



**PRECHAMPIONSHIP  
2024-25 MANUAL**

# NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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### THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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# Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2024-25 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women and three for both men and women. Of the men's championships, three are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, six are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

The 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 90 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.

**Non-predetermined Sites.** Those sites that are selected to host at the time of the participant/team selections announcement.

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

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

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

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

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

**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

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#### 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

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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 90™ Award

The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes 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](https://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: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 17.1.10 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]*

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

1. Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and
2. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warmups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

## Section 8 • Research

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

## Section 9 • Travel Party

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. 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 • Religious Conflicts

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

**Institutional Policy.** If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office on or before September 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (*Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13*)

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

## Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

The Division I Competition Oversight Committee developed a team replacement policy considering the possibility of unforeseen circumstances impacting championship fields. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the terms set forth in the policy document available [here](#) when, despite best efforts, a team within the championship field is impeded or hindered from participating in the championship for reasons beyond its control.

# Division I Softball

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# Section 1 • General Administration

## Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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## Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

### EAST REGION

**Natalie Gonzalez Honnen**  
Senior Associate AD/Student Services & Performance  
Clemson University

### MIDWEST REGION

**Jane Wagner**  
Associate AD for Sport Administration  
Northwestern University

### SOUTH REGION

**Jessica C. Leger**  
Senior Woman Administrator/Deputy AD  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### SOUTHEAST REGION

**Tara Brooks**  
Associate AD of Administration  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### WEST REGION

**Lori Perez**  
Head Softball Coach  
California State University, Sacramento

### MIDWEST REGION

**Holly Van Vlymen**  
Senior Associate AD/SWA  
South Dakota State University

### SOUTH REGION

**Jesse Martin**  
Senior Associate AD/External Affairs/Sport Admin  
Oklahoma State University

### SOUTH REGION

**Kurt McGuffin**  
Vice Chancellor/Director of Athletics  
University of Tennessee Martin

### SOUTHEAST REGION

**Kristi Bredbenner**  
Head Softball Coach  
Wichita State University

### WEST REGION

**Heather Hunter**  
Senior Associate AD/SWA  
University of California, Davis

For additional information about the softball championship, contact:

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Managing Director, Championships and Alliances  
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**Kurt McGuffin, chair**  
Vice Chancellor/Director of Athletics  
University of Tennessee Martin  
731-881-7661 / [kmcguffi@utm.edu](mailto:kmcguffi@utm.edu)

## Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

[Reference: Regional Advisory Committees in the Division I General Section and Bylaw 21.8.1.6 in the Division I NCAA Manual.]

Each conference shall appoint a member of the advisory committee in its respective region to assist in the evaluation of teams throughout the season. Below are the members of the 2025 Division I Softball regional advisory committees.

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>EAST REGION</b>		
<b>Natalie Gonzalez Honnen</b>	<b>Clemson</b>	<b>ACC</b>
Aileen Morales	Georgia Tech	ACC
Jessica Bump	Binghamton	Atlantic East
Chrissy Schoonmaker	George Washington	Atlantic 10
Adrienne Clark	Hofstra	CAA
Jen Williams	Dartmouth	Ivy League
Davon Ortega	Rider	MAAC
Beth Krysiak	Saint Francis	NEC
Sarah Caffrey	Bucknell	Patriot
<b>MIDWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Holly Van Vlymen</b>	<b>South Dakota State</b>	<b>Summit League</b>
<b>Jane Wagner</b>	<b>Northwestern</b>	<b>Big Ten</b>
Laura Valentino	UConn	Big East
Renee Gillispie	Iowa	Big Ten
Elisabeth Beirne	IU Indianapolis	Horizon
Craig Nicholson	Akron	MAC
Ryan Jacobs	Northern Iowa	MVC
Darren Mueller	North Dakota State	Summit League
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>		
<b>Jessica C. Leger</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>Sun Belt</b>
<b>Kurt McGruffin</b>	<b>UT Martin</b>	<b>OVC</b>
<b>Jesse Martin</b>	<b>Oklahoma State</b>	<b>Big 12</b>
Glenn Moore	Baylor	Big 12
Josh Taylor	Louisiana Tech	CUSA
Mark Redburn	Southeast Missouri State	OVC
Rick Fremin	Southeastern Louisiana	Southland
Brittany Williams	Southern University	SWAC
Becky Clark	South Alabama	Sun Belt
<b>SOUTHEAST REGION</b>		
<b>Kristi Bredbenner</b>	<b>Wichita State</b>	<b>The American</b>
<b>Tara Brooks</b>	<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>SEC</b>
Crissy Strimple	Tulsa	The American
Jane Worthington	Eastern Kentucky	ASUN
Christi Musser	Charleston Southern	Big South
Tatjana Matthews	South Carolina State	MEAC
Courtney Deifel	Arkansas	SEC
Lindsay Fico	Mercer	SoCon

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>WEST REGION</b>		
Heather Hunter	UC Davis	WCC
Lori Perez	Sacramento State	Big Sky
Nikki Palmer	UC San Diego	Big West
Stacy May	Fresno State	MWC
Kara Dill	UT Arlington	WAC
Sonja Garnett	Saint Mary's College	WCC
Andrew Rich	Idaho State	Big Sky

## Section 1•4 Important Dates

<b>Monday, March 24</b>	Bid information to host regional and super regional competition available online at <a href="https://www.ncaa.org">ncaa.org</a> .
<b>Friday, April 18</b>	Deadline for submitting bid materials (proposed budgets) for hosting regionals and super regionals.
<b>Sunday, May 11</b>	7 p.m. Selection Show aired live on ESPN2. Selection and notification of teams participating in the championship.
<b>Friday-Sunday, May 16-18</b>	Regionals (regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a no-competition-on-Sunday policy).
<b>Thursday-Saturday, May 22-24 or Friday-Sunday, May 23-25</b>	Super Regionals. <i>NOTE: Super Regionals will be a three-day format.</i>
<b>Thursday, May 29-Friday, June 6</b>	Finals, Devon Park, Oklahoma City; hosted by the University of Oklahoma and USA Softball.

## CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

<b>Regionals</b>	Friday-Sunday, May 16-18, 2025 (regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a no-competition-on-Sunday policy).
<b>Super Regionals</b>	Thursday/Friday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday/Sunday, May 22-25, 2025.
<b>Women's College World Series</b>	Thursday, May 29-Friday, June 6, 2025; Devon Park, Oklahoma City; hosted by the University of Oklahoma and USA Softball.

## DATE FORMULA

<b>Regionals (16)</b>	Two weeks before finals (Friday through Sunday)
<b>Super Regionals (eight)</b>	Thursday before Memorial Day (Thursday/Friday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday/Sunday)
<b>Women's College World Series</b>	Thursday after Memorial Day (Thursday-Friday + 1 week)

## FUTURE DATES

	Regionals	Super Regionals	WCWS
<b>2026</b>	May 15-17	May 21-24	May 28-June 5
<b>2027</b>	May 21-23	May 27-30	June 3-11
<b>2028</b>	May 19-21	May 25-28	June 1-9

## Section 1•5 Equipment

### PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

All teams at the site must have access to all equipment. If there is a discrepancy in the quality of the equipment (e.g., batting cages), all teams must be provided equal time to use the best equipment.

### BALL

The Rawlings NC12L is the official softball for the championship. Rawlings will supply balls for all championship rounds; no other softball shall be used during competition. Each team must furnish its own practice balls during regionals and super regionals for field practice (hosts will provide balls for batting cages; see other equipment below). The NCAA will provide practice balls at the Women's College World Series.

### BATS AND BAT TESTING

Bats used in competition **MUST** appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. The bat list will be updated on the first Monday of April, July and December. You can access the list at [NCAA Softball Rules of the Game](#) or the [RefQuest \(RQ+\) website](#). Additional lists will be posted when a manufacturer withdraws a bat model or the results of bat testing dictate assessing strikes and/or removing a model.

Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for legally equipping their team, and bats are to be checked according to the schedule provided by the NCAA site representative. Please provide umpires with a current bat list and highlight the bats your team will be using during each game, indicating the number of bats of each model that will be on the field or in the team area during the game.

### OTHER EQUIPMENT

Screens and chalk should be available for teams upon arrival on the practice fields. The minimum equipment that should be provided to all teams is listed below.

On-field equipment:

- Four to six dozen defensive balls (in buckets or ball hoppers).
- One (1) front screen for on-field activity.
- Two to three (2-3) empty buckets.

Hitting-area equipment:

- One (1) screen per cage.
- One (1) three-wheel pitching machine (similar to, but not limited to, a Hack Attack or Jugs).
- Three dozen pitching machine balls (in buckets or ball hoppers).
- One (1) extension cord.
- Two (2) tees.
- Six to eight dozen BP balls.

## Section 1•6 Rules

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.33, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports in which the Association follows rules developed by other governing bodies and are modified by the governing sports committee, the adopted playing rules shall be used. The governing sports committee will not consider any results for selection purposes not played in accordance with the NCAA rules book, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

The 2024 and 2025 NCAA Women's Softball Rules and Interpretations shall be followed for the championship.

### PROTEST PROCEDURES

Please refer to the [2024 and 2025 NCAA Women's Softball Rules Book](#), Rule 7.2 which outlines protest procedures for NCAA championship play.

## LENGTH AND SCHEDULE OF GAMES

All games will be scheduled for seven innings. However, a five-inning, eight-run rule will be used in all rounds of the championship. If play is stopped before a seven-inning game is completed and the eight-run rule is not in effect, it will resume at the point of interruption. Every attempt should be made to complete regional and super regional competition by Sunday. Competition may go to Monday when the following occurs: (1) weather or emergency situations occur that prevent completion of competition; (2) any one team has to play more than two games in a day; or (3) in order to complete competition by Sunday, it would be necessary to begin competition after approximately 11 p.m. Sunday.

If competition has to be extended to Monday, it must be completed without starting a game after 11 p.m. Monday (if the regional final begins before 11 p.m. and an “if necessary” game becomes necessary to determine the regional champion, that game will immediately follow). *NOTE: Each round gets one extra day to finish the round.*

The committee reserves the right to revise the game schedule because of inclement weather.

**Regional.** If inclement weather limits play, every effort has been made to complete competition by Sunday and if competition cannot be completed by Monday, the team that will advance to the super regional will be based on the following:

<b>0 games played</b>	Highest seed
<b>1 game played</b>	Highest seed
<b>2 games played</b>	Highest undefeated seed
<b>3 games played</b>	Highest undefeated seed
<b>4 games played</b>	Highest undefeated seed
<b>5 games played</b>	Highest undefeated seed
<b>6 games played</b>	Winner of Game 6 unless each team has one loss; therefore, the teams are tied, then: 1) Head-to-head competition 2) Highest remaining seed

**Super Regional.** If inclement weather limits play, every effort has been made to complete competition by Sunday, and if competition cannot be completed by Monday, the team that will advance to the Women’s College World Series will be based on the following:

<b>0 games played</b>	Highest seed
<b>1 game played</b>	Winner of Game 1
<b>2 games played</b>	If each team has a loss, the highest seed

## Section 1.7 Uniforms

*[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the Division I NCAA Manual.]*

The home team shall select the desired uniform color first and it is the responsibility of the visiting team to wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey of the home team. Discrepancies will be settled by the NCAA site representative in consultation with the umpire. As a reminder, when teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary. Determination of uniform colors must be approved by the NCAA site representative. Noncompliance with this policy may result in “failure to adhere to policies and procedures” as outlined in the NCAA Division I Manual. On the field, including the practice areas and dugout, each team is limited to eligible players in uniform and coaches, trainers, student-athletes and managers, all of whom shall be in appropriate team colors.

## LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

# Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

## Section 2.1 Championship Format

The championship provides for a field of 64 teams. Sixteen teams will be seeded and each of the seeded teams will be placed at one of the regional sites. Four teams will participate at each of 16 regional sites in a double-elimination tournament. The 16 teams advancing from regional competition will participate in a two-team, best-of-three super regional at eight sites.

The Women’s College World Series will include the eight super regional winners.

**Regional Format.** The procedures outlined below shall be used in the conduct of all 16 softball regional competitions.

The regionals will be conducted for a three-day period beginning Friday, May 16. (Regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a no-competition-on-Sunday policy.) All regional competition should be completed not later than the Sunday prior to super regionals. [Exceptions (i.e., weather) may preclude the completion of competition by Sunday; however, competition must be completed not later than Monday.]

If the regular game schedule is altered because of weather or unforeseen circumstances, the following guidelines may be used and teams will be informed by the NCAA site representative: (1) Not more than two games by any one team will be scheduled in one day (a halted game resumed on the next day counts as one); (2) If possible, games will not be scheduled to begin before 9 a.m. or after 11 p.m.; (3) If competition cannot be completed Sunday, the last time to start a regional championship game (i.e., Games 6 and “if” 7) to complete regional finals is the Monday immediately preceding the super regional at 11 p.m.; (4) If play is suspended before Games 6 and 7 and the regional competition ceases, see the rain-delay advancement formula ([page 12](#)) outlined in this manual. Prospective host institutions must submit recommended starting times for all games with the bid materials for approval by the NCAA Softball Committee and are subject to change.

For all four-team regional competitions, Games 1 and 2 will be played on the first day; Games 3, 4 and 5 will be played on the second day; Games 6 and 7 (if necessary) will be played on the third day.

The following procedure will be observed subject to change by the NCAA Softball Committee. Once established, the game order will remain intact.

### DAY 1

Game 1	No. 2 vs. No. 3
Game 2	No. 1 vs. No. 4

### DAY 2

Game 3	Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
Game 4	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2
Game 5	Winner Game 4 vs. Loser Game 3

### DAY 3

Game 6	Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 5
Game 7	Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 6 (if necessary)

**Super Regional Format.** In all two-team super regional tournaments, Game 1 will be played on the first day; Game 2 on the second; and Game 3 (if necessary) on the third day. If there is a weather delay during super regional competition, teams will have three days to complete the super regional competition before the inclement weather policy will be applied.

The following procedure will be observed:

<b>Day 1</b>	Game 1
<b>Day 2</b>	Game 2
<b>Day 3</b>	Game 3 (if necessary)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>Regionals</b>	Friday-Sunday, May 16-18, 2025 (Regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a no-competition-on-Sunday policy. The host must be prepared to host Thursday if necessary.)
<b>Super Regionals</b>	Thursday/Friday/Saturday or Friday/Saturday/Sunday, May 22-25, 2025
<b>Women's College World Series</b>	Thursday-Friday + one week, May 29-June 6, 2025

## START TIMES

Start times for regionals and super regionals will be recommended by the host institutions during the bid process, subject to the approval of the NCAA Softball Committee. Game times should be set 2½ hours apart and must follow the championship format below. Game times are subject to change per the broadcast schedule.

Regional and super regional game-time policies:

- Thursday or Friday games are recommended to be between noon and 9 p.m.
- Saturday games are recommended to be between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Sunday games are recommended to be between noon and 9 p.m.

The committee shall determine game times for the Women's College World Series.

*NOTE: Only Game 7 of regional competition will begin 30 minutes after the conclusion of Game 6 or earlier by mutual consent of both teams. (Changes subject to broadcast schedule.)*

## TRAVEL PARTY

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. The travel policies can be found at: [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](https://ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information).

The travel party for all rounds of the championship is 30, the squad size is 22 student-athletes in uniform eligible to compete and the dugout size will include up to 14 individuals designated as team personnel and as many student-athletes as are on the team's official roster.

On the field, including the practice field, bullpen and dugout, each team is limited to four official coaches in uniform (head coach, assistant coaches and volunteer coach), 22 eligible student-athletes in uniform, student assistant coaches, and any other student-athletes on the team's official roster (these student-athletes may be in uniform). Nonuniformed personnel in the dugout should be performing official team functions that they have performed during the season. A bat handler, who must be 13 years of age or older, does not count against the limitations for the dugout. Nonuniformed personnel in proper attire may participate in pregame warmups. Once a game begins, the athletic trainer or manager is permitted on the field only to perform his/her appropriate duty (e.g., warming up a pitcher is not considered an appropriate duty).

NCAA postseason policies for student-athletes above the established squad size of 22 traveling with teams (squad size is the number of players eligible to compete in the game):

- Up to the number of student-athletes on the team's official roster.
- May be in the dugout (they are expected to conduct themselves with the quality and behavior deserving a championship event and shall abide by all policies and procedures and will be removed if noncompliant).
- May be in uniform or uniform jersey.
- May participate in softball-related activities on the competition field, keep stats while in the dugout and catch bullpen and line drills.



Section 2•2 Results

TEAM SCHEDULES AND ROSTERS

Deadline – Jan. 16: Team schedules must be input on the stats site. Reference the schedule instructions for more information. Rosters should be updated before the team’s first contest.

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

The RPI is intended to be used as one of many valuable resources provided to the committee in the selection, seeding and bracketing process. It should never be considered anything but an additional evaluation tool. No computer program that is based on pure numbers can take into account subjective concepts (e.g., how well a team is playing down the stretch, what the loss or return of a top player means to a team or how emotional a specific conference game may be).

Several independent elements are combined to produce the RPI. These elements are part of the statistical information that can be utilized by each member in an objective manner. Each committee member independently evaluates a vast pool of information available during the process to develop individual preferences. It is these opinions – developed after many hours of personal observations (e.g., games watched); review of regional rankings submitted by regional advisory committee members; discussion with coaches, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators and commissioners; and review and comparison of objective data – that dictate how each individual ultimately will vote on all issues related to the selection, seeding and bracketing process.

While the various elements of the RPI are important in the evaluation process, the tournament bracket each year is based on the subjectivity of each individual committee member to select the best at-large teams available and to create a nationally balanced championship.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The championship provides for a field of 64 teams. Thirty-one conferences are provided automatic qualification and the remaining 33 teams are selected at-large. Sixteen teams will be seeded. Each of the seeded teams will be placed at one of the regional sites and will host regional competition, provided a team bids to host and meets the hosting requirements. Four teams will participate at each of 16 regional sites in a double-elimination tournament. The 16 teams advancing from regional competition will participate in a two-team, best-of-three super regional at eight sites.

The eight super regional winners will advance to the NCAA Women’s College World Series.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Conferences that have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2025 championship are:

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



## AT-LARGE SELECTION

The Division I Softball Committee will follow Bylaw 31.3.3 in selecting at-large participants. To be eligible for an at-large selection, a team must have an overall won-lost record of .500 or better against Division I competition.

### Bylaw 31.3.3.1 – Countable Competition

For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Bylaw 20.2.4.7) 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.

## PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

An institution desiring to participate in the championship must complete all games (including conference tournament games) before the final scheduled selection Sunday, May 11 (preferably by 1 p.m.).

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Air Travel.** If you are located more than 400 miles from the host site, please contact Short's Travel Management at 866-655-9215 as soon as possible to make your air travel arrangements. Be prepared to provide the names of the members of the travel party of 30. All transportation once on-site must be booked through STM Driven (refer to NCAA Division I Championships Transportation Policies).

**Ground Travel.** If you are within 400 miles from the host site, you will travel via bus and must secure your own arrangements that meet [NCAA Ground Transportation Safety Standards](#).

**Lodging.** The host institution reserves 30 total rooms (minimum of 25 doubles) for each team. Please obtain hotel information from the tournament director. At regionals and super regionals, all teams must stay at the designated hotel and use the appropriate number of rooms unless you receive a written release from the hotel manager. Otherwise, you will be financially responsible for the rooms.

## Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

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The Division I Softball Committee will meet to make the final selections, regional and super regional site determinations and pairings.

Announcement of the entire 64-team bracket will be made by the NCAA tentatively at 7 p.m. Eastern time, May 11, on ESPN2.

The Division I Softball Committee shall have full authority to select the at-large teams to compete in the respective regional tournaments. The committee will consider other outstanding teams from automatic-qualifying conferences for the at-large selections. The committee shall appoint regional advisory committees to assist it in evaluating teams, but recommendations of the regional advisory committee members are not binding upon the committee.

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

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

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Softball Committee has received approval from the Sports Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the softball championship (not necessarily in priority order):

### CRITERIA

- Rating Percentage Index (25% the institution's winning percentage; 50% opponents' success; 25% opponents' strength of schedule); also bonus points for wins against the top 50 teams and penalty points for losses against the teams 225 and below.
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results of the RPI
  - Record against ranked teams 1-25; 26-50; 51-100; 101-150;
  - Average RPI win; and
  - Average RPI loss.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Significant wins and losses.
- End-of-season results.

The Division I Softball Committee may consider KPI rankings in the evaluation of teams. The KPI ranking is a results-based metric that ranks team resumes on a game-by-game basis, quantifying how hard it was for a team to achieve a record given their schedule. KPI ranks every team's win and loss on a positive-to-negative scale with the game values averaged for the team's KPI ranking. The best win possible is worth about +1.0, the worst loss about -1.0, and a virtual tie at 0.0. Adjustments are made to each game's value based on location of the game, opponent quality, and percentage of total points scored. KPI rankings are available here: [faktorsports.com](https://faktorsports.com). In addition, there is a one-time bonus/penalty for playing 50% of scheduled games against teams ranked 1-50 and playing 50% of scheduled games against teams ranked 250 or below.

In making bracket assignments, the closest geographical consideration will be used as well as the ability to separate conference opponents during regional competition. Per Bylaw 31.1.3.2.5, seeded teams will have an opportunity to host regional competition provided they meet all hosting requirements and have submitted a bid to host by the April 18 deadline. Selection of teams shall be completed Sunday, May 11.

## Section 2•5 Site Selection

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Any institution or conference interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2025 NCAA Division I Softball Championship must submit a proposed budget, facility evaluation form, key contacts form and video board questionnaire (if applicable) to be considered to host. A separate proposed budget, key contacts form and hotel(s) letter(s) of agreement must be submitted for each round that an institution or conference is interested in hosting. In addition prospective hosts are required to file a Softball Facility Scorecard which can be found [here](#).

Committee/site representative per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid directly by the NCAA and not the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefQuest (RQ+) system for their game fee, per diem, mileage and luggage fees. Hosts do not pay these fees.

For both the game officials and committee/site representatives, hosts will pay lodging expenses and be reimbursed by the NCAA through the budget process. 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 only at the final site for championships.

All bid-related forms can be accessed via the following website: [web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login](https://web1.ncaa.org/champsBidV20/exec/login). The deadline to submit all materials for hosting preliminary rounds is **April 18, 2025**.

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the online host reporting system to the NCAA not later than 60 days after the competition.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding accessing the bid system, please contact the NCAA Championships and Alliances staff at 317-917-6397 or [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org).

## PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

Host bid information and deadlines will be included in the March NCAA Championships Monthly Newsletter.

## HOST REPORTING SYSTEM

An online proposed budget must be completed for each round of competition you wish to host. For those institutions submitting bids for multiple rounds, a “copy” function is available and will allow you to transfer budget information between rounds. The appropriate round and date of competition must be indicated on each budget. Please be sure to include projected ticket sales in the Receipts section.

## FACILITY EVALUATION FORM

A facility evaluation form must be completed by each institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition.

If you submitted a facility evaluation form for this championship last year, the responses to a number of questions will auto-populate with information you submitted last year. Please verify or edit those responses as needed, and provide responses to all blank questions.

## KEY CONTACTS FORM

The key contacts form and instructions are available online. Please complete a key contacts form for each round of competition you wish to host. A “copy” function is also available for the key contacts form, allowing you to transfer this information between rounds. The appropriate round and date of competition must be indicated on each key contacts form. *NOTE: The tournament director must be institutional staff with decision-making responsibilities, preferably with oversight of the softball program.*

Personnel who will administer the competition should be listed on the key contacts form. Please pay close attention to contact names and addresses listed for receivables. Items such as signage, balls, awards, hydration equipment, etc., will be shipped to the listed address(es). In order to receive all supplies and equipment in a timely manner, it’s imperative that this information is accurate. Please include the proper shipping address for overnight deliveries. P.O. Box addresses are not acceptable.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based upon a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and its own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA Championships, which can be found in the “Help/Other Resources” tab in the championship host portal. 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, which would be inclusive of the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the [Best Practices document](#). In order to be considered for championship site selection, this plan must be uploaded to the bid portal.

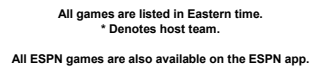
# Appendixes

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**REGIONALS**  
May 16-18

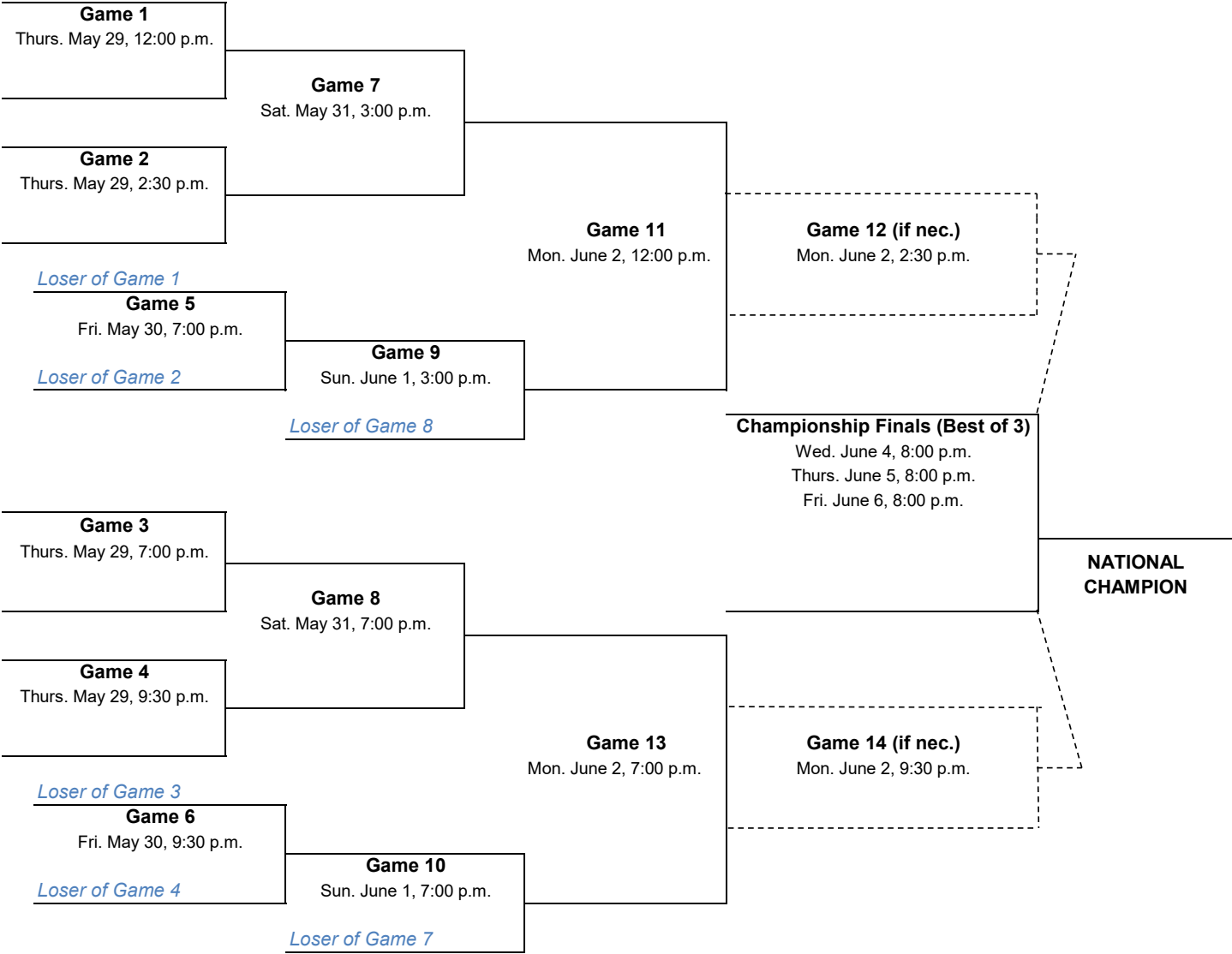




2025 NCAA Women's College World Series

OGE Energy Field at the Devon Park | Oklahoma City

May 29 - June 5/6



All times Eastern and subject to change. \*Home Team

Bracket Notes:

- 1. If the winner of Game 9 defeats the winner of Game 7, then Game 12 is necessary.
- 2. If the winner of Game 10 defeats the winner of Game 8, then Game 14 is necessary.

Watch the championship on these networks or via the Women's College World Series app.

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## Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

### EAST REGION

#### America East Conference (6)

University at Albany  
Binghamton University  
Bryant University

University of Maine  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

#### Atlantic 10 Conference (10)

University of Dayton  
Fordham University  
George Mason University  
George Washington University  
Loyola University Chicago

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

#### Atlantic Coast Conference (15)

Boston College  
University of California, Berkeley  
Clemson University  
Duke University  
Florida State University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
University of Louisville  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

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

#### Coastal Athletic Association (12)

Campbell University  
College of Charleston (South Carolina)  
University of Delaware  
Drexel University  
Elon University  
Hampton University

Hofstra University  
Monmouth University  
North Carolina A&T State University  
University of North Carolina Wilmington  
Stony Brook University  
Towson University

#### The Ivy League (8)

Brown University  
Columbia University-Barnard College  
Cornell University  
Dartmouth College

Harvard University  
University of Pennsylvania  
Princeton University  
Yale University

#### Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (13)

Canisius College  
Fairfield University  
Iona College  
Manhattan College  
Marist College  
Merrimack College  
Mount St. Mary's University

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

#### Northeast Conference (8)

Central Connecticut State University  
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus  
Le Moyne College\*  
Long Island University

Mercyhurst University\*  
Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)  
Stonehill College\*  
Wagner College

*East Region continued on next page.*

## Patriot League (7)

Boston University  
Bucknell University  
Colgate University  
College of the Holy Cross

Lafayette College  
Lehigh University  
U.S. Military Academy

## MIDWEST REGION

### Big East Conference (9)

Butler University  
University of Connecticut  
Creighton University  
DePaul University  
Georgetown University

Providence College  
Seton Hall University  
St. John's University (New York)  
Villanova University

### Big Ten Conference (17)

University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
University of Iowa  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Michigan  
Michigan State University  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

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

### Horizon League (9)

Cleveland State University  
University of Detroit Mercy  
Indiana University Indianapolis  
Northern Kentucky University  
Oakland University

Purdue University Fort Wayne  
Robert Morris University  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay  
Youngstown State University

### Mid-American Conference (11)

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

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

### Missouri Valley Conference (12)

Belmont University  
Bradley University  
Drake University  
University of Evansville  
University of Illinois Chicago  
Illinois State University

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

### The Summit League (7)

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

University of South Dakota  
South Dakota State University  
University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)\*



**SOUTH REGION****Big 12 Conference (11)**

University of Arizona  
 Arizona State University  
 Baylor University  
 Brigham Young University  
 University of Central Florida  
 University of Houston

Iowa State University  
 University of Kansas  
 Oklahoma State University  
 Texas Tech University  
 University of Utah

**Conference USA (10)**

Florida International University  
 Jacksonville State University  
 Kennesaw State University  
 Liberty University  
 Louisiana Tech University

Middle Tennessee State University  
 New Mexico State University  
 Sam Houston State University  
 University of Texas at El Paso  
 Western Kentucky University

**Ohio Valley Conference (10)**

Eastern Illinois University  
 Lindenwood University\*  
 Morehead State University  
 Southeast Missouri State University  
 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

University of Southern Indiana\*  
 Tennessee State University  
 Tennessee Technological University  
 University of Tennessee at Martin  
 Western Illinois University

**Southland Conference (10)**

East Texas A&M University\*  
 Houston Christian University  
 University of the Incarnate Word  
 Lamar University  
 McNeese State University

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

**Southwestern Athletic Conference (12)**

Alabama A&M University  
 Alabama State University  
 Alcorn State University  
 University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff  
 Bethune-Cookman University  
 Florida A&M University

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

**Sun Belt Conference (12)**

Appalachian State University  
 Coastal Carolina University  
 Georgia Southern University  
 Georgia State University  
 James Madison University  
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette

University of Louisiana Monroe  
 Marshall University  
 University of South Alabama  
 University of Southern Mississippi  
 Texas State University  
 Troy University

## SOUTHEAST REGION

### American Athletic Conference (10)

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 East Carolina University  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 University of Memphis  
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Texas  
 University of South Florida  
 University of Texas at San Antonio  
 The University of Tulsa  
 Wichita State University

### ASUN Conference (12)

Austin Peay State University  
 Bellarmine University  
 University of Central Arkansas  
 Eastern Kentucky University  
 Florida Gulf Coast University  
 Jacksonville University

Lipscomb University  
 University of North Alabama  
 University of North Florida  
 Queens University of Charlotte\*  
 Stetson University  
 University of West Georgia\*

### Big South Conference (7)

Charleston Southern University  
 Gardner-Webb University  
 Longwood University  
 Presbyterian College

Radford University  
 University of South Carolina Upstate  
 Winthrop University

### Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (8)

Coppin State University  
 Delaware State University  
 Howard University  
 University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Morgan State University  
 Norfolk State University  
 North Carolina Central University  
 South Carolina State University

### Southeastern Conference (15)

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

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

### Southern Conference (8)

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

Samford University  
 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
 Western Carolina University  
 Wofford College

**WEST REGION****Big Sky Conference (6)**

California State University, Sacramento  
 Idaho State University  
 University of Montana

University of Northern Colorado  
 Portland State University  
 Weber State University

**Big West Conference (10)**

University of California, Davis  
 California Polytechnic State University  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, San Diego  
 University of California, Santa Barbara

California State University, Bakersfield  
 California State University, Fullerton  
 California State University, Northridge  
 University of Hawaii, Manoa  
 Long Beach State University

**Mountain West Conference (9)**

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

University of New Mexico  
 San Diego State University  
 San Jose State University  
 Utah State University

**West Coast Conference (6)**

Loyola Marymount University  
 Oregon State University  
 University of the Pacific

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

**Western Athletic Conference (9)**

Abilene Christian University  
 California Baptist University  
 Grand Canyon University  
 Seattle University  
 Southern Utah University

Tarleton State University  
 University of Texas at Arlington  
 Utah Tech University  
 Utah Valley University

## Appendix C • Additional Preliminary Rounds Information

### PRELIMINARY-ROUND FACILITIES AND GAMESMANSHIP

Institutions that do not or choose not to meet the facility, crowd management and game management requirements set forth in the Division I Softball Prechampionship and Host Operations Manuals, may not be eligible to host the following year, even if they are a seeded team.

#### ATMOSPHERE

Hosts must provide a neutral atmosphere that enhances the student-athlete experience for all participating teams (e.g., announcer, in-venue fan treatment, equitable locker rooms, access to facility and equipment).

#### ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS

The use of artificial noisemakers, air horns, cow bells, ball buckets, etc., and electronic amplifiers by student-athletes and team personnel is prohibited while on site for competition. For the purpose of this rule, the field, bullpens and dugouts are considered to be on site. See Rule 5.11 of the [2024 and 2025 NCAA Softball Rules Book](#).

Fans are also prohibited from using artificial noisemakers while on site.

### GAME PROTOCOLS

#### DETERMINATION OF HOME/AWAY

The home team for the first round will be the higher-seeded team. In subsequent games, the home team will be determined according to the following formula:

1. The games committee shall designate as home team the institution that has been home team the fewest times (regionals, super regionals and finals are considered separately).
2. If two teams have been home team an equal number of times but visiting team an unequal number of times, the team that has been the visitor most often shall be designated as the home team.
3. If two teams have been both home team and visiting team an equal number of times, and if the two teams previously met, the visitor in the initial game shall be the home team in the second game.
4. If games between the same teams are back-to-back, the home team shall be the visitor from the previous game, regardless of the number of times either team has been home or visitor.
5. If two teams have been both home team and visiting team an equal number of times, the team that was the visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were the visitor in their preceding games.
6. If the preceding formula does not prevail, the higher-seeded team shall have the choice of being home team or visitors.
7. When teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms and dugouts, if necessary.

#### DETERMINATION OF TEAM/LOCKER ROOM USAGE

The host team may access their locker room if: 1) there are two locker rooms at the competition field; and 2) if the locker rooms are attached to the dugouts. If there are differences in the amenities provided by either locker room, teams are limited to using those amenities that are the same for both (e.g., if one locker room has an attached coaches meeting room but the other does not, the coaches meeting room may not be used).

If two locker rooms are available at the regional sites, the two competing teams will have full access to their assigned locker rooms beginning at the start of their on-field warmups until the completion of the game.

When a team plays back-to-back games on the same day: To effectively manage the turn-around time and minimize the logistical impacts for teams, a team will remain in its dugout for the following game regardless of home or away team designation and even if the host is a participant.

If only one locker room is available at the softball facility, no team will have access to the host institution locker room. The host institution may access its locker room only after it has completed its final game of each day.

Locker room facilities will be used not only for dressing and meeting, but also as a safe space during inclement weather. Teams will maintain possession of the locker room during games delayed by weather until the contest has been completed. If locker rooms are not available, two equitable areas must be designated for participating teams. **Plans need to be made for all teams for inclement weather situations**, which may include teams staying on buses.

## TICKETS/CREDENTIALS/AWARDS

### TICKETS

Hosts are required to provide each team with 75 tickets behind team dugouts and up to an additional 25 tickets elsewhere in the stadium for regionals, and 100 premium tickets for super regionals. Hosts must hold tickets for teams until the team confirms the number of tickets to be used, not later than 5 p.m. local time on the Tuesday before the first scheduled competition.

Host institutions may choose to purchase tickets for students; however, the institution is financially responsible for those tickets. Tickets may not be charged to the championships budget. (Additional may be requested if a team has more than 25 student-athletes on its roster.)

### CREDENTIALS

Credentials will be distributed at the administrative meeting according to the travel party roster guidelines supplied by the NCAA. Only the personnel with the appropriate credential will be permitted in credential-required areas (e.g., team warmup areas, locker/team rooms). The squad size and official travel party are 22 and 30, respectively.

### AWARDS

Participant medallions will be given at regional and super regional sites to the nonadvancing teams. Each nonadvancing team will receive 22 medallions (squad size). Teams may purchase additional medallions at the following link: [services.mtmrecognition.com/ncaa](https://services.mtmrecognition.com/ncaa).