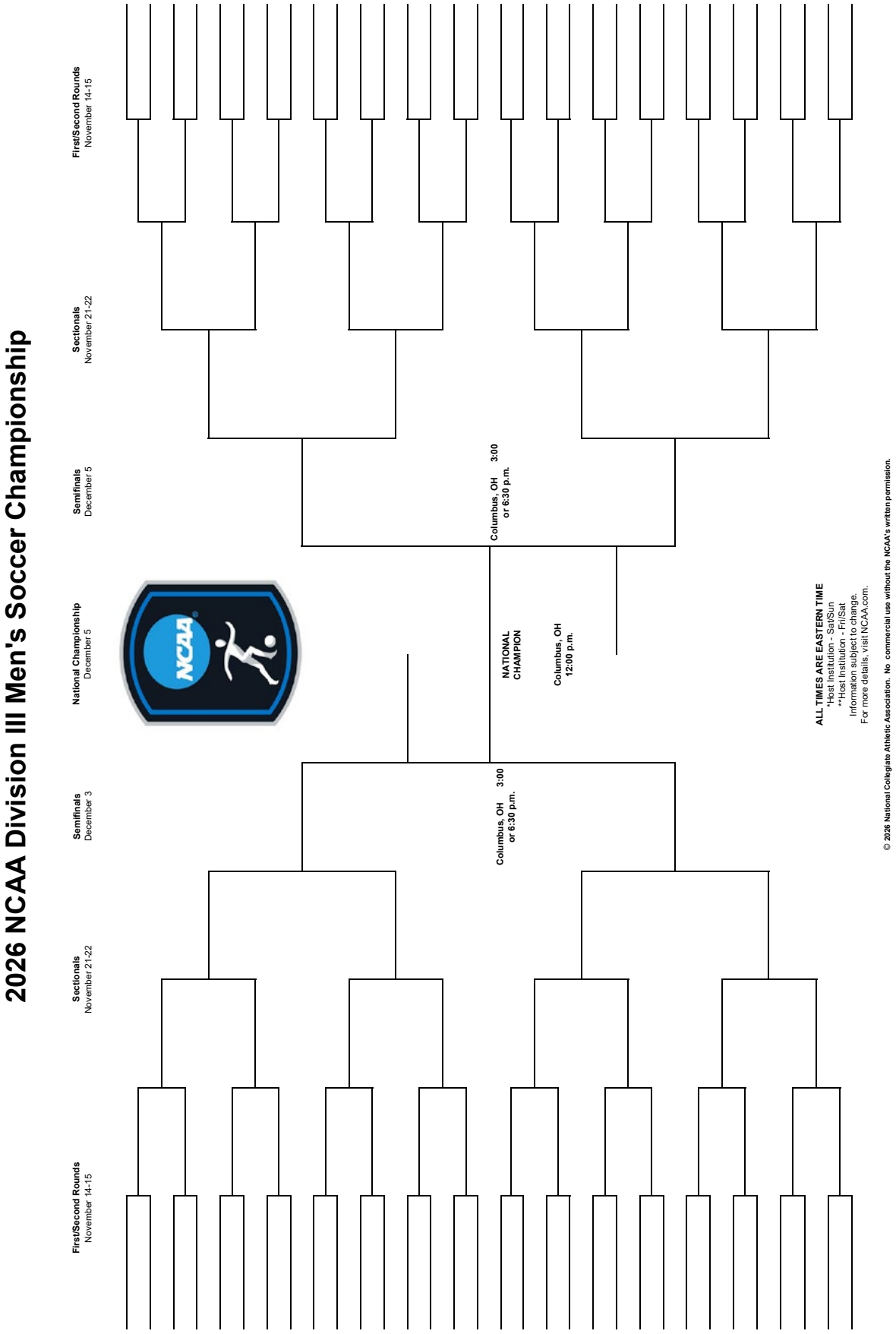
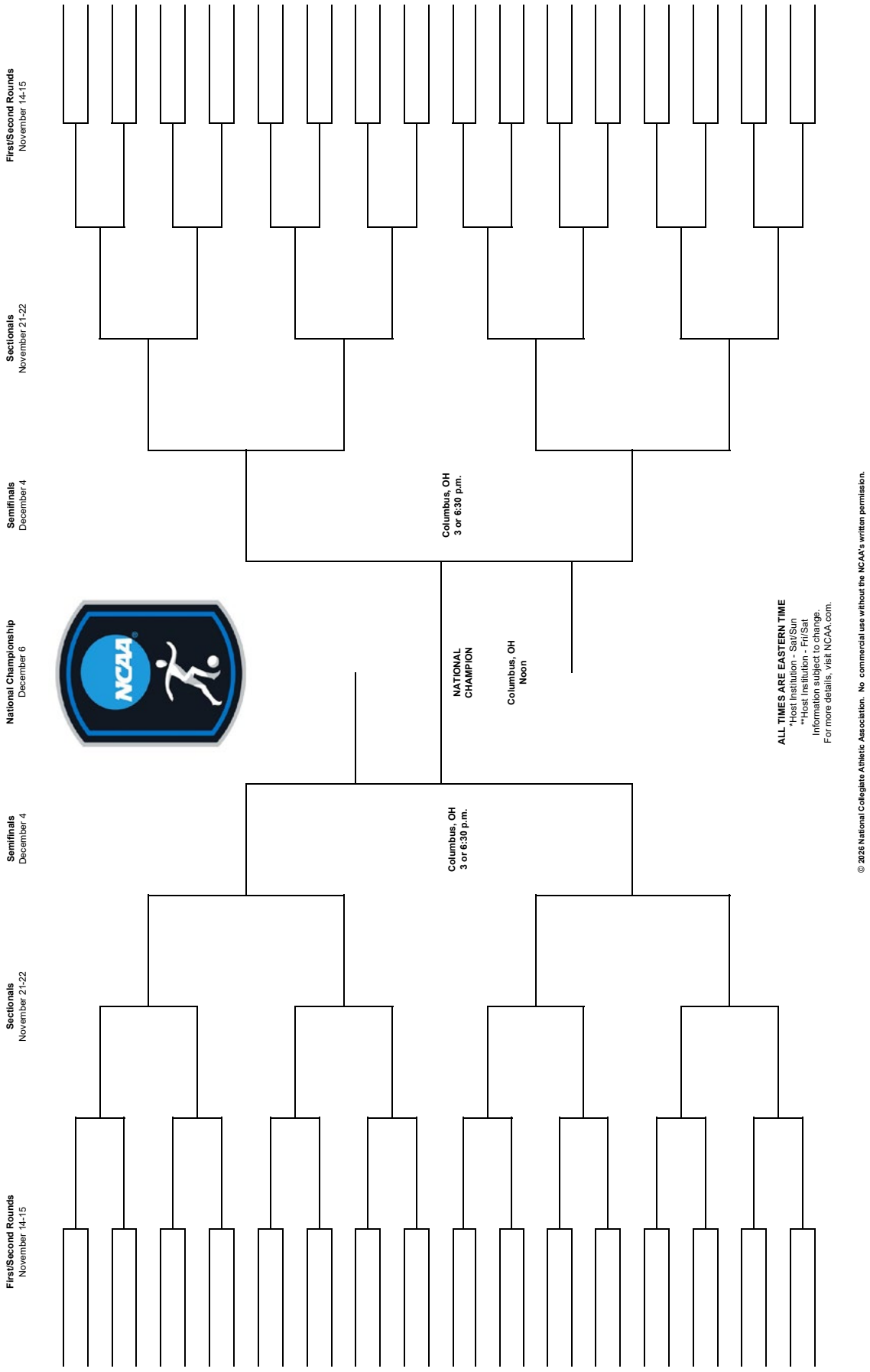


2026 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship



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Appendix B • Men's Sponsorship

REGION I

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (13)

Albertus Magnus College
Colby-Sawyer College
Dean College
Elms College
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)
Lasell University
Mitchell College
New England College
Norwich University
Regis College (Massachusetts)
Rivier University
Saint Joseph's College (Maine)
University of St. Joseph (Connecticut)

AQ – Conference Championship

Little East Conference (9)

Vermont State University Castleton
Eastern Connecticut State University
Keene State College
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Plymouth State University
Rhode Island College
University of Southern Maine
Western Connecticut State University

AQ – Conference Championship

North Atlantic Conference (8)

Husson University
Lesley University
Maine Maritime Academy
University of Maine, Farmington
University of Maine at Presque Isle
Thomas College
Vermont State University-Johnson
Vermont State University-Lyndon

AQ – Conference Championship

New England Small College Athletic Conference (11)

Amherst College
Bates College
Bowdoin College
Colby College
Connecticut College
Hamilton College
Middlebury College
Trinity College (Connecticut)
Tufts University
Wesleyan University (Connecticut)
Williams College

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION II

Conference of New England (11)

Curry College
Endicott College
Gordon College
University of Hartford
Jonhson & Wales University (Providence)
University of New England
Nichols College
Roger Williams University
Suffolk University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University

AQ – Conference Championship

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (8)

Bridgewater State University
Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Salem State University
Westfield State University
Worcester State University

AQ – Conference Championship

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (9)

Babson College
Clark University (Massachusetts)
Emerson College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Salve Regina University
Springfield College
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Brandeis University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION III

Empire 8 (12)

Alfred University
State University of New York at Brockport
Elmira College
State University of New York at Geneseo
Hartwick College
Houghton University
Keuka College
Nazareth University
The Sage Colleges
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
St. John Fisher University
Utica University

AQ – Conference Championship

Liberty League (10)

Bard College
Clarkson University
Hobart College
Ithaca College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Union College (New York)
Vassar College

AQ – Conference Championship

Skyline Conference (12)

Farmingdale State College
State University of New York Maritime College
Manhattanville University
Mount Saint Mary College (New York)
College of Mount Saint Vincent
State University College at Old Westbury
Purchase College, State University of New York
Sarah Lawrence College
St. Joseph's University (Brooklyn)
St. Joseph's University (Long Island)
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Yeshiva University

AQ – Conference Championship

State University of New York Athletic Conference (11)

Buffalo State, State University of New York
State University of New York at Canton
State University of New York at Cobleskill
State University of New York at Cortland
State University of New York at Delhi
The State University of New York at Fredonia
State University of New York at Morrisville
State University of New York at Oneonta
State University of New York at Oswego
Plattsburgh State University of New York
State University of New York at Potsdam

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

University of Rochester

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION IV

City University of New York Athletic Conference (8)

Baruch College
Brooklyn College
The City College of New York
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
York College (New York)

AQ – Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (9)

Arcadia University
Delaware Valley University
DeSales University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham
King's College (Pennsylvania)
Lebanon Valley College
Marywood University
Misericordia University
Stevens Institute of Technology

AQ – Conference Championship

New Jersey Athletic Conference (10)

Kean University
Montclair State University
State University of New York at New Paltz
The College of New Jersey
Ramapo College
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark
Stockton University
William Paterson University of New Jersey

AQ – Conference Championship

United East (12)

Cairn University
Gallaudet University
Keystone College
Lancaster Bible College
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Penn State Berks College
Penn State University, Abington
Penn State University Brandywine (provisional)
Penn State Harrisburg
Pennsylvania College of Technology
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Wilson College

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

New York University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION V

Atlantic East (6)

Centenary University (New Jersey)
Gwynedd Mercy University
Immaculata University
Marymount University (Virginia)
Pratt Institute
Saint Elizabeth University

AQ – Conference Championship

Centennial Conference (10)

Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University
McDaniel College
Muhlenberg College
Swarthmore College
Ursinus College
Washington College (Maryland)

AQ – Conference Championship

Coast-to-Coast (1)

Salisbury University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Landmark Conference (10)

Catholic University
Drew University
Elizabethtown College
Goucher College
Juniata College
Lycoming College
Moravian College
University of Scranton
Susquehanna University
Wilkes University

AQ – Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (9)

Albright College
Alvernia University
Eastern University
Hood College
Messiah University
Neumann University
Stevenson University
Widener University
York College (Pennsylvania)

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION VI

Coast-to-Coast (5)

Christopher Newport University
Johnson & Wales Charlotte (provisional)
University of Mary Washington
Regent University (provisional)
Warren Wilson College

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Collegiate Conference of the South (6)

Asbury University
Belhaven University
Covenant College
Huntingdon College
LaGrange College
Piedmont University

AQ – Conference Championship

Old Dominion Athletic Conference (12)

Averett University
Batten University
Bridgewater College (Virginia)
Eastern Mennonite University
Guilford College
Hampden-Sydney College
University of Lynchburg
Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Washington and Lee University

AQ – Conference Championship

Southern Athletic Association (9)

Berry College
Centre College
Maryville College (Tennessee)
Millsaps College
Oglethorpe University
Rhodes College
Sewanee, The University of the South
Southwestern University (Texas)
Trinity University (Texas)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Emory University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

USA South Athletic Conference (8)

Brevard College
Greensboro College
Mary Baldwin University
Methodist University
North Carolina Wesleyan University
Pfieffer University
Southern Virginia University
William Peace University

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION VII

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (8)

Carlow University (provisional)
Hilbert College
La Roche University
Mount Aloysius College
Penn State University, Altoona
Penn State University Erie, the Behrend College
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

AQ – Conference Championship

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Anderson University (Indiana)
Berea College
Bluffton University
Earlham College
Franklin College
Hanover College
Manchester University
Mount St. Joseph University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Transylvania University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

North Coast Athletic Conference (9)

Denison University
DePauw University
Hiram College
Kenyon College
Oberlin College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Wabash College
Wittenberg University
The College of Wooster

AQ – Conference Championship

Ohio Athletic Conference (10)

Baldwin Wallace University
Capital University
Heidelberg University
John Carroll University
Marietta College
University of Mount Union
Muskingum University
Ohio Northern University
Otterbein University
Wilmington College (Ohio)

AQ – Conference Championship

Presidents' Athletic Conference (12)

Allegheny College
Bethany College (West Virginia)
Chatham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Geneva College
Grove City College
Hiram College
Saint Vincent College
Thiel College
Washington and Jefferson College
Waynesburg University
Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION VIII

College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (9)

Augustana College (Illinois)
Carroll University (Wisconsin)
Carthage College
Elmhurst University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Millikin University
North Central College
North Park University
Wheaton College (Illinois)

AQ – Conference Championship

Independent (1)

Maranatha Baptist University

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (8)

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Calvin University
Hope College
Kalamazoo College
The University of Olivet
Trine University

AQ – Conference Championship

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (13)

Aurora University
Benedictine University (Illinois)
Concordia University Chicago
Concordia University Wisconsin
Dominican University (Illinois)
Edgewood College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Lakeland University
Marian University (Wisconsin)
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Rockford University
St. Norbert College
Wisconsin Lutheran College

AQ – Conference Championship

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Blackburn College
Eureka College
Greenville College
Lyon College
Mississippi University for Women
Principia College
Spalding University
Webster University
Westminster College (Missouri)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

University of Chicago
Washington University in St. Louis

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION IX

American Rivers Conference (8)

Buena Vista University
Central College (Iowa)
Coe College
University of Dubuque
Loras College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Simpson College
Wartburg College

AQ – Conference Championship

Midwest Conference (10)

Beloit College
Cornell College
Grinnell College
Illinois College
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Luther College
Monmouth College (Illinois)
Ripon College

AQ – Conference Championship

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (11)

Augsburg College
Bethel University (Minnesota)
Carleton College
Concordia College, Moorhead
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
St. John's University (Minnesota)
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
The College of St. Scholastica

AQ – Conference Championship

Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (7)

Bethany Lutheran College
Crown College (Minnesota)
Martin Luther College
North Central University
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Northwestern-St. Paul
University of Wisconsin-Superior

AQ – Conference Championship

Pool B Institutions (6)
Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

REGION X

American Southwest Conference (6)

East Texas Baptist University
Hardin-Simmons University
Howard Payne University
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
McMurry University
Schreiner University

AQ – Grace Period Year One - Conference Championship

Coast-to-Coast (1)

University of California, Santa Cruz

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Northwest Conference (9)

George Fox University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University (Oregon)
University of Puget Sound
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Azusa Pacific University (reclassifying 2026-27)
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges
University of La Verne
Occidental College
Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
University of Redlands
Whittier College

AQ – Conference Championship

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Austin College
Centenary College (Louisiana)
Colorado College
Concordia University Texas
University of Dallas
Hendrix College
University of the Ozarks (Arkansas)
University of St. Thomas (Texas)
Texas Lutheran University
Trinity University (Texas)

AQ – Conference Championship

Appendix C • Women's Sponsorship

REGION I

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (14)

Albertus Magnus College
Colby Sawyer College
Dean College
Elms College
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)
Lasell University
Mitchell College
New England College
Norwich University
Regis College (Massachusetts)
Rivier University
Saint Joseph's College (Maine)
Simmons University
University of St. Joseph (Connecticut)

AQ – Conference Championship

New England Small College Athletic Conference (11)

Amherst College
Bates College
Bowdoin College
Colby College
Connecticut College
Hamilton College
Middlebury College
Trinity College (Connecticut)
Tufts University
Wesleyan University (Connecticut)
Williams College

AQ – Conference Championship

Little East Conference (9)

Eastern Connecticut State University
Keene State College
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Plymouth State University
Rhode Island College
University of Southern Maine
Vermont State University Castleton
Western Connecticut State University

AQ – Conference Championship

North Atlantic Conference (8)

Husson University
Lesley University
Maine Maritime Academy
University of Maine, Farmington
University of Maine at Presque Isle
Thomas College
Vermont State University-Johnson
Vermont State University Lyndon

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION II

Conference of New England (11)

Curry College
Endicott College
Gordon College
University of Hartford
Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
University of New England
Nichols College
Roger Williams University
Suffolk University
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Western New England University

AQ – Conference Championship

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (8)

Bridgewater State University
Fitchburg State University
Framingham State University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Salem State University
Westfield State University
Worcester State University

AQ – Conference Championship

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (12)

Babson College
Clark University (Massachusetts)
Emerson College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mount Holyoke College
Salve Regina University
Smith College
Springfield College
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Wellesley College
Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Brandeis University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION III

Empire 8 (12)

Alfred University
State University of New York at Brockport
Elmira College
State University of New York at Geneseo
Hartwick College
Houghton University
Keuka College
Nazareth University
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
Russell Sage College
St. John Fisher University
Utica University

AQ – Conference Championship

Liberty League (10)

Bard College
Clarkson University
Ithaca College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Union College (New York)
Vassar College
William Smith College

AQ – Conference Championship

Skyline Conference (12)

Farmingdale State College
State University of New York Maritime College
Manhattanville University
Mount Saint Mary College (New York)
University of Mount Saint Vincent
State University College at Old Westbury
Purchase College, State University of New York
Sarah Lawrence College
St. Joseph's University (Brooklyn)
St. Joseph's University (Long Island)
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Yeshiva University

AQ – Conference Championship

State University of New York Athletic Conference (12)

Alfred State College
Buffalo State, State University of New York
State University of New York at Canton
State University of New York at Cobleskill
State University of New York at Cortland
State University of New York at Delhi
The State University of New York at Fredonia
State University of New York at Morrisville
State University of New York at Oneonta
State University of New York at Oswego
Plattsburgh State University of New York
State University of New York at Potsdam

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

University of Rochester

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION IV

City University of New York Athletic Conference (6)

Brooklyn College
The City College of New York
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
York College (New York)

AQ – Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (9)

Arcadia University
Delaware Valley University
DeSales University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham
King's College (Pennsylvania)
Lebanon Valley College
Marywood University
Misericordia University
Stevens Institute of Technology

AQ – Conference Championship

New Jersey Athletic Conference (10)

Kean University
Montclair State University
The College of New Jersey
State University of New York at New Paltz
Ramapo College
Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark
Stockton University
William Paterson University of New Jersey

AQ – Conference Championship

United East (13)

Cairn University
Cedar Crest College
Keystone College
Lancaster Bible College
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Penn State Berks College
Penn State Brandywine (provisional)
Penn State Harrisburg
Penn State University, Abington
Pennsylvania College of Technology
St. Mary's College of Maryland
University of Valley Forge
Wilson College

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

New York University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION V

Atlantic East (6)

Centenary University (New Jersey)
Gwynedd Mercy University
Immaculata University
Marymount University (Virginia)
Pratt Institute
Saint Elizabeth University

AQ – Conference Championship

Centennial Conference (11)

Bryn Mawr College
Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University
McDaniel College
Muhlenberg College
Swarthmore College
Ursinus College
Washington College (Maryland)

AQ – Conference Championship

Coast-to-Coast (1)

Salisbury University

AQ – Conference Championship

Landmark Conference (10)

Catholic University
Drew University
Elizabethtown College
Goucher College
Juniata College
Lycoming College
Moravian College
University of Scranton
Susquehanna University
Wilkes University

AQ – Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (9)

Albright College
Alvernia University
Eastern University
Hood College
Messiah University
Neumann University
Stevenson University
Widener University
York College (Pennsylvania)

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION VI

Coast-to-Coast (5)

Christopher Newport University
Johnson & Wales University Charlotte (provisional)
University of Mary Washington
Regent University (provisional)
Warren Wilson College

AQ – Conference Championship

Collegiate Conference of the South (7)

Agnes Scott College
Asbury University
Belhaven University
Covenant College
Huntingdon College
LaGrange College
Piedmont University

AQ – Conference Championship

Old Dominion Athletic Conference (13)

Averett University
Batten University
Bridgewater College (Virginia)
Eastern Mennonite University
Guilford College
Hollins University
University of Lynchburg
Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Sweet Briar College
Washington and Lee University

AQ – Conference Championship

Southern Athletic Association (9)

Berry College
Centre College
Maryville College (Tennessee)
Millsaps College
Oglethorpe University
Rhodes College
Sewanee, University of the South
Southwestern University (Texas)
Trinity University (Texas)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Emory University

AQ – Conference Championship

USA South Athletic Conference (10)

Brevard College
Greensboro College
Mary Baldwin University
Meredith College
Methodist University
North Carolina Wesleyan University
Pfieffer University
Salem College (North Carolina)
Southern Virginia University
William Peace University

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION VII

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (8)

Carlow University (provisional)
Hilbert College
La Roche University
Mount Aloysius College
Penn State University, Altoona
Penn State University Erie, the Behrend College
University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

AQ – Conference Championship

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Anderson University (Indiana)
Berea College
Bluffton University
Earlham College
Franklin College
Hanover College
Manchester University
Mount St. Joseph University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Transylvania University

AQ – Conference Championship

North Coast Athletic Conference (8)

Denison University
DePauw University
John Carroll University
Kenyon College
Oberlin College
Ohio Wesleyan University
Wittenberg University
The College of Wooster

AQ – Conference Championship

Ohio Athletic Conference (9)

Baldwin Wallace University
Capital University
Heidelberg University
Marietta College
University of Mount Union
Muskingum University
Ohio Northern University
Otterbein University
Wilmington College (Ohio)

AQ – Conference Championship

Presidents' Athletic Conference (12)

Allegheny College
Bethany College (West Virginia)
Chatham University
Franciscan University of Steubenville
Geneva College
Grove City College
Hiram College
Saint Francis University (Reclass - First Year)
Saint Vincent College
Thiel College
Washington and Jefferson College
Waynesburg University
Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

REGION VIII

Coast-to-Coast (1)

Alverno College

AQ – Conference Championship

College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (9)

Augustana College (Illinois)
Carroll University (Wisconsin)
Carthage College
Elmhurst University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Millikin University
North Central College
North Park University
Wheaton College (Illinois)

AQ – Conference Championship

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (9)

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Calvin University
Hope College
Kalamazoo College
The University of Olivet
Saint Mary's College (Indiana)
Trine University

AQ – Conference Championship

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (13)

Aurora University
Benedictine University (Illinois)
Concordia University Chicago
Concordia University Wisconsin
Dominican University (Illinois)
Edgewood College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Lakeland University
Marian University (Wisconsin)
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Rockford University
St. Norbert College
Wisconsin Lutheran College

AQ – Conference Championship

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Blackburn College
Eureka College
Greenville College
Lyon College
Mississippi University for Women
Principia College
Spalding University
Webster University
Westminster College (Missouri)

AQ – Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

University of Chicago
Washington University in St. Louis

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Pool B Institutions (1)

Maranatha Baptist University

REGION IX

American Rivers Conference (8)

Buena Vista University
Central College (Iowa)
Coe College
University of Dubuque
Loras College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Simpson College
Wartburg College

AQ – Conference Championship

Midwest Conference (10)

Beloit College
Cornell College
Grinnell College
Illinois College
Knox College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Luther College
Monmouth College (Illinois)
Ripon College

AQ – Conference Championship

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (12)

Augsburg College
Bethel University (Minnesota)
Carleton College
Concordia College, Moorhead
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
College of St. Benedict
St. Catherine University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
The College of St. Scholastica

AQ – Conference Championship

Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (7)

Bethany Lutheran College
Crown College (Minnesota)
Martin Luther College
North Central University
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Northwestern-St. Paul
University of Wisconsin-Superior

AQ – Conference Championship

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (8)

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
University of Wisconsin-River Falls
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

AQ – Conference Championship

REGION X

American Southwest Conference (6)

East Texas Baptist University
Hardin-Simmons University
Howard Payne University
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
McMurry University
Schreiner University

AQ – Conference Championship

Coast-to-Coast (1)

University of California, Santa Cruz

AQ – Conference Championship

Northwest Conference (9)

George Fox University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University (Oregon)
University of Puget Sound
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University

AQ – Regular-Season Champion

Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Azusa Pacific University (Reclass - First Year)
California Institute of Technology
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges
University of La Verne
Occidental College
Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
University of Redlands
Whittier College

AQ – Conference Championship

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Austin College
Centenary College (Louisiana)
Concordia University Texas
Hendrix College
University of Dallas
LeTourneau University
University of the Ozarks (Arkansas)
University of St. Thomas (Texas)
Texas Lutheran University

AQ – Conference Championship

Appendix D • NCAA Power Index (NPI) Guide

NCAA Power Index (NPI) – Guide

Winning Percentage/Strength of Schedule:
The two main "dials" are winning percentage and strength of schedule.

25/75 is the default starting value (win percentage / strength of schedule) and sport committees will discuss and set these dials.

1. Winning percentage: A team's number of wins divided by the number of that team's total contests.

2. Strength of Schedule: SOS is simply an average of a team's opponent's NPI.

   Example: Team A plays contests against teams with NPIs of 52, 58 and 70. SOS is calculated as 52 + 58+ 70 = 180; 180 / 3 = 60. SOS = 60.

Quality Win Bonus: A bonus applied to wins/partial wins (e.g., overtime victory) against "quality" teams.

1. Quality Win Bonus – Base Value:
   a. The sport committee determines the base NPI value at which a QWB is applied.
   b. The amount of bonus is determined by the difference between opponents NPI value and the QWB base value, multiplied by the QWB multiplier.

      Example: Base value is set at 55.00. A bonus will be applied for all wins/partial wins against opponents with an NPI value of 55.00 of higher.

2. Quality Win Bonus – Multiplier:
   - Set the multiplier/magnitude of bonus awarded for wins against teams with an NPI above the QWB base. Values can range from 0.00 to 1.00. Default setting is .500.

     Example: QWB base is set at 52.00. Multiplier is set at .500.
     - NPI-QWB Base=X; X*.500 = Bonus.
     - Win over team with NPI of 56.00.
     - 56.00 - 52.00 = 4.00; 4.00 * .500 = 2.00 (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)

     - Win over team with NPI of 61.00.
     - 61.00 – 52.00 = 9.00; 9.00 * .500 = 4.50 (4.50 is the Quality Win Bonus)

     Example: QWB base is set at 51.00. Multiplier is set at .333.
     - Win over team with NPI of 60.00.
     - 60.00 – 51.00 = 9.00; 9.00 * .333 = 3.00 (3.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)

     - Win over team with NPI of 57.00.
     - 57.00 – 51.00 = 6.00; 6.00 * .333 = 2.00 (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)

Home/Away Multiplier:

1. Allows for additional emphasis/weights to be placed on away wins and home losses, with less emphasis on home wins and away losses.

2. Different weights can be applied to non-conference, conference, and [conference] post-season contests.

3. This is an optional adjustment and can be set a 1.0/1.0 to weigh all wins and losses, at home or away, as equal.

Example: Weights set at 1.2/0.8

- Away wins/home losses weigh as 1.2 wins/losses.
- Home wins/away losses weigh as 0.8 wins/losses.

Overtime Win/Loss:

1. Allows for an overtime win/loss to count as less than a full win/loss.

2. An example is in ice hockey. Overtime is played 3-on-3 versus 5-on-5 in regulation. Since a win in overtime required extra time and was played differently an OT win can be weighted at .75 win/.25 loss. The losing team would bet .25 wins/.75 losses.

3. Regular season and post-season can be weighted differently.

4. This is an optional adjustment and can be set at 1.00/0.00 meaning a win is a win, or a loss is a loss regardless of regulation or overtime.

Minimum Wins: The committee can elect to require a minimum number of wins to be retained in the NPI adjustment.