



**SITE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
2025-26 MANUAL**



# Division I Softball

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# Section 1 • Introduction

## Section 1•1 Overview

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Thank you for serving as a NCAA site representative at one of the preliminary-round sites of the NCAA Division I Softball Championship.

During the preliminary round(s) of championship competition, NCAA site representatives serve as the primary ambassadors of both the NCAA and the NCAA Division I Softball Committee. As such, NCAA site representatives are expected to conduct preliminary-round championship competition according to the policies and procedures outlined in this manual, the prechampionship manual and the host operations manual. NCAA site representatives also are responsible for conducting both the administrative meeting and the officials meeting prior to the start of preliminary-round competition.

In preparation for your role, please review and have on hand the following documents, which may be found on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org):

- [Prechampionship Manual](#)
- [Host Operations Manual](#)

Please note that this manual contains links to an umpire's evaluation form and an online site evaluation form (please share this with the coaches and ask that they submit a form after each completed game); an observer's umpire evaluation form (please ask nonworking UIC to complete this form after the final game at the site, but before leaving the facility); and the site evaluation form (site representatives are to complete this post event as soon as conveniently possibly).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelly Whitaker (317-476-6867) or the softball committee chair.

On behalf of the NCAA and the Division I Softball Committee, thank you for your time and efforts.

## Section 1•2 Responsibilities of Site Representatives

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The following is a general overview of the site representative's responsibilities:

- Serve as a representative of the NCAA during championship preliminary rounds;
- Conduct championship competition according to the policies and procedures outlined in the prechampionship manual, host operations manual and site representative manual;
- Participate/lead prechampionship videoconference with team personnel;
- Conduct the administrative meeting in conjunction with the championship;
- Serve as a resource for visiting teams and tournament director;
- Conduct bat testing each day before competition;
- Complete tournament site evaluations; and
- Communicate issues and concerns that occur at the site to the NCAA championship staff (Kelly Whitaker) daily or immediately if necessary (e.g., rain delays, severe injury, misconduct).

# Section 2 • Contact Information

## Section 2•1 NCAA Staff and National Committee

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### NCAA STAFF

**John Bugner**

Director  
Championships and Alliances  
Cell: 317-522-7220  
Office: 317-917-6529  
[jbugner@ncaa.org](mailto:jbugner@ncaa.org)

**Kelly S. Whitaker**

Associate Director  
Championships and Alliances  
Cell: 317-476-6867  
Office: 317-917-6511  
[kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)

**Liz Turner Suscha**

Vice President  
Championships and Alliances  
Cell: 317-270-3318  
Office: 317-917-6189  
[lsuscha@ncaa.org](mailto:lsuscha@ncaa.org)

**Sami Bogenschutz**

Assistant Coordinator  
Championships and Alliances  
Office: 317-917-6984  
[sbogenschutz@ncaa.org](mailto:sbogenschutz@ncaa.org)

### DIVISION I SOFTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The list of current committee members may be accessed [here](#).

For additional information about the softball championship, contact:

**John Bugner**

Director, Championships and Alliances  
NCAA  
317-917-6529  
[jbugner@ncaa.org](mailto:jbugner@ncaa.org)

**Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, chair**

Executive Senior Associate AD/Student Services &  
Performance  
Clemson University  
864-656-9254  
[nhonnen@clermson.edu](mailto:nhonnen@clermson.edu)

# Section 3 • Selection and Overview

## Section 3•1 Selection Process and Notification

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In order to serve as a site representative, all individuals are required to participate in the mandatory site representative training for the specific sport. All individuals employed at NCAA member institutions and/or conferences are eligible to serve as site representatives. Individuals who have a perceived conflict of interest in serving as a site representative at a particular institution or for a specific sport should make the NCAA staff aware of the conflict. (See Conflict of Interest below.)

Site representatives will be notified after selections (evening of May 10) that they are needed to serve and the site assignment. Two site representatives will be assigned to each regional site and one site representative will be assigned to each super-regional site. All site representatives will receive team sheets for each site.

## Section 3•2 Conflict of Interest

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The NCAA is a voluntary Association comprised of public and private institutions and conferences governed through a membership-led committee structure. Within the governance structure, committee members must carefully balance their responsibilities to their respective institutions and/or conferences with the obligation to advance the interests of the Association, the division or the sport, and ultimately enhance the student-athlete experience. While the fiduciary obligations of committee members to their own institution, their conference and to the Association ordinarily are not in conflict, it is recognized that as a representative membership organization, committee members' fiduciary obligations are first to their institution, second to their conference and third to the Association. NCAA committee service involves important ethical and moral obligations. Committee integrity is critical to the decision-making process and includes trust, confidentiality and honesty in all issues and aspects of service and representation. NCAA committee members shall disclose any conflict or potential conflict between their respective personal, professional, institutional, conference or business interests and the interests of the Association that may affect or otherwise threaten such integrity, in any and all actions taken by them on behalf of the Association, for committee evaluation under this statement. When considering disclosures, keep in mind those may result in an "excess benefit transaction" under Section 4958 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") or other tax or other laws that may apply.

A committee member who receives information under confidential or nondisclosure terms, including but not limited to Association business or litigation matters, shall adhere to those confidential obligations as a primary matter. In addition to any fiduciary obligation to their institution and conference, committee members also have a fiduciary duty to the Association not to use nonconfidential knowledge or information obtained solely due to service on that committee to the disadvantage of the Association. Further, a committee member shall not participate in the committee's discussion or vote on any action that might bring direct or indirect personal financial benefit to the member or any organization (other than the member's institution or conference) in which the member is financially interested. A committee member should also not participate in a discussion or vote for which the member's institution or conference is to be accorded a special benefit beyond benefits shared with other institutions or conferences or is to receive a penalty or disqualification. A violation of either of the above rules by a member of the committee shall not invalidate the action taken by the committee if, following disclosure of the conflict of interest, the committee authorizes, ratifies or approves the action by a vote sufficient for the purpose, without counting the vote of the committee member with the conflict of interest, and the appropriate oversight body approves the action.

A committee member is responsible for advising the chair of any actual or potential conflicts of interest or obligations which they may have hereunder and should recuse themselves from participating in proceedings, as may be warranted by this policy. Abuse of one's position as a member of a committee may result in dismissal from that position. Where such abuse appears evident, a committee member will be notified by the committee chair and will have the opportunity to present a rebuttal or details of the situation. A committee member who acts contrary to this policy may void defense and indemnity privileges that are provided by the Association in connection with committee service.

## Section 3•3 Speaking Agent Policy

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The NCAA expects that, unless expressly authorized by the NCAA, site representatives and officials will not speak (or represent themselves as speaking) on behalf of the Association or respond to NCAA-related media inquiries (without direction from NCAA staff) while holding their respective positions with the NCAA.

**Public Comments:** Site representatives and officials are prohibited from making unprofessional, inappropriate public comments regarding the championship, committee, coaches and student-athletes and comments that are inconsistent with the values of the NCAA before, during or after the championship.

Site representatives should also be extremely careful of any remarks made while traveling, in and around the facility and in any social situation. Again, you are representing the NCAA at all times and your actions must be above reproach.

## Section 3•4 Neutrality

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Site representatives are representing the NCAA and should be neutral in this role. We would ask that site representatives dress professionally while avoiding any clothing that denotes institutional and/or conference affiliation.

All hosts shall be reminded that hosting an NCAA regional or super regional is not a home event and that all teams shall be treated equally with respect to facilities, live-scoring, announcer neutrality and respect.

## Section 3•5 Evaluations

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### SITE REPRESENTATIVE EVALUATION

In order to obtain immediate feedback on a championship site, we ask that each site representative provide the operations manager (Kelly Whitaker) information regarding issues, concerns, highlights, etc., following each day's events. Please contact Kelly Whitaker; cell: 317-476-6862; email: [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org).

Please provide game results, attendance, and highlights/issues of the day.

### TOURNAMENT SITE EVALUATION

In addition to the immediate feedback requested above, we ask that each site representative also provide feedback on the championship site at which they served. NCAA staff will send electronic site evaluations after regionals and super regionals.

### UMPIRE EVALUATION

Umpire Game Evaluations: Site representatives will **provide a link/QR code to the coach's umpire evaluation form to coaches and remind them at the conclusion of the game to submit the completed evaluation form electronically.** Although this is optional, this feedback will be combined with feedback from the site representative and UIC for purposes of assigning the next game.

[Link to the coach's evaluation form.](#)

The observer's umpire evaluation form should be completed by the non-working UIC after the conclusion of the event.

[Link to the observer's umpire evaluation form.](#)

Please contact Kelly Whitaker or Steve McCown, National Coordinator (972-658-5450, or at [steve25mccown@aol.com](mailto:steve25mccown@aol.com)), with questions.

## Section 4 • Important Dates

### DIVISION I SOFTBALL 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Site representative orientation</b>                   | 11 a.m. Eastern time, April 17                     |
| <b>Site representative/prospective host training</b>     | 1 p.m. Eastern time, April 30                      |
| <b>Team selections</b>                                   | May 8-10   |
| <b>Notification of selection of site representatives</b> | May 10 (regionals); May 17 (super regionals)       |
| <b>Site representative arrival date at site</b>          | One day prior to the first practice                |
| <b>Regional/super regional dates</b>                     | May 15-17 (regionals); May 21-24 (super regionals) |

*NOTE: If a team with a “no-play-on-Sunday” policy is selected, the regionals will be held Thursday, May 14, to Saturday, May 16.*

# Section 5 • Responsibilities

## Section 5.1 Preliminary Rounds

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### AFTER SELECTIONS

- Contact tournament director.
  - Set up the administrative meeting (schedule before the first practice if possible).
  - Confirm hotel accommodations/directions for team(s), umpires and UIC.
  - Confirm your arrival time and hotel accommodations.
  - Confirm practice times.
  - Confirm an alternate practice schedule using indoor facility in the event of inclement weather.
  - Confirm game times. (Game times will be provided on the team sheet. There should not be any changes in game times unless approved by the national office.)
    - All game times have been approved as stated on the team sheet. Any proposed changes in these times must be approved by the national office (Kelly Whitaker, 317-917-6511, or cell 317-476-6867).
    - Game times are scheduled 2.5 hours apart.
    - Game 7 will begin 30 minutes after Game 6 unless mutually agreed upon by both coaches (and television) to begin earlier (not less than 25 minutes).
  - Discuss neutrality.
  - Discuss equipment to be received from the NCAA and equipment to be provided to teams during practice and warmup (see Appendix H, Equipment List). If game balls have not arrived on campus at least 48 hours prior to the first game, please contact Kelly Whitaker (317-476-6867; [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)).
  - Confirm date, time, and location of administrative and officials' meetings.
  - Review security/safety plan. (Review end-of-game security.)
  - Ensure host medical staff is prepared to be at practices and game(s).
  - Discuss locations of:
    - Media/interview areas.
    - Athletic training room area.
    - Videotaping and photography areas.
  - Determine with tournament director if administrative and officials meetings should take place virtually.
- Contact Umpire-in-Charge (once assignments are made).
- Check with visiting teams' administrators to be sure they have no issues with travel. Remind them of the administrative meeting.

### NOT LATER THAN TWO DAYS BEFORE COMPETITION

- Check with host on the following shipments:
  - NCAA signage.
  - Game balls.
  - Merchandise from Event 1.
  - Programs (digital).
  - Hydration supplies (super regionals only).
  - Credentials/patches.
  - Participant medallions (22 per nonadvancing team – 66 per regional site and 22 per super regional site).

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- One super regional champion team trophy (32 team mini-trophies will be shipped to the institutions after the conclusion of the championship).
- Bat-testing materials (decals, paperwork).
- Super regional champion hats (super regionals only)
- Ticket-punched sign (super regionals only)
- Review drug-testing policies and procedures if your site is chosen. (This information is confidential until after Game 1.)
- Check with tournament director to see if they're prepared or have questions.

### PRACTICE DAY/DAY BEFORE COMPETITION

- Arrive at host site a minimum of two hours prior to the first practice; staff all practices.
- Meet with tournament director to discuss the following:
  - Bat-testing location and equipment. Confirm bat-testing coordinator's name and contact information.
  - Entrances - public, teams, officials, staff.
  - Ticket locations - visiting teams.
  - Credentials/players - pass list.
  - Communication (radios), if necessary.
  - Review pregame schedule.
  - Check to be sure equipment is ready.
  - Expected media.
  - Video review area.
  - Band/spirit squad/mascot procedures, if applicable.
  - Personnel are in place - scorer, statisticians, announcer, etc.
  - Security plan and crowd control. (Bag checks, if necessary.)
  - Inclement weather.
- Perform a facility walk-through and review:
  - Check field and other relevant facilities.
  - Locate the visible action clock and confirm if it is controlled by umpires or a person in the press box.
  - Does the facility have a data analytics system? If yes, confirm when/how data will be shared with teams.
  - Press box.
  - Dugout and overflow dugout seating available.
  - Scorer's and announcer's positions.
  - Media/interview area.
  - Locker rooms (umpires and teams) and security.
  - Merchandise and program sales area, if applicable.
  - Overall look and treatment of facility - NCAA signage/neutrality.
  - Signage - all commercial signage must be removed or covered. Contact Kelly Whitaker at 317-476-6867 or [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org) if you have any questions. Sites must request any special circumstances to not cover commercial signage.
  - Scoreboard - advertising covered or removed.
  - Test all electronic equipment.
  - Videotaping/photography areas.
  - Scouting and tagging seats/location.
  - Athletic training room.
  - Band/spirit squad location, if applicable.

- Nonparticipant seating, if applicable. (This is not required to provide.)
- Make sure NCAA logo rule is being observed.
- Review administrative meeting agenda with tournament director. Make sure copies are available for the meeting or that agenda has been shared in advance.
- Determine method for distribution of participant medallions (i.e., locker rooms or on the team bus).
- Determine the plan for distributing the team trophy, ticket punched sign and hats (super regionals only).
- Confirm SID is prepared to report results at conclusion of competition.
- Review script with communications representative/PA announcer. (This was emailed to schools after selections.)
- Monitor and supervise practices.
- Conduct administrative meeting. (Agenda and talking points found in Appendixes B and C).
  - Review NCAA administrative policies.

## DAY OF COMPETITION

Arrive at site at least three hours before first game (before team practices). Remain available to monitor and supervise all aspects of the championship as indicated in the site representative and host operations manuals.

- Perform a facility walk-through and review:
  - Signage is properly displayed and advertisements are covered.
  - Press box/scorer's table/coaches booth is set and ready, if applicable.
  - Check visiting locker room(s) for cleanliness and is properly stocked with paper items.
  - Ensure that sales locations for merchandise and programs are prepared.
  - Check for inappropriate noisemakers.
  - Test all electronic equipment.
  - Be sure that host provides uniformed security for teams, including when moving to and from locker rooms, press conferences, etc. At no time should coaches and student-athletes move among spectators without uniformed security.
- Greet umpires and visiting team(s) as they arrive.
- Confirm squad sizes and check for no more than 14 nonathletes in the dugout.

## DURING GAME

- Listen and watch crowd for inappropriate noisemakers and/or signage. Have security remove them, if necessary.
- Observe coaches' and players' behavior.
- Note any problems in the stands/bleachers and have security handle any conflicts.

## PRIOR TO THE END OF GAME

- Ask the tournament director to provide an accurate count of game attendance to report back.
- Be sure everyone is prepared for end-of-game security and media needs.

## POSTGAME

- Make sure umpires are safely off of field. (Provide security.)
- Observe players and coaches shaking hands and leaving field.
- Uniformed security shall escort coaches and student-athletes to and from postgame press conferences and other media obligations.
- If a misconduct occurs, please contact Kelly Whitaker (317-476-6867; [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)) as soon as possible, immediately if an on-site hearing is necessary.
- Check on postgame interviews (see that the teams have come out of locker rooms on schedule, etc.). Ensure someone is recording (electronic or written) coaches' remarks. Winning team goes first followed by the losing team; except for Game 3 of regionals, losing team goes first, to allow more time for the team to prepare for their next game, and for the final super-regional game, the nonadvancing team goes first to allow the advancing team additional time on the field for celebration and team photos.

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- Remind host site media coordinator to continue to submit final statistics files to the NCAA statistics staff as they have all season for all games the host plays. The designated home team in games not involving the host institution is responsible for submitting final statistics to the NCAA in those games between nonhost teams. WarnerMedia representatives will reach out to each host site media coordinator with instructions on how to submit live stats and scores to [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com).
- Text (preferred) or email results to Kelly Whitaker (cell: 317-476-6867; email: [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)) immediately following each game.

### BEFORE LEAVING SITE

- Remind SID to send results as requested by NCAA.
- Confirm that the tournament director has everything taken care of, and remind them to complete postevent surveys.
- Immediately following the completion of the regional or super regional tournament, please ensure the UIC completes the observer's umpire evaluation and evaluate umpires for advancement.
- Call/email (preferred) Kelly Whitaker with quick report – attendance, result, highlights, issues.

### WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER PRELIMINARY ROUND

- Complete all requested evaluations.
- Complete misconduct forms, if applicable.
- Complete electronic expense form to be emailed from Sami Bogenschutz ([sbogenschutz@ncaa.org](mailto:sbogenschutz@ncaa.org)).

## Section 5•2 Facilities

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1. **Restroom Facilities.** Restroom facilities must be conveniently located to dugouts and reserved exclusively for student-athlete use during the game. If permanent restroom facilities that meet these requirements are not present, high-end temporary restrooms (flushable and running water) are acceptable if they are conveniently located, reserved exclusively for student-athlete use and cleaned regularly. It is not acceptable for student-athletes to share restroom facilities with spectators, nor should players be expected to walk great distances to reach the designated facilities.
2. **Scouting Seats/Tagging Seats.** Three scouting seats per team shall be reserved behind home plate (rows one or two). Only official members of the coaching staff are permitted in the scouting seats. It is acceptable to provide alternative scouting seat locations if requested by the coach and the host can accommodate the request. Provide one seat per team at an optimal location for game film tagging in a manner that is equitable for each of the competing teams.
3. **Warmup Area and Equipment.** Visiting teams must have equal access to an equitable, restricted warmup area with adequate space to run, stretch and throw. This area must be in immediate proximity to the playing field. Also, hosts must provide, in the participant manual, a list of equipment available to all teams (screens, pitching machines, etc.) and a list of indoor facilities. Minimum equipment that should be provided can be found in Appendix H of the Host Operations Manual.
4. **Video Review Area.** To accommodate video review per Rule 5.9.10, for NCAA postseason competition, hosts shall provide an area for review as outlined by the NCAA's video review partner.
5. **Data Analytics.** The use of analytical or data collection cameras/systems that are allowable per the NCAA softball playing rules is now permitted during all rounds of NCAA Division I Softball Championships. The host institution is required to share any such data collected with all teams participating at the site and must collect data in the same manner for all games if being used at the site. Right View Pro cameras or similar data collection devices must be covered for practice. The site representative or a designee will check the cameras periodically to ensure they are operational.
6. **Video Taping.** All team cameras shall be unmanned and located in a designated area in center field. The host will provide three-foot-high platforms in both right- and left-center fields, approximately 20 feet from center field. If a facility cannot provide this, teams should be given equitable access to a similar location for videotaping.

Rule 5.9.1 – A team may film or videotape only contests in which it is playing, but may record (from video truck, satellite feed or airwaves, not video camera) any game that is or will be televised. Exception: A tournament host may stream video of all games in its tournament and is not restricted to filming and streaming video of only games in which it is a participant. Recording from the dugout is PROHIBITED during NCAA postseason play.

## HOSPITALITY

**Player/Team.** The area should be stocked with healthy snacks served at the appropriate time of day during the competition. Food served in the hospitality area is not designed to replace a team meal.

**Umpires.** Refreshments will be provided in the umpires' locker room. For those days with more than two scheduled games, some type of meal must be provided (a variety of food is desired).

**Media Hospitality.** An area should be set up at the site for the media to include water, soft drinks and a snack. This area must be separate from the players and umpires.

## LOCKER ROOMS (TEAMS AND UMPIRES)

1. Hosts teams must provide equal accommodations to facilities (i.e., locker room or team room) for all teams.
2. For regionals and super regionals, the home dugout designated by the host facility for the regular season is the home dugout. The host team may occupy its own dugout, regardless of home and away team designation (except in the situation described in Item No. 5 below). All guidelines or access to the locker rooms attached to the dugouts will apply.
3. 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 room may not be used).
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 staying on team buses.
8. A private dressing area for umpires (both male and female) must be provided. Portable locker rooms, recreational vehicles, etc., may be used; however, a tent does not fulfill this requirement.

## SCOUTING

The videotaping or filming of an opponent's game is not permitted. Institutions are permitted to videotape championship competition by their teams or their individual student-athletes for archival, coaching or instructional purposes. Each institution is permitted to use one camera and may videotape only that portion of the competition in which it participates. The videotapes may not be used for any commercial purposes. An institutional representative shall contact the event coordinator at the host site to arrange for camera space at that site. The host institution shall provide a comparable location for both competing teams.

## ADVERTISING/SIGNS/"LOOK AND DÉCOR"

- **Advertising/Banners/Signs/Displays.** The host shall not permit advertising, marketing identification, banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the general public seating/viewing area of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) (i.e., any place that can be seen from the playing surface or seats), including the scoreboard and the playing surface prior to or during the conduct of the championships, other than NCAA, media partner or NCAA corporate champion/partner branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scoreboards, LED scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements) approved by the NCAA. For more information on the NCAA Corporate Champions and Partners program, please see page 13 of the host operations manual). Any permanently affixed (or previously leased) advertising banners, signs, cup holders, select equipment bearing corporate marks (e.g., TVs, computer monitors, stats monitors or displays), product/exhibit displays (e.g., car displays, branding exhibits/kiosks) shall be covered with décor elements or other NCAA directed elements by the competition, practice and/or

ancillary event venue(s) and at the expense of the venue(s) as specified by the NCAA, including costs of production and installation and strike. Similarly, for any surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used by the NCAA for official events, no advertising, marketing, identification, banners, signs, decals, sampling, distribution or displays of any kind shall be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within those areas unless authorized by the NCAA. All professional signage/marks/pennants/banners/retired numbers/etc. may continue to be displayed. NCAA staff representatives have the discretion, during their site visit or when on-site in advance of the tournament, to have the building staff remove a sign/banner. Collegiate championship banners or those with retired numbers of collegiate performers can remain. All usage of marks must follow NCAA brand guidelines and must be approved by NCAA staff in advance. If the host agency or institution has contractual obligations that limit this policy, those provisions must be submitted in writing to the NCAA Division I Softball championship manager ([kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)) with the bid proposal.

If there is corporate signage in the venue that is visible during television and/or streaming, photos must be submitted as part of the bid submission. Any exceptions to the policy to cover corporate signage must be sent to Kelly Whitaker ([kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)).

- **Alcohol/Tobacco/Gambling.** All alcohol, tobacco and gambling advertisements/corporate identification within broadcast view or viewable by game attendees in the competition venue bowl must be covered at the expense of the host or venue. Any alcohol, tobacco or gambling advertising that is deemed by the NCAA as not viewable from within the bowl does not need to be covered, whether in the concourse or in ancillary venues. All other advertisements/corporate identification in the noted areas must, at a minimum, not be backlit unless otherwise authorized by the NCAA. This would apply to preliminary rounds and the championship rounds for all the NCAA's 92 championships.
- **External Signs.** All exterior venue corporate signage, other than professional franchise identification, must be covered as specified by the NCAA and must be covered with décor elements as specified by the NCAA at the expense of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s). Any requests to the contrary must be directed to Kelly Whitaker ([kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)).
- **Commercially Named Venues.** Commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) may display no more than two preexisting interior signs consisting only of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s)' name at the top of the venue, with placement designated by the NCAA. The competition, practice and ancillary event venue(s) signage design and placement must be approved by the NCAA. If the commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) is an existing NCAA Corporate Champion or Corporate Partner, the NCAA, in its sole discretion, may allow additional branding of the commercially named venue(s).
- **Covering Existing Signage/Product Branding.** In regard to any signage that is to be covered in accordance with these bid specifications, the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s) shall not limit or prohibit the ability of the NCAA to use signage or other elements of its own third-party designees in covering such existing signage/product branding.
- **NCAA Corporate Champion and Partner Branding/Recognition.** The NCAA shall have the right to display branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements, inflatables, projections, kiosks, decals, window clings, lighting, street teams, logos) for the Association, its corporate champions & partners and media partners inside and outside of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s). These locations, include but are not limited to the concourse, within the competition bowl and venue exterior without limitation.

The NCAA shall provide the competition venue with the appropriate stickers/field stencils for the approved playing surface markings for the championship.

If facility approves, patrons are permitted to bring in small signs (signs which can easily be held by one person and cannot block the view of anyone seated around them), as long as any writing or slogans on them are in good taste. In addition, it is permissible for patrons to bring in non-noise-making items (in compliance with NCAA and facility premium guidelines) as long as they do not include any (non-CCP) commercial identification.

At no charge, the NCAA will have full access to, and control of, any and all LED and other digital signage inventory, both internal and external to the competition venue. This includes TV monitors, video screens, video walls, LED fascia, and all external signage, digital or otherwise. This includes any and all digital inventory to be made available at the time of the championship, inclusive of any inventory that may be added by the venue after this bid document is signed.

- **Banners Inside Facility.** The banners permissible inside the facility are as follows: TV Banners (2), NCAA Radio Banners (1) and NCAA Banners.
- **Institutional Signage.** Institutional signage does not need to be covered. Championship banners may remain permanent (not hung seasonally). If temporary and hung on a seasonal basis, they must be taken down.
- **Directional Signage.** Directional signs should be posted in all areas used by the participants and the media.
- **Video Boards and Electronic Messages.** If there is a video board in the facility it shall be used for all games. The atmosphere will be the same for all games whether the home team is paying or not.

*Any exceptions must be requested by the host to Kelly Whitaker ([kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org)) for discussion with the Corporate Relations Team.*

## Section 5•3 Game Management

### FIELD REQUIREMENTS

1. **Facility Enclosure and Parking.** The facility must be enclosed in order to charge admission, with a minimum seating capacity of 500 unobstructed-view seats. On-site parking must be provided for teams, tournament personnel and umpires.
2. **Field Dimensions.** The distance of the outfield fences shall not exceed 235 feet. Outfield fences shall be a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields (200 preferred). If a portable fence is used, it must be placed at a distance of 200 feet in left and right fields, and 220 feet in center field. All portable fencing must be secured so as to prevent balls from rolling under. The outfield fence is required to be a minimum of four feet but highly recommended to be a minimum of six feet. Please see the [2026 and 2027 NCAA Softball Rules Book](#) for further requirements.
3. **Backstop.** Backstop, sideline and outfield fences must enclose the playing field. There must be a minimum of 25 feet and maximum of 30 feet from home plate to the backstop and from the baselines to the fence or dugout. When the backstop is wood, cement or brick, it must be padded from dugout to dugout, beginning not higher than one foot off the ground and extending to the top of the wood, cement or brick, or six feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.
4. **Field Surface and Bases.** For all NCAA postseason competition, the infield must be skinned (no turf), and the outfield must be natural grass or a grass-like synthetic surface. It is preferred that institutional field stencils are not within the competition field. While Rule 2.7 makes it permissible to stick a label on the rise of the base, for NCAA postseason competition, only a sticker or label with NCAA branding may be used. The double first base is required to be used for Division I Softball.
5. **Dugouts.** Dugouts must be covered and enclosed from spectators. When a team plays back-to-back games in 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. No more than the total number of student-athletes on the roster plus 14 team personnel are allowed in the dugout.
6. **Bullpens.** Two separate bullpen areas of comparable composition to the competition field (dirt is preferred) and distance from dugouts must be provided. Bullpens must be separated from the spectator area. (PITCHERS: Pitchers for the upcoming game may use the bullpen area provided it does not interfere with the game in progress and only when the bullpen area is not in use by either of the participating teams. If either participating team desires to use a bullpen, then neither bullpen may be used by teams preparing for upcoming games.)
7. **Batting Cages.** If only one batting cage is available at the site, all teams will have equal time in the cage prior to their game. The home team uses it first. The batting cage may be used while another game is being played if it does not interfere with the game in progress. If two batting cages of equal quality are available, each team will use one cage.
8. **Lighting.** A lighted facility is required to host preliminary rounds. The minimum lighting requirement for television is 125 foot-candles.
9. **Electronic Scoreboard and Press Box.** An electronic scoreboard and public address system (including backup, if possible) must be available. Institutions are also required to have (at a minimum) a three-sided covered press box with internet and telephone access. A covered interview area must be provided, separate from spectator and hospitality areas.

## DIVISION I SOFTBALL

10. **Tarp.** All facilities must have field and bullpen tarps, which must be used appropriately for all areas in the event of inclement weather. Grounds crew must be available during all practices and games.
11. **Visible Action Clock. New for 2026:** A visible action clock is required to be displayed in preliminary-round competition.

### EQUIPMENT

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.

**Game Balls.** The Rawlings NC12L.47 COR is the official softball for the championship. Rawlings will supply balls for all championship rounds; no other softball shall be used during competition. Each host must furnish practice balls during regionals and super regionals as outlined in Appendix H (Equipment List) in the host operations manual.

Championship softballs (10 dozen per regional site; 5 dozen per super regional site) will be sent from the manufacturer directly to the attention of the tournament director. If the softballs do not arrive by 5 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday before competition, please contact Kelly Whitaker immediately at 317-476-6867 (cell) or [kwhitaker@ncaa.org](mailto:kwhitaker@ncaa.org).

Game balls should be available for each team two hours prior to each game. Each team is asked to scuff game balls during practice. The balls being scuffed should not be used for hitting practice. Scuffed balls should be returned to the NCAA representative prior to the teams' leaving the field.

One new game ball should be given to each team prior to the start of each game. The game ball should be returned to the umpire.

**Bats.** Coaches are responsible for legally equipping their team, including providing only undamaged bats that appear on the then-current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as posted on [refquest.com](http://refquest.com).

Bats will be confirmed as legal and barrel compression testing (BCT) will be performed by a bat-testing coordinator assigned by the host on each competition day for each team. This person should have prior experience in testing bats, and should not be a member of the softball team/coaching staff. In addition, umpires shall verify the appropriateness of each team's bats prior to each game. The primary or secondary site rep should be present during testing.

**Barrel Compression Testing (BCT).** BCT will be conducted on competition days (not practice days) during all NCAA postseason rounds. Each site MUST provide a secure location, G4 SSL or WSU bat testing fixture, table, three (3) chairs, and provide the NCAA site representative with the appropriate distinctive stickers and testing administrative log sheets sent following your selection to host. The bat testing areas should be close to the practice area, yet private, and sheltered from the weather (sun, wind, rain). If an indoor facility is close to the practice area, that is preferred. If not, a tent should be provided if an outdoor covered area is not available. Refer to Appendixes E and F for additional details for bat testing requirements.

Following completion of each tier, the administrative log sheets should be attached to an email along with a request for a prepaid shipping label for any failed bats to the NCAA Softball Equipment Consultant who provided the administrative logs via email. Bats should be shipped following the last day of the last tier for each host.

Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for legally equipping their team, and bats will be subject to BCT and umpire inspections for damage prior to every game. The team's Bat List and bats to be used during the game shall be appropriately stickered and available to the umpires for their pregame review.

**Other Equipment - Screens and Chalk.** Screens and chalk should be available for teams upon arrival on the practice field. If possible, a groundskeeper should be present when the teams arrive to assist with any immediate needs. Each host is required to provide at least the equipment on the equipment list found in Appendix H of the Host Operations Manual.

### GAME TIMES

Game times must be set 2.5 hours apart.

**Regionals:** Games may be scheduled on Friday and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. local time, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. local time. (Regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a no-competition-on-Sunday policy. Thursday games may be scheduled noon to 9 p.m. local time.)

**Super Regionals:** Games must be scheduled between noon and 9 p.m. local time. Games for super regionals may be Thursday-Saturday or Friday-Sunday.

All game times will be assigned by the committee per agreed timing with broadcasting partner and are subject to change per the broadcast schedule.

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. Any proposed change in schedules must be discussed/ approved by the national office:

1. Not more than two games by any one team will be scheduled in one day.
2. If possible, games will not be scheduled to begin before 9 a.m. or after 11 p.m.
3. Per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.4.1, games will only be scheduled to begin before noon Sunday if extenuating circumstances arise.
4. If competition cannot be completed Sunday, the last time to start a regional championship game (i.e., Games 6 and “if” 7) to complete the super regional field is the Monday immediately preceding the super regional at 11 p.m.
5. If super regional competition cannot be completed as scheduled, the last time to start a super-regional championship game (i.e., Game 3) is the Monday immediately preceding the Women’s College World Series at 11 p.m.
6. If play is suspended before the completion of the regional or super regional and competition ceases, see the rain-delay advancement formula in the Softball Prechampionships Manual.
7. If the game schedule cannot be adhered to, time must be permitted for field maintenance and warmup periods for both teams before the start of the next scheduled game. There should be no less than 35 minutes between games except for between games 6 and 7 at regionals (30 minutes). The grounds crew should be allowed 15 minutes, and five minutes for line drills and four minutes for team introductions. See appendixes for sample timing sheets.
8. 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; and Games 6 and 7 (if necessary) will be played on the third day.

The following procedure will be observed, unless otherwise dictated by the softball committee (games follow in chronological order - no exceptions to game order will be permitted.):

**Day 1:** Game 1 - No. 2 vs. No. 3  
Game 2 - No. 1 vs. No. 4

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**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

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**Day 3:** Game 6 - Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 5  
Game 7 - Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 6 (if necessary)

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9. 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. Competitions should be completed no later than the Sunday before the Women’s College World Series. [Exceptions (i.e., weather or television) may preclude the completion of competition by Sunday.] The following procedure will be observed:

**Day 1:** Game 1

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**Day 2:** Game 2

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**Day 3:** Game 3 (if necessary)

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**Length of Game - Halted and Interrupted Games.** All games shall be seven (7) innings. However, the Eight-Run Rule (Rule 6.14) will be used in all rounds of the championship. If play has been stopped before a seven (7) inning game is completed, and the eight-run rule is not in effect, the Halted and Interrupted game rule shall be in effect (Rule 6.18).

## DIVISION I SOFTBALL

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 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.

**Super Regional Weather Delays.** 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 (Section 7.5) will be placed into effect.

**Tie Games After Seven Innings.** Games will be played until determined. The tiebreaker procedure will **NOT** be used in postseason competition.

### DETERMINATION OF HOME TEAM

For regionals and super regionals, the home team dugout designated by the host facility for the regular season is the home dugout. The home team will select the desired uniform color first. The visiting team must wear a contrasting uniform color to the jersey of the home team. Discrepancies will be settled by the site representative in consultation with the umpire. As a reminder, when teams play back-to-back games, teams must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary. Noncompliance with this policy may result in misconduct as outlined in the Softball Prechampionship Manual.

The home team for the first round will be the higher-seeded team. In the event two unseeded teams will meet, the committee will determine which team is assigned the home designation. In subsequent games, the home team shall 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 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 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 visitor.
7. When teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary.

### Super-Regional Competition

Game 1: The home team for the first game will be the higher-seeded team.

Game 2: The home team will switch.

Game 3 (if necessary): The home team will be the higher-seeded team.

### CREDENTIALS

Please review the Travel Form (Appendix A) for further detail on credentialing.

### SQUAD SIZE/TRAVEL PARTY SIZE

The squad size is limited to 25 eligible players. The official travel party is 30 (reimbursed by NCAA).

After a regional or super regional has begun, no changes may be made in a team roster for any reason. This procedure also will be followed at the finals, although the same players need not be designated for preliminary rounds and finals competition.

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 will be no inordinate delay of the contest to allow a competing institution to conform to the rule.

# Section 6 • Travel, Lodging and Expense Reimbursement

## Section 6•1 Travel

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All site representatives will be selected, if at all possible, by proximity to the host site. The NCAA will provide reimbursement for mileage at the current government rate for up to 400 miles to the host site.

Site representatives outside of 400 miles (one-way) from the competition site will be approved for air travel. Please contact Short's Travel Management to make those travel arrangements (see Section 6.4).

If the lead NCAA site representative flies to the site, he or she will be approved for a rental car that will be direct billed to the NCAA national office. Rental car reservations should be made through Short's Travel Management when booking your air travel.

## Section 6•2 Lodging

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The host institution will be responsible for providing hotel accommodations as needed. It is the responsibility of the site representative to inform the tournament director if a hotel room will be needed. Room and tax will be billed to the host institution. All other incidentals will be the responsibility of the site representative.

## Section 6•3 Expense Reimbursement

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All site representatives will receive a \$75 per diem for each day of travel and competition. All miscellaneous expenses are covered by the per diem.

Once competition has been completed, please complete the electronic expense reimbursement form (via email from Sami Bogenschutz, [sbogenschutz@ncaa.org](mailto:sbogenschutz@ncaa.org)).

## Section 6•4 Team Transportation Contact Numbers

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### SHORT'S TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Phone Number | 866-655-9215   |
| Email        | <a href="mailto:ncaaalo@shortstravel.com">ncaaalo@shortstravel.com</a> |

### NCAA TRAVEL GROUP

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Phone Number | 317-917-6757   |
| Email        | <a href="mailto:travel@ncaa.org">travel@ncaa.org</a>   |
| Website      | <a href="http://ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information">ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information</a> |

# Section 7 • NCAA Administrative Guidelines

All policies listed in this section **MUST** be reviewed during the administrative meeting.

## Section 7•1 Logo Policy

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[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division I 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.

- 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
- b. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warmups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, headbands, T-shirts, wristbands, 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 2¼ 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 7•2 Misconduct Statement

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**NOTE: This statement *MUST* be read at every administrative meeting.**

Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law occurring incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition in which he or she is participating at the time of the incident. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day's competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament) when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other acts of misconduct should be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sports committee.

## Section 7•3 Use of Tobacco Products

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The use of tobacco products surrounding NCAA championships is against championship policy and many facility policies. Violations of this policy are subject to misconduct penalties and team administrators are asked to ensure this policy is adhered to, particularly at the competition site and in any public settings. Penalties for violating this policy are outlined in the misconduct provisions and may include financial implications.

## Section 7•4 Drug-Testing Statement

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**NOTE: This statement *MUST* be read at every administrative meeting.**

NCAA championships committees, following a recommendation from the NCAA drug-testing subcommittee, have discontinued the practice of announcing whether drug testing will be conducted at NCAA championship events.

Although knowing prior to competition whether NCAA drug testing was to occur had value for reasons of convenience, it left open the possibility that student-athletes might be tempted to use banned substances if they knew that NCAA testing was not being conducted at the site of competition.

Therefore, all coaches and student-athletes should presume that NCAA drug testing will occur at this championship event. Please inform your student-athletes that in the event they are notified of their selection for drug testing, the student-athlete must inform an official representative of your institution (e.g., coach, athletic trainer) before proceeding to the drug-testing site. Student-athletes will be reminded by the courier to contact their team representative.

**Student-Athlete Notification.** Immediately after any established NCAA cool-down period, a member of the drug-testing crew will notify student-athletes selected for drug testing. Each student-athlete will be instructed to read and sign the Team Championship Student-Athlete Notification Form. The notification form will instruct the student-athlete to report to the testing room within 60 minutes, unless otherwise directed by the crew member. An institutional representative must be present in the drug-testing venue.

**Media Obligations.** Each team is provided a postgame cool-down period. At the conclusion of the cool-down period, a member of the drug-testing crew will notify the student-athletes who have been selected for testing. Notification may take place in the locker room (if applicable) or on the field of play. If a selected student-athlete is scheduled to participate in any postgame news conference, he/she is required to attend the news conference first. The student-athlete will be escorted to the drug-testing area after all of his/her media obligations have been fulfilled.

**Next-Day Testing.** If competition begins at 10 p.m. or later (local time), both teams will be given the option to defer testing until the next morning. If a team decides to test the next morning, that determination must be confirmed by the institution not later than immediately following the contest. Once testing has begun, testing must be completed and cannot be deferred until the next morning. If deferred until the following day, the testing must begin not later than 10 a.m. (local time) at the original test site.

**Participating Institution's Notification.** The institutional representative will be notified of drug testing not sooner than two (2) hours prior to the start of the game by the drug-testing crew chief. After the game, a member of the drug-testing crew will provide the institutional representative with the names of the selected student-athletes.

**Prolonged Test.** If the student-athlete's team must depart the championship prior to a student-athlete completing drug testing, an institutional representative must remain with the student-athlete. If the student-athlete and/or institution incur additional expenses because of the delay (e.g., hotel, transportation back to campus), the institution may request reimbursement from the NCAA.

**Testing Process.** Student-athletes are drug tested through urinalysis and must provide a specimen in view of a drug-testing collector of the same gender. The length of the collection process depends on the student-athlete's ability to provide an adequate specimen. If a student-athlete provides an adequate specimen immediately upon arriving in the drug-testing area, the entire process can be completed within 20 minutes. If the student-athlete is unable to provide an adequate specimen, he/she must remain in the drug-testing area until one is provided. There is no maximum allotted time for a student-athlete to provide an adequate specimen.

## Section 7•5 Inclement Weather

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If weather conditions alter the approved schedule, the site representative must contact the NCAA championship administrator before any decisions to change the schedule are finalized and communicated to participants. Be prepared to summarize the weather situation and have a recommendation for an alternate schedule.

The following guidelines are provided for NCAA site representatives and host institution tournament managers when dealing with inclement weather. The scenarios below are intended to be general guidelines for operation. Issues such as future weather forecasts, television, competitive equity, missed class time and expenses associated with playing games after Monday may dictate an alternate schedule.

The host shall appoint a qualified person responsible for monitoring the local weather at all times. Additionally, host institutions are encouraged to have a local meteorologist either on site or on call to help provide a professional evaluation of future weather forecasts and potential severe weather policies.

## DIVISION I SOFTBALL

If conditions start to deteriorate during a game, the site representative and tournament manager should be in conversation about the potential to temporarily suspend play. An umpire and site representative should be in contact between innings to assess conditions. Things to consider are the timing of the suspension relative to the stage of the game, fairness to both teams and the potential for the weather to improve. Play should be suspended at the end of a half-inning whenever possible. An umpire is empowered to temporarily suspend play immediately when, in their judgement, conditions justify halting the game per Rule 6.11.2 of the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Softball Rules Book.

- The primary goal is to play regional games according to the published schedule [two games on Day 1, three games on Day 2 and one or two (if necessary) games on Day 3].
- The primary goal is to play super-regional games according to the published schedule [one game Thursday/Friday, one game Friday/Saturday and one game Saturday/Sunday (if necessary)].
- As a general rule, no game should start later than 11 p.m. local time.
- As another general rule, no more than two games by any one team will be scheduled in one day.
- Lightning should be monitored via the WeatherSentry Online system. Please use these weather-monitoring devices when trying to determine starting times after a delay. The host institution is required to designate one individual whose main responsibility will be to monitor the weather/lightning during all practices and competition.
- You should keep in touch with the local weather bureau and we also encourage you to evaluate the weather via [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) or [weather.com](http://weather.com).
- If available, it is strongly recommended to have a local meteorologist on site or at a minimum on call to provide his or her expert analysis on any potential weather in the area.

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 staying on team buses.

Hosts shall have a stadium evacuation policy in the event of lighting or severe weather. The host shall also have and use appropriate public address announcer scripts as necessary.

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.

- No more than two games by any one team will be scheduled in one day.
- If possible, games will not be scheduled to begin before 9 a.m. or after 11 p.m.
- Per NCAA Bylaw 31.1.4.4.1, games will only be scheduled to begin before noon Sunday if extenuating circumstances arise.
- If competition cannot be completed Sunday, the last time to start a regional championship game (i.e., Game 3) is the Monday immediately preceding the Women's College World Series at 11 p.m.
- If play is suspended before the completion of the regional or super regional and competition ceases, see the rain-delay advancement formula in the Softball Prechampionships Manual.
- If the game schedule cannot be adhered to, time must be permitted for the field maintenance and warmup periods for both teams before the start of the next scheduled game. There should be no less than 35 minutes between games except for between games 6 and 7 at regionals (30 minutes). The grounds crew should be allowed 15 minutes.

### **If inclement weather limits play:**

**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:

- 0 games played - highest seed.
- 1 game played - highest seed.
- 2 games played - highest undefeated seed.
- 3 games played - highest undefeated seed.
- 4 games played - highest undefeated seed.

5 games played – highest undefeated seed.

6 games played – winner of game 6 unless each team has one loss, therefore the teams are tied, then:

- Head-to-head competition.
- 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 finals will be based on the following:

0 games played – highest seed.

1 game played – winner of game 1.

2 games played – if each team has a loss, the highest seed.

## LIGHTNING AND WEATHER DETECTION SERVICE

The NCAA has made arrangements through DTN to provide a lightning detection and weather-monitoring system to all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. This system will assist the event management staff and the NCAA site representatives in case of inclement weather during the championship. This service is provided so that all sites will have the resources available to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, spectators and event management staff.

The site representative should request that the tournament director include his or her email and/or phone via text to the WeatherSentry system so they can receive the weather updates. For detailed lightning and weather guidelines, refer to [Appendix J](#).

Site reps should be involved with the host regarding their weather monitoring. There should be direct communication with the local weather service. The head grounds crew person should be involved with decisions suspending and returning to play.

More information is available on [lightning safety](#) and in the [Sports Medicine Handbook](#).

## Section 7•6 Medical Procedures

**Athletic Training.** Certified athletic trainer(s) shall be available in the athletic training facility and assist the participating institutions' sports medicine staff. Certified athletic trainer(s) shall be on site for each scheduled practice or contest. Physician(s) will be on call or on site for all practice and game days, depending on the sport. When applicable, the host institutions shall provide specialty physicians (e.g., dermatologist, orthopedic, ophthalmologist), dentist, x-ray technicians, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and licensed massage therapists.

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

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity will be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or his or her designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance.

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

For further details, please refer to the [NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook Guideline on Concussions](#) (Guideline 2I).

# Appendixes

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# Appendix A • Travel Party Roster



## 2026 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Please email this completed form to the tournament director by 5 p.m. ET, Monday, May 11, for Regionals, and Monday, May 18, for Super Regionals. In addition, please have a copy of this form available during your practice time on Thursday. Individuals listed on this form must be an institutional representative and at the championship in an official capacity.

INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact for Travel Team Party: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFICIAL SQUAD SIZE

(1-22 PLAYERS DESIGNATED TO PARTICIPATE)

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 20. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 21. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 22. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 13. _____ |           |

### COACHES AND OTHER NON-ATHLETE PERSONNEL IN DUGOUT

(UP TO 14; MUST HAVE AN OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESPONSIBILITY)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 26. Head Coach: _____  | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 27. Asst. Coach: _____ | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 28. Asst. Coach: _____ | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 29. Asst. Coach: _____ | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 30. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 31. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 32. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 33. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 34. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 35. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 36. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 37. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 38. _____              | Title: _____      |
| 39. _____              | Title: _____      |

### WORKING CREDENTIALS – NOT IN DUGOUT

(UNLESS DESIGNATED FOR DUGOUT ABOVE)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 40. Sports Info: _____ | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 41. _____              | Cell Phone: _____ |
| 42. _____              | Cell Phone: _____ |

### NON-PARTICIPATING STUDENT-ATHLETES

(ON OFFICIAL SCHOOL ROSTER ABOVE 25, ELIGIBLE TO BE IN DUGOUT AND IN UNIFORM)

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 40. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 41. _____ | 43. _____ |

Any amount up to official school roster size. Add lines on back of form for additional non-participating student-athletes as needed.

ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY ACCESS CREDENTIALS: These individuals (up to 5 per team) would need to **purchase a ticket**, and must have an official school capacity at the championship. If someone on this list needs access to certain areas the general public does not have (e.g., videographer, team physician, etc.), hosts can provide a specific wristband, special sticker, or other way to designate special access.

## Appendix B • Administrative Meeting Agenda



### A G E N D A

National Collegiate Athletic Association  
Division I Softball Administrative Meeting

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Team administration.
  - a. Official squad size – 25 players can participate in the game; travel party size 30.
  - b. Credentials.
  - c. Uniform and logo policies.
  - d. Misconduct statement.
  - e. Bat testing protocol.
  - f. Banners and artificial noisemaker policy.
  - g. Bands and mascots.
  - h. Drug testing.
  - i. Evaluations.
    - (1) Coaches and student-athletes will be sent a link to evaluate the site.
    - (2) Coaches will be sent a link to evaluate the umpires that work their games.
3. Facilities.
  - a. Diagram of facility.
  - b. Participating team entrance.
  - c. Locker/team room procedures.
  - d. Scouting/Game Film Tagging seats.
  - e. Parking procedures.
  - f. Team fan seating areas.
4. Game administration.
  - a. Game schedule.
  - b. Pre-game format/timing sheets.
  - c. Team line-ups.
  - d. Determination of home team procedures.
  - e. Team introductions.
  - f. Game film procedures.

Division I Softball  
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- g. Rain delay procedures.
  - h. Action clock(s).
  - i. Awards.
    - (1) Regionals – participant medallions for squad size (22).
    - (2) Super regionals – team trophy, hats, mini-trophies (sent after), ticket punched sign.
  - j. Video review.
  - k. Data analytics.
5. Media and sports information.
- a. Review postgame format/press conference procedures.
  - b. Statistics – distribution and availability.
  - c. Timing sheets in dugouts.
6. Sports medicine.
- a. Review medical procedures.
    - (1) Hours of operation.
    - (2) Access of equipment and modality.
  - b. Review availability of trainers, training facilities and physicians.
  - c. Transportation to/from playing field to training room, if needed.
  - d. After hours protocol.
    - (1) Contact information.
    - (2) Hospitals/medical centers.
7. Umpires.
- a. Announce the umpiring assignments.
  - b. Review ground rules, if applicable.
  - c. Protest procedures.

## Appendix C • Administrative Meeting Notes



### A G E N D A

#### National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Softball Administrative Meeting

##### 1. Welcome and introductions.

- Welcome and congratulations on a successful season and advancing to the NCAA Softball Championship.
- I am looking forward to a fun, competitive, injury-free and rain-free tournament. I wish you the best of luck and if you need anything at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me-that is why I am here.
- Introduce yourself: <NAME-TITLE/SCHOOL> and will be serving as the NCAA site representative during this tournament.
- Have everyone introduce themselves, their title and school. For those individuals working the tournament, let everyone know what their role will be.

##### 2. Team administration.

a. Official squad size – 25 players can participate in the game.

b. Credentials.

- Dugout Credentials.
  - This includes 25 squad size, 14 non-athlete personnel, plus any additional student-athletes on the official roster.
- Working Credentials (3) (not in dugout) (examples SID, videographer, tagging).
- Temporary access – up to 5, must have official school capacity, must purchase ticket, access to dugout/field pre and postgame (not during game!).
- Sports Information may request a media credential if not on the dugout list.
- Administrator.
- Video (No video from dugouts).
- (CONFIRM WITH TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR) Credentials will be distributed \_\_\_\_\_.
- Below are the NCAA postseason policies for additional student-athletes traveling with teams.
  - Up to the official roster size.
  - May be in the dugout.

Division I Softball  
Page No. 2

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-May be in uniform or institutional issued team apparel (e.g., shorts, warm-up, practice or travel shirts).

-May participate in any softball related activities. Only the squad size of 25 can participate in the game.

c. **Uniform and logo policies.** Everyone should be familiar with the uniform and logo policy per NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4 – one manufacturer logo per item (2 ¼ inch square) which applies to all bench personnel and applies to all areas. Remember that if you have ball buckets (NON-RAWLINGS), you must tape over logos.

d. **Misconduct statement.** This should also be familiar and can be found in the pre-championship manual section 3.4,

*Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or break of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championships, that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics.*

e. **Bat testing protocol.** Review the bat testing protocol and procedures, including time, location and expectations (bats are to be checked before every game, but only before the first game of the day if a team plays more than one game a day).

f. **Banners and artificial noisemaker policy.** Banners cannot be hung, must not interfere with fans, cannot contain corporate logos and must be tasteful. Props are allowed in the dugout if they are appropriate, not derogatory, disruptive to the game and must remain within the confines of the dugout (not brought onto the field). Umpires can deem these disruptive and require removal.

g. **Bands and mascots.** Is anyone bringing a mascot and handler? (if so, read about bands/mascots in the host ops manual.

h. **Drug testing.** Read or paraphrase the following:

*NCAA championships committee, following a recommendation from the NCAA drug-testing subcommittee, have discontinued the practice of announcing whether drug testing will be conducted at NCAA championship events.*

*Although knowing prior to competition whether NCA drug testing was to occur had value for reasons of convenience, it left open the possibility that student-athletes might be tempted to use banned substances if they knew that NCAA testing was not being conducted at the site of competition.*

*Therefore, all coaches and student-athletes should presume that NCAA drug testing will occur at this championship event. Please inform your student-athletes that in the event they are notified of their selection for drug testing, the student-athlete must inform an official representative of your institution (e.g., coach, athletic trainer) before proceeding to the drug-testing site. Student-athletes will be reminded by the courier to contact their team representative.*

i. **Evaluations.**

### Division I Softball

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(1) Coaches and student-athletes will be sent a link to evaluate the site.

(2) Coaches will be sent a link to evaluate the umpires that work their games. **Encouraged; but not required but is helpful feedback.**

3. Facilities. **Have the tournament director cover this agenda item.**

- a. Diagram of facility.
- b. Participating team entrance.
- c. Locker/team room procedures.
- d. Scouting/Game Film Tagging seats. **These seats per team will be reserved. Only members of the institutions' coaching staff may use these. Provide one seat per team at an optimal location for game film tagging in a manner that is equitable for each of the competing teams.**
- e. Parking procedures.
- f. Team fan seating areas.

4. Game administration.

- a. Game schedule. **Review game schedule from timing sheets.**
- b. Pre-game format/timing sheets. **Timing sheets will be given to each team before each game of the day.**
- c. Team line-ups. **Lineups are official when given to the umpires. Lineups should be given to the official scorer 20 minutes before gametime (Rule 5.7.2).**
- d. Determination of home team procedures. **Refer to Section 5.3 in this manual.**
- e. Team introductions.
- f. Game film procedures. **Recording from outfield platform is allowed. No recording from the dugout.**

**-Participating teams may record from centerfield only games in which they are a participant. If centerfield is not available, the host institution will provide an area in which all teams have equal access. Teams may record any games at the site of competition from the video truck if the game is being broadcast.**

**-Recording from the dugout is PROHIBITED during NCAA postseason play (See Rule 5.9.3)**

- g. Rain delay procedures. **If rain limits play, and every effort has been made to complete competition Sunday and competition cannot be completed by Monday, the team that will advance to the next round of the championship will be based on the number of games played and seeds of the teams remaining (refer to Section 7.5 of this manual).**

Action clock(s).

**-Indicate where the visible action clocks are located and if the field umpires or the press box is controlling them.**

- h. Awards.

(1) Regionals – participant medallions for squad size (22). No presentation on the field. They will be put <in the locker room or on the bus> (indicate which).

(2) Super regionals – team trophy, hats, mini-trophies (sent after), ticket punched sign. There isn't a formal awards ceremony, but during the celebration, the super-regional championship team trophy will be run out to the team celebrating on the field. Super regional champion hats will be distributed, and the team should put them on. The ticket punched sign will be presented and the team should gather for a team photo where the trophy is held or present prominently, hats on, holding the ticket punched sign in the front of the group.

Super-regional champ mini-trophies for the travel party (30) will be shipped directly to the school after the event.

i. Video review. Will be done centralized in Pittsburgh by DVSport and staffed by umpires chosen by the softball umpire program.

Camera locations will be provided to teams.

A flip chart with reviewable plays and no-reviewable plays will be displayed in each dugout for team reference.

j. Data analytics. If data analytics are available (e.g., Yakkertech, Trackman, etc.) have the host explain the system and how/when the data will be shared.

#### 5. Media and sports information.

a. Review postgame format/press conference procedures. Following a 10-minute-colling-off period, the advancing team will go first; student-athletes will answer questions. They will be dismissed and then the coaches will be asked questions.

After the advancing team is done, the non-advancing team will go-same format.

SID's for each school are responsible to coordinate this and escort student-athletes and coaches to the media area. For Game 3 of regionals, the losing team should go first so they have ample time to prepare for their next game that day. The losing team that must play in Game 5 on the same day should go first, followed by the winning team.

For the deciding game of the regional or super regional, it is permissible to have the losing team conduct its press conference first, while the regional/super regional winning team is still on the field conducting any regional/super regional photo shoots or other postgame ceremonies

b. Statistics – distribution and availability. Distribution and availability.

c. Timing sheets in dugouts.

#### 6. Sports medicine. Have the host athletic trainer cover this agenda item.

a. Review medical procedures.

(1) Hours of operation.

(2) Access of equipment and modality.

### Division I Softball

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- b. Review availability of trainers, training facilities and physicians.
- c. Transportation to/from playing field to training room, if needed.
- d. After hours protocol.
  - (1) Contact information.
  - (2) Hospitals/medical centers.

#### 7. Umpires.

- a. Announce the umpiring assignments.
- b. Review ground rules, if applicable.
- c. Protest procedures.

## Appendix D • Umpires' Meeting Agenda



### A G E N D A

#### National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Softball Umpire Meeting

1. Welcome and announcements. (Umpire-in-Chief)
2. Schedule of events.
  - Umpires must be at competition site 30 minutes before starting time.
3. Umpires' uniforms.
4. Procedures for assigning umpires.
5. Determination of home teams.
  - See section 5.3 page 15 of the Site Representative Manual.
6. Protest Procedures.
7. Team lineups become official when given to the umpire.
8. No fraternizing with coaches or student-athletes.
9. Cover photography and on-field policies.
10. Suspending play.
11. Review umpires' payment procedures. (Tournament Director)
  - Fees, travel, per diem (RQ+), and hotel (host).
12. Credentials.
13. Parking.
  - Go over parking diagram and explain access to facility.
14. Umpire lounge and refreshment area.
15. Ground Rules
16. Adjournment.

## Appendix E • Bat Testing Protocol

### NCAA SOFTBALL POSTSEASON ON-SITE PORTABLE BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) OVERVIEW

The tournament host is responsible for providing the NCAA site representative with a secure location to bat test, their bat testing fixture, and the envelope shipped to them from the NCAA containing the appropriate stickers and an administrative bat log for each team. In addition, they shall secure bats that fail barrel compression testing from the team's possession and ship them for further analysis at the conclusion of the postseason tier.

Coaches, or a team representative, must bring their team's bats and their current, annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (referred to hereafter as the "Bat List") for BCT to the designated location at the designated time on each game day. Additionally, the coach/rep must line their bats in the order in which they appear on the Bat List.

The bat testing manager shall match the model number of each bat with the models highlighted on the team's Bat List and verify the correct number of each is listed in the appropriate column. They shall barrel compression test each bat, per the protocol, until there are two passes or two failures (whichever comes first), using 1550psi as the standard minimum OR the specific, lower exception number listed for backstop style bats (as listed on the Bat List). Bats that pass will be stickered and, when necessary, the team's Bat List will be amended to account for failures. Bats that fail must be marked with the team's name and given to the tournament host for shipping purposes. The bat testing manager must also complete the information in the summary box on page one of the team's Bat List following each testing session for use on the field of play by the umpires and coaches.

On the first testing day, the administrative bat log (provided in the sticker envelope from the host tournament director) must be completed by the bat testing manager or team representative to reflect all bat models presented and their respective pass/fail status. Note-each model should be listed on one line and then the total number of bats of that model are noted in each day's column. After the initial testing day, the bat testing manager may use either the administrative bat log or the team's Bat List to perform the subsequent day testing but must copy the results from the testing document to the other document at the end of the daily testing. At the conclusion of testing for each tier, the completed administrative bat logs, unused stickers and the bat testing fixture must be returned to the host tournament director.

## Appendix F • Bat Compression Testing

### NCAA POSTSEASON BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) DETAILS FOR COACHES

#### Pre-Competition Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)

##### General Information

1. Pre-competition BCT will be conducted daily (competition days only) at all rounds and at all sites during the NCAA Softball Championship using the G4 SSL fixture. Note- visiting teams are encouraged (but not required) to travel their BCT fixture to ensure a working fixture is available throughout the competition.
2. Each team must have every bat that will be in a team area or on the field tested during the pre-competition testing. There is no limit to the number of bats a team may have tested and bats may be added on any testing day.
3. Coaches, or team representatives, must bring a current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (hereafter referred to as "Bat List") with their bat models highlighted and quantities noted to the testing site and have that copy in their dugout during each game for use by umpires.
4. Bat models etched on the bat must be legible and exactly match those on the Bat List.
5. The bat testing manager will sticker each bat that passes BCT with an appropriate sticker for each day.
6. Bats that have not undergone BCT, and thus do not have the appropriate sticker, will not be permitted on the competition field or in team areas.

##### Testing Protocol

1. At each postseason site, at least one individual designated by the NCAA Championship Committee will conduct BCT as the bat testing manager (most likely the NCAA site representative) according to the protocol listed in the current NCAA Softball Rules Book.
2. The bat testing appointments and location will be determined by the site representative and tournament director.
3. Each team must send a coach or team representative with its bats and its annotated Bat List to the testing. This representative shall assemble the bats in order as they appear on the current Bat List and take possession of the team's annotated Bat List and stickered bats after testing by the bat testing manager.
4. The bat testing manager shall match each bat's model number etched on the bat to the annotated Bat List and may request assistance from the team representative for reminders of BCT minimums for backstop style models and/or for applying the daily sticker for bats that pass.
5. BCT details: The bat testing manager shall assemble and calibrate the BCT fixture each time testing occurs. Each bat is compressed, unclamped from the machine, rotated 90 degrees and then compressed again until there are two passes or two failures (whichever comes first). Passing bats are stickered. Failing bats are tagged with the team's name and given to, and secured by, the tournament director to be shipped to an NCAA designee for additional testing following conclusion of the tier.
6. Following testing, the bat testing manager shall complete the summary box (lavender) on the first page of the team's annotated Bat List for use by the game umpires.
7. On the first testing day, an administrative bat log (provided with the game stickers) must be completed to reflect all bat models tested and their respective pass/fail status. The log or the team's Bat List may be used by the bat testing manager for daily testing but the two lists must match at the end of each testing period.
8. All bats surrendered to the bat testing manager will not be returned to the teams while on-site. Please note an exception exists for damaged (e.g., cracked, dented) bats which will be marked with the team's name and may be returned to the team upon their request following the team's final game of the tier.

#### Post-competition Bat Compliance Testing

##### General Information

1. Bats that pass lab testing will be returned; however, bats that fail in the lab will remain surrendered.
2. Affected institutions, the appropriate bat manufacturers, the applicable NCAA Softball Rules Committee and relevant NCAA Championship Committee will receive notification of a bat model that fails in the lab. Two (2) bats will be selected and secured from teams in each of the three division's NCAA final game and from the six (6) WCWS teams failing to qualify for the final game for further evaluation and bat compliance testing.
4. Bats selected for further evaluation or compliance testing will be identified by the bat testing manager, tagged with the team's name and given to the tournament director for shipping to the NCAA designee.
5. Selected bats will not be collected until the season has ended for the participating team.
6. FYI-results on bats sent to the lab, whether taken post-competition as noted above or for failing BCT, will take approximately three (3) months to obtain.

## NCAA POSTSEASON BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) DETAILS FOR SITE REPRESENTATIVES AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Materials provided by

- Host site director – secure location with a table and three (3) chairs, BCT case (with BCT fixture, calibration ring, stop stick, athletic tape and Sharpie pen), NCAA provided stickers for the bat testing manager and printed administrative log sheets for each team, as well as a plan for a back-up fixture.
- Each team – dispatch a coach or team representative for testing at the designated time with a current, annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and all bats which will be in the dugout or on the field.
- NCAA softball equipment consultant – mail envelopes with stickers separated by day and provide electronic log sheets to the host tournament director.

### BCT PROCESS FOR BAT TESTING MANAGERS

1. Verify the fixture's proper calibration each time it is set up by placing the calibration ring in the fixture and testing it for the stiffness (psi) stamped on the ring.
2. Match the model number on each bat with the model number on the latest NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. **THE NUMBERS/LETTERS MUST BE LEGIBLE AND EXACTLY MATCH...NO EXCEPTIONS.** If it does not match, disqualify the bat by applying provided athletic tape with team name to barrel. Disqualified bats remain with the tournament director until their return is requested as the team departs. Record the disqualified bat(s) on the front page of the team's log sheet as illegal.
3. If listed, test the bat by placing it in the BCT fixture until the endcap touches the stop stick; place the calibration ring under the handle so the bat is level and square to the fixture for testing. With the lever hanging down, preload the gauge to 500psi by twisting the gauge then lift the lever. Mentally note the pass/fail result.
4. Bats are considered to pass when the BCT pressure gauge reads 1550psi or higher unless the bat being tested is noted on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as an exception having a lower minimum.
5. Release the pressure and rotate bat 90 degrees and retest. Mentally note the pass/fail result.
6. If both results are the same (pass/pass or fail/fail), that result is final.
7. If the results differ, the bat is inspected for damage. If found, the bat is disqualified as noted in #2 above. If no damage is found, the bat is tested a third time to determine the final result.
8. For bats that pass, the appropriate sticker is placed on the taper of the bat nearest the grip, preferably on top of previous stickers. **NOTES: 1) STICKERS ARE SPECIFIC TO EACH DAY, FRAGILE AND CANNOT BE REAPPLIED 2) IF THERE'S AN INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF STICKERS FOR ANY ONE DAY, HALF STICKERS SHOULD BE APPLIED.**
9. For bats that fail, apply the provided athletic tape with the team's name to barrel. Failed bats remain with the site representative or tournament director and will NOT be returned to the team but instead, sent for further analysis.
10. In all cases, direct the team representative to record the model on a single line of the bat log and the number of each model in the daily columns for each tested bat on the NCAA-provided administrative log sheet.
11. Following testing, the bat testing manager is responsible for completing the lavender portion of the first page of each team's annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List for later use by the game umpires.
12. At the end of testing for the team, verify the numbers of stickered and disqualified (damaged, illegal and failed) bats match the team's Bat List and administrative log sheet. The site representative takes possession of disqualified bats as well as the administrative log sheet.
13. After the first testing day, the bat testing manager may use either the administrative bat log or the team's Bat List for subsequent testing however the lists must match at the end of daily testing.

**The host tournament director is responsible for attaching the completed NCAA-provided administrative log sheets to an email and shipping any bats that failed BCT to the NCAA Softball Equipment Consultant no later than the next day (excluding Sundays). If the site will host the next round, shipping failed bats may be delayed until the next round testing is completed but log sheets must be sent after each tier.**

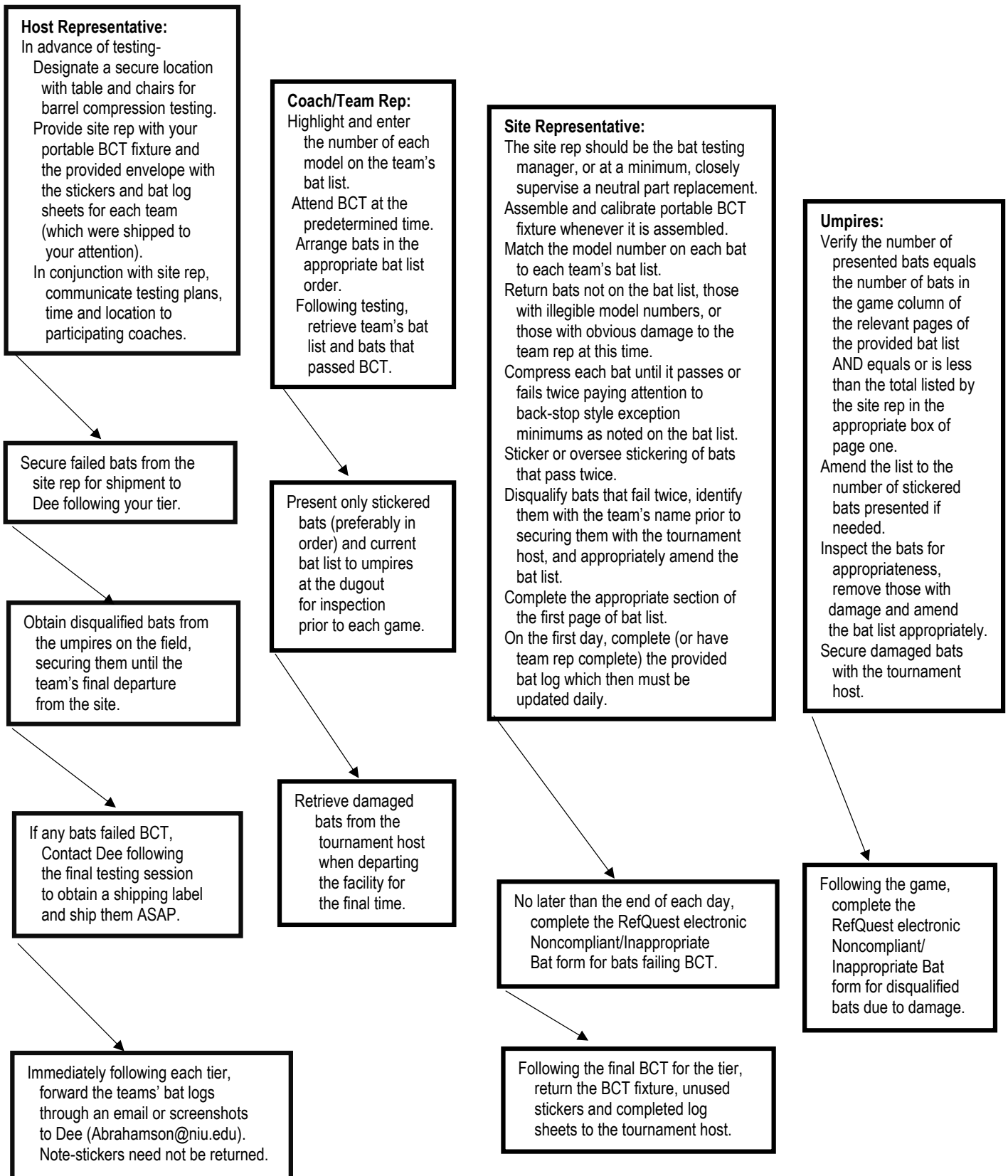
**DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THIS PLAN WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO DEE ABRAHAMSON, NCAA SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT CONSULTANT.**

Contact info for Dee Abrahamson: Cell: 815-751-2648; Email: abrahamson@niu.edu;

Shipping Address: 498 Quinlan Ave., DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Backup contact regarding BCT fixture or testing: Donna Martin: Cell: 815-761-8626; Email: dmartin1@niu.edu.

## BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING RESPONSIBILITIES FLOW CHART



## Appendix G • Sample Pregame Protocol

### 2026 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### PRELIMS

**:05 Start Time**

#### PRE-GAME PROTOCOL AND TIMING SHEET

**FIRST GAME OF SESSION**  
**(with National Anthem)**

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
(visitor) (home)

GAME TIME – \_\_\_\_:05 \_\_.m. LOCAL

**INSERT HOUR IN "TIME OF DAY COLUMN" – MINUTES ARE ALREADY POPULATED**

|   | <u>Scoreboard Clock</u> | <u>Time of Day</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Gates open.   | 65:00                   | ____:00            |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 35:00                   | ____:30            |
| Line drills home team.  | 27:00                   | ____:38            |
| Line drills away team.  | 22:00                   | ____:43            |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 17:00                   | ____:48            |
| Team introductions.<br>(non-starters followed by starters)  | 13:00                   | ____:52            |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol> |                         |                    |
| National Anthem.  | 9:00                    | ____:56            |
| Umpires and coaches at home plate.  | 5:00                    | ____:00            |
| Teams take field on ESPN cue.   | 2:00                    | ____:03            |
| Game begins on ESPN cue.  | 0:00                    | ____:05            |

2026 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIM

**:05 Start Time**

PRE-GAME PROTOCOL AND TIMING SHEET

**SECOND GAME OF SESSION**

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (visitor) (home)

GAME TIME – \_\_\_\_:05 \_\_.m. LOCAL

**INSERT HOUR IN "TIME OF DAY COLUMN" – MINUTES ARE ALREADY POPULATED**

|   | <u>Scoreboard Clock</u> | <u>Time of Day</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 35:00                   | ____:30 or ____    |
| Line drills home team.  | 23:00                   | ____:42 or ____    |
| Line drills away team.  | 18:00                   | ____:47 or ____    |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 13:00                   | ____:52 or ____    |
| Team introductions.   | 9:00                    | ____:56 or ____    |
| 1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest first base). |                         |                    |
| 2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).     |                         |                    |
| 3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).   |                         |                    |
| Umpires and coaches at home plate.  | 5:00                    | ____:00 or ____    |
| Teams take field on ESPN cue.   | 2:00                    | ____:03 or ____    |
| Game begins on ESPN cue.  | 00:00                   | ____:05 or ____    |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If Game 1 runs long, Game 2 will start (first pitch) 35 minutes following Game 1. The NCAA Site Representative will determine the “official” end of the previous game as teams go through the hand shake line. Then, with his/her stop watch (which must be synchronized with ESPN Truck), the NCAA Site Representative will coordinate the timing sequence (via the Time Out Coordinator’s head set) for start of this game with ESPN. The stadium staff, teams and coaches will be notified of the start time as soon as possible.

2026 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIMS

**:35 Start Time**

PRE-GAME PROTOCOL AND TIMING SHEET

**FIRST GAME OF SESSION**  
**(with National Anthem)**

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
(visitor) (home)

GAME TIME – \_\_\_\_:35 \_\_.m. LOCAL

**INSERT HOUR IN "TIME OF DAY COLUMN" – MINUTES ARE ALREADY POPULATED**

|   | <u>Scoreboard Clock</u> | <u>Time of Day</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Gates open.   | 65:00                   | ____:30            |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 35:00                   | ____:00            |
| Line drills home team.  | 27:00                   | ____:08            |
| Line drills away team.  | 22:00                   | ____:13            |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 17:00                   | ____:18            |
| Team introductions.<br>(non-starters followed by starters)  | 13:00                   | ____:22            |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol> |                         |                    |
| National Anthem.  | 9:00                    | ____:26            |
| Umpires and coaches at home plate.  | 5:00                    | ____:30            |
| Teams take field on ESPN cue.   | 2:00                    | ____:33            |
| Game begins on ESPN cue.  | 0:00                    | ____:35            |

2026 NCAA DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

PRELIM

**:35 Start Time**

PRE-GAME PROTOCOL AND TIMING SHEET

**SECOND GAME OF SESSION**

\_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (visitor) (home)

GAME TIME – \_\_\_\_:35 \_\_.m. LOCAL

**INSERT HOUR IN "TIME OF DAY COLUMN" – MINUTES ARE ALREADY POPULATED**

|   | <u>Scoreboard Clock</u> | <u>Time of Day</u> |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 35:00                   | ____:00 or ____    |
| Line drills home team.  | 23:00                   | ____:12 or ____    |
| Line drills away team.  | 18:00                   | ____:17 or ____    |
| Grounds Crew field prep.  | 13:00                   | ____:22 or ____    |
| Team introductions.   | 9:00                    | ____:26 or ____    |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol> |                         |                    |
| Umpires and coaches at home plate.  | 5:00                    | ____:30 or ____    |
| Teams take field on ESPN cue.   | 2:00                    | ____:33 or ____    |
| Game begins on ESPN cue.  | 00:00                   | ____:35 or ____    |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If Game 1 runs long, Game 2 will start (first pitch) 35 minutes following Game 1. The NCAA Site Representative will determine the “official” end of the previous game as teams go through the hand shake line. Then, with his/her stop watch (which must be synchronized with ESPN Truck), the NCAA Site Representative will coordinate the timing sequence (via the Time Out Coordinator’s head set) for start of this game with ESPN. The stadium staff, teams and coaches will be notified of the start time as soon as possible.

## Appendix H • Site Rep FAQ

- Q. Officials have asked me how they will receive their payment and when they should expect it since the host no longer pays them?**
- A.** All officials are paid directly by the NCAA through a program called RQ+. There is not a set timetable for payment, thus all inquiries should be directed to the championship administrator.
- Q. A fight broke out in the stands between the fans of the home and visiting teams. What responsibility do I have to take care of this?**
- A.** You should first notify the tournament director that they need to obtain security in the section where the fight has broken out. After the fight, please gather as much information as possible from the tournament director and security including what happened, whether anyone was removed from the competition site and resolution. All these facts should be written down and sent to the championship administrator via email. If the situation is severe, please immediately call the championship administrator to inform them of what has occurred.
- Q. A team has arrived late for its practice due to its bus breaking down. What should I do?**
- A.** Work with the host to try and get the team its full allotment of practice time if at all possible.
- Q. I received an alert on my phone that lightning is within 30 miles and we are going to begin the game in 10 minutes. What steps should I be taking?**
- A.** Immediately find the tournament director and begin to discuss the distance of the lightning. Remember to consult the lightning guidelines. Altering a game time should involve the games committee (consult the host operations manual on who serves on this committee). Once it is determined that the game should be delayed, you should notify the NCAA championship administrator of the situation. You should be prepared to give the championship administrator the games committee's recommendations as to further delays or moving the contest. Before any decisions are finalized or communicated to participants, you must receive approval by the NCAA championship administrator.

## Appendix I • Drug Testing FAQ

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR COACHES

Please review this section for questions that may arise regarding drug testing.

**Q. Where is the drug-testing facility for this championship?**

- A.** Check with the tournament manager, drug-testing site coordinator or the NCAA championship manager for specific location.

**Q. How long does drug testing take?**

- A.** The length of the collection process depends on the student-athlete's ability to provide an adequate urine specimen. If the student-athlete provides an adequate urine specimen immediately on arrival at the drug-testing facility, the entire process usually is completed in approximately 20 minutes.

**Q. What is an institutional representative?**

- A. For Team Championships (e.g., baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, softball):** An institutional representative is an individual from the participating institution (designated by his/her institution) to assist with drug testing in the event drug testing occurs at the championship. Each team must designate an institutional representative during the administrative meeting.

**Q. When is the institution notified of drug testing?**

- A. For Team Championships:** An institutional representative from each team will be notified not sooner than two hours prior to the start of their game when drug testing is taking place. Institutional representatives will be notified by an NCAA drug-testing crew member by phone or in person at the locker room or near the playing field.

**Q. When are student-athletes notified of their selection for drug testing?**

- A. For Team Championships:** Immediately after the game, an NCAA drug-testing crew member will provide the institutional representative with a list of student-athletes who have been selected for drug testing.
- A. For All Cases:** At the time of notification, the student-athlete will be instructed to read and sign a drug-testing notification form.

**Q. When do student-athletes need to report to drug testing?**

- A. For Team Championships:** Within one (1) hour after the student-athlete has been notified.
- A. For All Cases:**
- Before checking into the drug-testing site, all student-athletes must inform an institutional representative of their selection for drug testing.
  - Before checking into the drug-testing site, student-athletes must complete all award and media obligations, if any.
  - Before leaving the championship venue, coaches should check with all student-athletes to make sure they have completed their drug-testing obligations.

**Q. What if a student-athlete has trouble providing an adequate urine specimen? Can the student-athlete leave and come back later? What if the team has to leave and a student-athlete is still in drug testing?**

- A.** A student-athlete cannot be released from the drug-testing site until an adequate specimen is provided, no matter how long it takes.
- If the rest of the team must depart the championship site prior to a student-athlete completing drug testing, an institutional representative must stay with the student-athlete.
  - A coach should check with the drug-testing site coordinator for information regarding transportation back to the student-athlete's hotel.
  - If the student-athlete and/or institution incur additional expenses because of the delay in drug testing (e.g. hotel, transportation back to campus), the institution may request reimbursement from the NCAA.

- Q. Will the student-athlete or the institution be reminded of their drug-testing obligation if they defer testing until later that session or day?**
- A.** No. Once the student-athlete and the institutional representative have signed the drug-testing notification form, it is their obligation to arrive at the drug-testing site at the appropriate time.
- Q. What if we play a late night game (10 p.m. or later start, local time)?**
- A.** The NCAA's late night drug-testing policy only pertains to team championships.
- An institution may defer drug testing until the next morning if its game begins at 10 p.m. or later local time.
  - The decision to defer drug testing applies to the entire team and must be determined by the institution immediately after the game, and the deferred test must start before 10 a.m. local time, the next day.
  - An institutional representative must be present at the collection facility the next morning to identify selected student-athletes.
- Q. Must a coach or other institutional representative accompany each student-athlete to the drug-testing site?**
- A.** Yes. An institutional representative must be at the collection station to certify the identity of each student-athlete. The institutional representative must remain in the collection station until all student-athletes have completed their drug test.

## Appendix J • Lightning and Weather Guidelines

### BEST PRACTICES – WEATHER: LIGHTNING RESUMPTION

- The Emergency/Event Action Plan should identify potential weather risks, establish precautions and identify procedures for response. This includes evacuation, sheltering in place, reentry, and cancelation or postponement.
  - Develop trigger points and pre-planned responses for sport and venue, allowing for appropriate and timely action.
  - Identify decision authority based on event.
- **UPDATE: Resuming play related specific to Lightning Only**
- Source/Endorsement: [NOAA/NWS Outdoor Venue Lightning Safety Lightning Tool Kit](#)

If the venue is consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground data, the event may resume only if all the following conditions are met:

- Lightning has moved beyond eight (8) miles of the venue.
- The storm motion is taking the lightning activity away from the venue.
- The threat of new lightning strikes within eight (8) miles of the venue has ended.

If the venue is not consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning data, the venue will wait 30 minutes after no observed thunder or lightning strikes.

- This provides an OPTION to resume competition in a shorter time span than currently practiced via the 30 minutes after last lightning strike guideline.
  - SAFETY remains paramount; there are no requirements to resume play before 30 minutes after the last strike. If there is any concern, choose time and distance to allow for a safe environment for athletes, coaches, officials, fans and staff.
  - This update shall NOT supersede any existing venue related policies for weather return to play.
  - Play resumption is a two-prong test:
    - > Venue/host MUST consult with a professional meteorologist. The communication may be in person or via phone, but it MUST be with a pre-identified direct contact **AND**
    - > Lightning has moved beyond eight (8) miles of the venue, the storm is taking the lightning activity away, and the threat of new lightning has ended.
  - The timing of return to competition is associated with field access, and discussions should include timelines associated with any groundskeeping, warmup, or other actions needed before actual competition resumes.

### WEATHER: LIGHTNING RESUMPTION FAQ

- Is this update a required return to competition approach?
  - No, if the host venue policies prevent this from being implemented, then defer to the host position. This is not a requirement, only an option. Safe return to play is the most important part of the decision-making process.
- What constitutes a professional meteorologist?
  - Examples of people meeting this title would be employees of the National Weather Service, a local media market weather specialist, or a member of the faculty/staff of an Atmospheric or Metrological Studies program at a member institution. It is expected this contact has received appropriate and relevant training and certification. (Note: The chat/question function on DTN would NOT qualify in meeting this standard.)
- Is this applicable to regular-season contests?
  - No, this language is not meant to supersede any specific conference or venue language about lightning return to play and is meant to guide champ managers and the national office in our championship events. However, it is possible this language may be adopted at a later time by other entities to become consistent.
- Is this applicable to preliminary rounds?
  - Yes, as long as the professional meteorologist point of contact is in place and all people facilitating that event have been in communication and are on the same page to use this approach.
- Is this position impacted by broadcast restrictions/rules/policies?
  - Yes, game operations and broadcast operations need to align. Champ managers must speak with appropriate broadcast partners to ensure this approach does not conflict with any broadcast restrictions.
- Will this language be replicated in other NCAA communication documents?
  - Yes, we will work to update all appropriate references including those from the Sports Science Institute, pre-championship manuals, host operations manuals, and Safety and Security Best Practices. In the meantime, you may use the first page of this document as a reference for documentation.
- *SUMMARY: It is essential the NCAA, the venue, and broadcast all communicate and align with lightning resumption procedures and only when using a meteorologist resource can play resume prior to 30'.*