



2020 DIVISION II
SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2019-20 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

Section 1 • Introduction	2
Section 1•1 Definitions	2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement	2
Section 3 • Concussion Management	3
Section 4 • Conduct	3
Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability	3
Section 4•2 Drug Testing	4
Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship	4
Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies	4
Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy	4
Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey	5
Section 5 • Elite 90 Award	5
Section 6 • Fan Travel	5
Section 7 • Logo Policy	5
Section 8 • Research	6
Section 9 • Division II	6
Section 9•1 Division II Philosophy	6
Section 9•2 Division II Code of Conduct	7
Section 9•3 On-Site Administrator at Team Championships	9
Section 9•4 Religious Conflicts	9

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6222

Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222

317-917-6222

ncaa.org

October 2019

NCAA, NCAA logo, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Elite 90 are registered marks of the Association and use in any manner is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the Association.

Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2019-20 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women, and three for both men and women. Of the men's championships, three are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, six are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

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

The first section applies to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the other two sections are sport-specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

Pre-championship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Pre-championship meeting for coaches and/or administrators.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Squad Size. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.20 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.17 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.17 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling 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 championship 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 shall 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 their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

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 more severe and/or 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 Sport Science Institute website](#) for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.2 and 31.2.1.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

If an institution fails to report an ineligible student-athlete and the omission is not discovered until after the institution is selected to participate in the championship, necessitating the institution's withdrawal from the championship, that withdrawal shall be considered as one of the years of ineligibility, provided another institution participates in the championship in place of

the disqualified institution. If the discovery of the ineligible student-athlete occurs so near the beginning of the championship that the governing sport committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 4•2 Drug Testing

[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Divisions II and III Manuals.]

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I); 31.2.3 (Divisions II and III), and may be determined to be ineligible as a result thereof. Only student-athletes who have consented in writing to such testing are initially eligible for these championships; and thereafter, student-athletes who are tested shall remain eligible only if they test negative.

Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

Institutions that wish to nominate a student-athlete must do so through an online nomination process. To receive more information or access the online form and submit a nomination, go to ncaa.org.

Section 6 • Fan Travel

NCAA Travel provides an easy and affordable way for family and fans to follow their favorite student-athlete(s) and team(s) as they participate in NCAA championships competition. Travel arrangements completed through NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to NCAA.com/travel to search and book online hotel, car and air travel, all in one easy transaction.

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations

on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

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

Section 8 • Research

It is essential that all research efforts be coordinated by a single entity within the national office structure in order to ensure maximum efficiency and quality, avoid unnecessary duplication of effort on the part of staff and membership, allow the NCAA to prioritize research efforts given the limited time and resources of our members and adhere to federal guidelines on the responsibilities of researchers to properly protect research participants from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, "research" is defined as any systematic collection of data for the purpose of drawing generalized conclusions.

Any proposal to conduct research must be submitted to the NCAA research staff for review at least six weeks before the project begins. Research to be conducted during NCAA championships or related events, and which involves competing student-athletes or attendees, is also subject to review. This includes all research, including that conducted by or under the direction of any employee, contractor or paid consultant of the NCAA. It also includes any research conducted by other persons, but funded totally or in part by the NCAA. Any research that detracts from the student-athlete experience or requires physical activity may not be permitted at the championships (preliminary rounds and finals sites). The NCAA retains sole discretion as to whether to allow such research.

Examples of activities considered research include: Conducting surveys of athletics administrators, college presidents, faculty, coaches and student-athletes; leading an organized focus group; funding an outside study under the auspices of the NCAA; conducting market research at championship events; secondary analysis of data originally collected by the NCAA from people for other purposes; any systematic collection of data from the membership or other entities; etc.

Section 9 • Division II

Section 9•1 Division II Philosophy

In addition to the purposes and fundamental policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational well-being and academic success of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern. *(Revised: 1/14/08 effective 8/1/08)*

Higher education has lasting importance on an individual's future success. For this reason, the positioning statement for the division and the emphasis for the student-athlete experience in Division II is a comprehensive program of learning and development in a personal setting. The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition and development of positive societal attitudes in service to community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning provide Division II student-athletes a path to graduation while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life ahead.

Members support the following attributes in the belief that these attributes assist in defining the division's priorities and emphasize the division's position within the Association: Learning, Service, Passion, Sportsmanship, Resourcefulness and

Balance. The positioning statement and the attributes shall serve as a guide for the preparation of legislation by the division and for planning and implementation of programs, initiatives and policies by member institutions, conferences and the Division II governance structure.

Furthermore, a member of Division II believes in a set of common features, which assist in defining the division. Such features include exceptional teacher-to-student ratios that provide student-athletes with a quality education, a unique model of staffing in which coaches provide additional services such as teaching and mentoring, and the development of community partnerships and student-athlete participation in community engagement activities. A member of Division II also believes in the following principles, which assist in defining the division: *(Revised: 1/14/97)*

- a. Promoting the academic success of its student-athletes, measured in part by an institution's student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution's student body; *(Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- b. That participation in intercollegiate athletics benefits the educational experience of its student-athletes and the entire campus community; *(Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- c. Offering opportunities for intercollegiate athletics participation consistent with the institution's mission and philosophy; *(Revised: 1/14/97, 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- d. That championships are intended to provide national-level competition among eligible student-athletes and teams of member institutions; *(Revised: 1/9/06 effective 8/1/06)*
- e. Preparing student-athletes to be good citizens, leaders and contributors in their communities; *(Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- f. Striving for equitable participation and competitive excellence, encouraging sportsmanship and ethical conduct, enhancing diversity and developing positive societal attitudes in all of its athletics endeavors; *(Revised: 1/14/97, 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- g. That institutional staff members, including presidents and athletics personnel, shall hold prospective and enrolled student-athletes and themselves to the highest standards of personal conduct at all times, including exemplary behavior that reflects respect for the rights and dignity of opponents, teammates, officials, other students and the community at large; *(Adopted: 1/14/12 effective 8/1/12)*
- h. Scheduling the majority of its athletics competition with other members of Division II, insofar as regional qualification, geographical location and traditional or conference scheduling patterns permit; *(Revised: 1/14/97)*
- i. Recognizing the need to "Balance" the role of the athletics program to serve both the institution (e.g., participants, student body, faculty-staff) and the general public (e.g., community, area, state); *(Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- j. Offering an opportunity for participation in intercollegiate athletics by awarding athletically related financial aid to its student-athletes; *(Revised: 1/14/97, 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02)*
- k. That institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the educational mission of a Division II institution and assumes presidential involvement and commitment. All funds supporting athletics should be controlled by the institution. The emphasis for an athletics department should be to operate within an institutionally approved budget, and compliance with and self-enforcement of NCAA regulations is an expectation of membership; and *(Adopted: 1/14/02 effective 8/1/02, Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- l. That all members of Division II should commit themselves to this philosophy and to the regulations and programs of Division II. *(Revised: 1/14/97)*

Section 9•2 Division II Code of Conduct

CONDUCT POLICY STATEMENT

The NCAA expects each championship to exhibit an experience that represents the highest level of fair play and good sportsmanship. The NCAA and the NCAA Division II Championships Committee expect that student-athletes, coaches and administrators do their best to ensure participation in intercollegiate athletics promotes character development for all participants, enhances the integrity of higher education and promotes civility; therefore, championship events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities associated with the championship event. Accordingly, the

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Championships Committee will take strong action in response to any form of misconduct by student-athletes, coaches and/or administrators during the entire championship. This includes criticism of officials and a misconduct incident at the competition.

Any institution that fails to submit a complete and accurate Division II Code of Conduct form before the start of the first competition of the championship will be issued a fine of \$500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, university president, university athletics director, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director.

MISCONDUCT

The NCAA Division II Manual Bylaw 31.02.3 defines misconduct as: “... **any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championship, that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics.**”

EXPECTATIONS

Each games committee shall hold a pre-championship meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct (as defined in Bylaw 31.02.3). The Division II Championships Code of Conduct is to be part of the championship packet and delivered to all institutional representatives attending the championship events.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition. 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 actions of misconduct shall be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sport committee.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Submit an accurate and complete Division II Code of Conduct Form before the start of the first competition of the championship.
- Cooperate and participate in game ceremonies, team meetings, community engagement and championship events.
- Discuss misconduct and possible consequences with all members of the travel party.
- Have an administrator or designee present at all competitions.
- Communicate issues and concerns in an honest and timely manner with NCAA staff.
- Follow team, university and NCAA guidelines throughout all championship-related activities.
- Be respectful of other participants, spectators, coaches, administrators and other individuals at the championship site.
- Abide by state and federal laws and facility requirements throughout the championship event.
- Display acceptable behavior on and off the playing field to ensure a positive experience for all participants.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Bylaw 31.1.8.3, the governing sport committee (or the games committee authorized to act for it) may impose any one or a combination of the following penalties on an institution or any student-athlete or representative of an institution guilty of misconduct that occurs incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice. The penalties include, but are not limited to:

- a. Public or private reprimand of the individual;
- b. Disqualification of the individual from further participation in the NCAA championship involved;
- c. Banishment of the individual from participation in one or more future championships of the sport involved;
- d. Cancellation of payment to the institution of the Association's travel guarantee for the individual involved;
- e. Banishment of the institution from participation in one or more future championships in which its team in that sport otherwise would be eligible to participate;
- f. Disqualification of an institution for a period of time from serving as host institution for one or more NCAA championships;

- g. Cancellation of all or a portion of the honorarium for hosting an NCAA championship; and
- h. Financial or other penalties different from (a) through (g) above, but only if they have prior approval of the Championships Committee.

All correspondence regarding a violation of the Code of Conduct will be sent to the president/chancellor of the institution, with a copy to the director of athletics and person(s) involved.

Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. Participation in these championship events is a privilege for the student-athletes, coaches and administrators and should be treated as such.

Section 9•3 On-Site Administrator at Team Championships

All team sports require that a designated individual be identified from each institution participating in the championship as the on-site administrator. This person may be any individual from that school with no on-site responsibilities. The role of the on-site administrator is to be present at the competition site and attend all events that are mandated for the team (e.g., travel from institution to and from the championship site, teleconferences, pre-championship meetings, practices, competition and community engagement, where applicable).

If no one is sent or identified, the site representative is to notify the NCAA championship manager and Division II Championships Committee liaison to administer a fine of \$500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, university president/chancellor, university director of athletics, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director. The NCAA championship manager will administer the fine and letter of reprimand to the institution(s).

Section 9•4 Religious Conflicts

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office prior to Sept. 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (*Revised: 1/12/99, 1/8/01, 1/9/01*)

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

Division II Softball

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration	11
Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information	11
Section 1•2 NCAA National Committee	11
Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees	12
Section 1•4 Important Dates	13
Section 1•5 Equipment	14
Section 1•6 Playing Rules	14
Section 1•7 Uniforms	15
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation	16
Section 2•1 Championship Format	16
Section 2•2 Results	18
Section 2•3 Selection Information	19
Section 2•4 Selection Criteria	20
Section 2•5 Site Selection	20
Appendix A • Brackets	23
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	26
Appendix C • Facility Requirements	34

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Morgan DeSpain

Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
317-917-6505 / mdespain@ncaa.org

Donisha Carter

Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222
317-917-6652 / dcarter@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 NCAA National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

ATLANTIC REGION**Allie Kolezynski**

Assistant Commissioner
Mountain East Conference

EAST REGION**Dean Johnson**

Head Softball Coach/Associate Director of Athletics
Caldwell University

SOUTH REGION**Patrick Peasant**

Head Softball Coach/Assistant Athletics Director
Miles College

SOUTHEAST REGION**Stacey Vallee**

Head Softball Coach/SWA
Francis Marion University

CENTRAL REGION**Kristy Bayer, chair**

Deputy Director of Athletics/SWA
Emporia State University

MIDWEST REGION**Rob Fournier**

Director of Athletics
Wayne State University (Michigan)

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**Donna Fields**

Head Softball Coach/SWA
St. Mary's University (Texas)

WEST REGION**Rebekah Gasner**

Compliance Coordinator/SWA
Montana State University Billings

For additional information about the softball championship, contact:

Morgan DeSpain

NCAA, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6505 / mdespain@ncaa.org

Kristy Bayer, chair

Deputy Director of Athletics/SWA
Emporia State University
320-341-5825 / kbayer2@emporia.edu

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC REGION		
Allie Kolezynski, chair	MEC	MEC
Kerri Blackwell	West Virginia State	MEC
Ben Baxter	CIAA	CIAA
Dorothy Neal	Saint Augustine's	CIAA
Susan Kocher	Bloomsburg	PSAC
Samantha Traver	Indiana (Pennsylvania)	PSAC
CENTRAL REGION		
Kristy Bayer, chair	Emporia State	MIAA
Cody White	Central Oklahoma	MIAA
Jason Anderson	Southern Arkansas	GAC
Kristina McSweeney	Arkansas Tech	GAC
Shannon Pivovar	Sioux Falls	NSIC
Holly Schreiner	St. Cloud State	NSIC
EAST REGION		
Dean Johnson, chair	Caldwell	CACC
Joe Birbridge	Dominican (New York)	CACC
Susan Cassidy-Lyke	Molloy	ECC
Jared Orazio	Bridgeport	ECC
Claudia Stabile	Pace	NE10
Rachel Burleson	Franklin Pierce	NE10
MIDWEST REGION		
Rob Fournier, chair	Wayne State (Michigan)	GLIAC
Dana Callihan	Grand Valley State	GLIAC
Shannon Guthrie	Illinois Springfield	GLVC
Mary Ann Mitchell	Missouri-St. Louis	GLVC
Marcella Vanlandingham	Ohio Dominican	G-MAC
Leslie Schuemann	G-MAC	G-MAC
SOUTH REGION		
Patrick Peasant, chair	Miles	SIAC
Harley Roller	Albany State (Georgia)	SIAC
Thomas Macera	Valdosta State	Gulf South
Susan Musslewhite	Mississippi College	Gulf South
Michael Brown	Palm Beach Atlantic	Sunshine State
Val Silvestrini	Florida Tech	Sunshine State

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION		
Donna Fields, chair	St. Mary's (Texas)	Lone Star
Travis Scott	Angelo State	Lone Star
Annie Van Wetzlinga	MSU Denver	RMAC
Brian Wall	Colorado Christian	RMAC
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Stacey Vallee, chair	Francis Marion	Peach Belt
Jamie Grodecki	Georgia College	Peach Belt
Travis Chell	King (Tennessee)	Conference Carolinas
Coy Adkins	Southern Wesleyan	Conference Carolinas
Melissa Barrett	Queens (North Carolina)	SAC
Travis McCall	Coker	SAC
WEST REGION		
Rebekah Gasner, chair	Montana State Billings	Great Northwest
Lonny Sargent	Western Oregon	Great Northwest
Chelsea Herman	Cal State San Bernardino	CCAA
Jennifer Bridges-Mannweiler	Sonoma State	CCAA
April Hoy	Azusa Pacific	PacWest
Crystal Rosenthal	Concordia (California)	PacWest

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 14	Deadline for submitting final game schedule.
Wednesday, April 15	First official ranking release.
Wednesday, April 22	Second official ranking release.
Friday, April 24	Deadline for submitting bids for prospective regional and super regional hosts.
Wednesday, April 29	Third official ranking release.
Sunday, May 3	Selection of teams participating in the championship.
Monday, May 4	Selection show announcement for field of 64 teams on www.NCAA.com . Teams will be notified and sent championship materials after the 10 a.m. Eastern time selection show.
Thursday-Saturday, May 7-9	Regionals (on the campus of one of the competing institutions). <i>All regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday.</i>
Thursday-Friday, May 14-15	Super Regionals (on the campus of one of the competing institutions).
Thursday-Monday, May 21-25	Finals, Frost Stadium at Warner Park, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Lee University, University of North Georgia, and the Chattanooga Sports Committee, hosts.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Regionals	Thursday-Saturday, May 7-9 <i>All regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday.</i>
Super Regionals	Thursday-Friday, May 14-15
Championship	Thursday-Monday, May 21-25

DATE FORMULA

Regionals (16) Thursday through Saturday before super regionals.

Super Regionals Thursday and Friday before finals.

Finals Fourth weekend in May (Thursday-Monday).

FUTURE DATES

	Regionals	Super Regionals	Championship	Location
2021	May 13-15	May 20-21	May 27-31	Denver
2022	May 12-14	May 19-20	May 26-30	Denver
2023	May 11-13	May 18-19	May 25-29	TBA
2024	May 9-11	May 16-17	May 23-27	TBA

Section 1•5 Equipment

BALLS

Rawlings was named as the official softball of NCAA championships effective through the 2020-21 season. Rawlings will supply balls for all championship rounds; no other softball shall be used.

BATS

Bats used in competition MUST appear on the NCAA Approved Softball Bat List. The bat list will be updated on the second Monday of the month in January, March, April and July. Additional lists will be posted when a manufacturer withdraws a bat model or the results of bat testing dictate assessing strikes against and/or removing a model.

Coaches are reminded that they are responsible for legally equipping their team. They are to provide umpires with a current bat list; highlight and indicate the number of each model of bats their team will be using during each game. Bats are to be checked before every game.

The current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List is posted on www.sup.arbitersports.com. When reviewing the bat list, please note that a bat on the list with a strike(s) may be used in competition. Also, a summary of changes to the listing appears in a separate document. DEL means that model was deleted from the list.

BAT TESTING

Bat testing will be conducted during all Division II postseason rounds (i.e., regionals, super regionals and finals).

Section 1•6 Playing Rules

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports in which the Association follows rules developed by other governing bodies and modified by the governing sports committee, the adopted playing rules shall be used. The softball committee will not consider any results for selection purposes not played in accordance with the NCAA Softball Rules book.

For NCAA championship play, the NCAA Softball Rules shall be followed, with the following changes or modifications:

1. The complex must be enclosed so that admission can be charged.
2. It is highly recommended that a skinned infield or synthetic granular infield surface be used. The outfield must be grass or grass-like synthetic surface. There must be 25 feet (maximum 30 feet) from home plate to the backstop. The backstop, sideline fence and outfield fence must completely enclose the playing field. These guidelines are recommended.

3. If you use a portable fence to meet requirements, a 6-foot fence must be a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields and 220 feet in center field. If a 4-foot fence is used, it must be a minimum of 210 feet in left and right fields and 230 in center field. The distance to the home-run fence should be a maximum of 235 feet in all fields. All portable fencing must be secured so as to prevent balls from rolling under.
4. The international tiebreaker will not be used in championship play.
5. The eight-run rule will not be used in the national championship series.

Note: Please refer to [Appendix C](#) for more information.

The [2020 and 2021 NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations](#) shall be followed for the championship.

TOBACCO BAN

The use of tobacco products by student-athletes, managers, coaches, umpires and athletic trainers is prohibited while on site for practice and competition. For the purpose of this rule, the field, bullpens, dugouts and the press box (or official scoring area) are considered to be on site. The rule also applies during other championship activities such as banquets, autograph sessions, press conferences and postgame interviews. Student-athletes, managers, coaches and athletic trainers who use tobacco products during practice or competition shall be ejected for the remainder of practice or competition. Violations of this policy may be dealt with by the appropriate sports committee in accordance with the misconduct provisions in Bylaw 31.1.8.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

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

Each competing team selected for the NCAA championship must bring two sets of uniforms of contrasting colors. As a reminder, when teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary. The home team may not wear the same color as the visiting team. Determination of uniform colors must be approved by the NCAA site representative. For all sessions of the tournament, teams must bring light and dark uniforms. Non-compliance with this policy may result in “failure to follow procedures” as outlined in the NCAA Division II Manual. When the home team is determined by seed, the away team may select uniform color.

On the field, including the practice areas and the bench and dugout, each team is limited to eligible players in uniform and coaches, trainers and managers, all of whom shall be in institutional apparel.

For all regional, super regional and final competitions, the home team will bat last and occupy the third-base dugout.

Regionals. The higher seed will be the home team at the regional for Games 1 and 2. The remaining games shall be decided by the coin toss. The higher seed shall call the toss. The winner of the coin toss shall have the option of choosing either home or away OR uniform color. The head coach or designee must be present for the coin toss.

Super Regionals. The home team for the first game will be the higher-seeded team. For the second game, the home team will switch. For game three (if necessary), the home team will be determined by coin toss with the higher seed calling the toss.

Finals. The higher-seeded team will be the home team for Games 1-4. For the remaining Games 5-14, the home team will be decided by coin toss and the higher seed shall call the coin toss. The winner of the coin toss shall have the option of choosing either home or away OR uniform color. The head coach or designee must be present for the coin toss.

Championship finals series. The home team for the first game will be the higher-seeded team. For the second game, the home team will switch. For game three (if necessary), the home team will be decided by coin toss and the higher seed shall call the coin toss.

Patches. Patches should be placed on the upper left chest or left arm and should be worn in the same location for the entire team.

LOGOS

Refer to [General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7](#).

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

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

The finals will include the eight super regional winners. The national champion will be determined in a best-of-three final series.

FOUR-TEAM REGIONALS

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

The regionals will be conducted for a three-day period. All regional competition should be completed not later than the Saturday before the super regionals. Every attempt should be made to complete the regional competition by Saturday. If the regular game schedule is altered because of weather or unforeseen circumstances, competition may go to Sunday when the following occurs: (1) weather or emergency situations that prevent completion of competition; (2) any one team has to play more than three games in a day; (3) in order to complete competition Saturday, it would be necessary to begin competition after midnight Saturday; or (4) it would be necessary to begin games before 9 a.m. on any given day. This is subject to approval by the NCAA championship manager in consultation with the games committee at the site.

If competition must be extended to Sunday, it must be completed without starting a game after midnight Sunday (if the regional final begins before 11:59 p.m. and an "if necessary" game becomes necessary to determine the regional champion, that game will immediately follow). Alternate options will be explored in extenuating circumstances.

If play is suspended before Games 6 and 7 and the regional competition ceases, see the rain delay advancement formula outlined in this handbook.

Prospective host institutions must submit recommended start times for all games with the pre-bid materials for approval by the NCAA Division II Softball Committee.

For all regional competitions, the following procedure will be observed.

Day 1

Game 1	Team A vs. Team B
Game 2	Team C vs. Team D

Day 2

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

Day 3

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

It should be noted that the pairing in the bracket may not be altered after its release (the softball committee has final authority of the brackets), and the game times during the tournament may not be adjusted.

For additional information regarding the regional bracket, please refer to [Appendix A](#).

TWO-TEAM SUPER REGIONAL

The procedures outlined below shall be used in the conduct of all eight super regional competitions.

The super regional will be conducted in a two-day period. All super regional competition should be completed not later than the Friday before finals. Every attempt should be made to complete the super regional competition by Friday. If the

regular game schedule is altered because of weather or unforeseen circumstances, competition may go to Saturday when the following occurs: (1) weather or emergency situations that prevent completion of competition; (2) any one team has to play more than three games in a day; (3) in order to complete competition Friday, it would be necessary to begin competition after midnight Friday; or (4) it would be necessary to begin games before 9 a.m. on any given day. This is subject to approval by the NCAA championship manager in consultation with the games committee at the site.

If competition has to be extended to Saturday, it must be completed without starting a game after midnight Saturday (if the super regional final begins before 11:59 p.m. and an "if necessary" game becomes necessary to determine the regional champion, that game will immediately follow). Alternate options will be explored in extenuating circumstances.

In extreme circumstances, the NCAA may permit competition on Sunday if it allows the advancing team to be determined on the field.

If play is suspended and the super regional competition ceases, see the rain delay advancement formula outlined in this handbook.

Day 1

Game 1	Team A vs. Team B
---------------	-------------------

Day 2

Game 2	Team A vs. Team B
Game 3	(if necessary)

START TIMES

Start times for regionals and super regionals will be recommended by the host institutions during the bid process, subject to the approval of the softball committee. Game times should be set 2 1/2 hours apart and must follow the championship format below.

Regional and super regional game-time policies:

- Thursday and Friday games shall be scheduled between noon and 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday games shall be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

*Festival years regional and super regional game-time policies:

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday games shall be scheduled between noon and 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday games shall be scheduled between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The softball committee shall determine game times for the finals.

LENGTH OF GAMES

All games shall be seven innings, except that a five-inning, eight-run rule will be used in all rounds of the championship except the final series. If play is stopped before a seven-inning game is completed and the eight-run rule is not in effect, it shall resume at the point of interruption.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The softball committee reserves the right to revise the game schedule because of inclement weather. Changes in the game schedule for all rounds of the tournament are the final decision of the NCAA and the NCAA site representative.

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

0 games played	Highest seed
1 game played	Highest seed
2 games played	Highest seed undefeated team
3 games played	Highest seed undefeated team

Continued on next page

DIVISION II SOFTBALL

4 games played	Undefeated team
5 games played	Undefeated team
6 games played	If Game 7 cannot be played, then: 1. Head-to-head competition; 2. Highest remaining seed.

Super Regional. If inclement weather limits play, and every effort has been made to complete competition Friday and competition cannot be completed by Saturday*, 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

*Alternate options will be explored in extenuating circumstances.

TRAVEL PARTY

[Reference: Official Traveling Party, Uniforms in this handbook and Per Diem and Transportation in the Division II General Section.]

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official traveling party of 26.

Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information>.

SQUAD SIZE

Each team is limited to 20 eligible players in uniform.

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

The number of people allowed in the dugout shall not exceed 28.

An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it automatically shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the contest to allow a competing institution to conform to the rule.

There will be no exceptions regarding this section.

Section 2•2 Results

Team Schedules and Rosters. Team schedules must be input on the NCAA statistics site by Jan. 14. Rosters should be updated before the team's first contest. Specific instructions were communicated to SIDs in a December memo from the media services staff.

REGIONAL RANKING

Published rankings will be released on www.NCAA.com the last three weeks of the regular season (April 15, 22, and 29). Ranking week is Monday through Sunday.

SCORE REPORTING

The score-reporting and statistics-reporting processes are now combined for Division II softball. Institutions will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (<http://web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login>), and this information will then be imported into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to SIDs in a memo from the NCAA media services staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Jenn Rodgers (jrodders@ncaa.org or 317-917-6222).

Section 2•3 Selection Information

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

[Reference: Bylaws 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the Division II NCAA Manual.]

Conferences that have been granted automatic qualification privileges for the 2020 championship are as follows:

California Collegiate Athletic Association	Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference	Mountain East Conference
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association	Northeast-10 Conference
Conference Carolinas	Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
East Coast Conference	Pacific West Conference
Great American Conference	Peach Belt Conference
Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
Great Lakes Valley Conference	Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
Great Midwest Athletic Conference	South Atlantic Conference
Great Northwest Athletic Conference	Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Gulf South Conference	Sunshine State Conference
Lone Star Conference	

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in the Division II General Section and Bylaws 3.2.2.4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the Division II NCAA Manual.]

Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may compete in NCAA championships. In accordance with Bylaw 3.2.2.4, member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all intercollegiate competition. Member institutions are reminded to notify the NCAA national office before the selection date for each championship of any student-athlete who may have participated in regular-season competition but subsequently is determined to be ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championships competition.

For the softball championship, the championship administrator must be notified not later than noon, Sunday, May 3.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Air Travel. If you are located more than 600 miles from the host site, please contact Short's Travel Management at 866-655-9215 as soon as possible to make your air travel arrangements. Be prepared to provide the names of the members of the travel party of 26.

Ground Travel. If you are within 600 miles from the host site, you will travel via bus and must make your arrangements via GO Ground at 866-386-4951. The ground transportation portal may be accessed at www.gochampionships.com (same username/password used for Short's Travel expenses). Visit the [NCAA Travel website](#) for additional travel and per diem information.

Lodging. The tournament director of the host site will provide hotel information to participating teams. All teams must stay at the designated hotel unless you receive a written release from the hotel manager. Otherwise, you will be financially responsible for the rooms.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]: A team must have a .500 overall Division II record or above to be selected. Selection of teams shall be completed by Sunday, May 3. The softball committee will select eight teams from each region to participate in the championship. The softball committee shall have full authority to select the teams to compete in the respective regional tournaments. Each conference shall appoint regional advisory committees to assist in evaluating teams, but recommendations of the advisory committee members are not binding on the softball committee.

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

- Availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships;
- Nullification;
- In-region winning percentage;
- Division II winning percentage;
- Division II strength of schedule;
- Division II head-to-head competition; and
- Results versus Division II common opponents.

The Division II Softball Committee has received approval from the Division II Championships Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the Division II Softball Championship (not in priority order):

- Results vs. ranked Division II opponents;
- In-region Ratings Percentage Index (RPI); and
- Division II results vs. teams with a winning record.

Once the opponents' average winning percentage (OWP) and opponents' opponents' winning percentage (OOWP) are calculated, they are to be combined on a weighted scale (e.g., 2/3 weight for OWP and 1/3 weight for OOWP) and this combined number becomes the strength of schedule.

All selection criteria are weighted equally. Additionally, input is provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the Division II Softball Committee. A Division II governing sports committee must contact a regional advisory committee before making its final selection of teams if the committee selection differs from the regional advisory committee's selection. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used by the Division II Softball Committee for selection purposes. Additionally, conference standings are not used as part of the selection criteria.

Following the completion of super regionals, the eight advancing teams to the finals will be seeded based on in-region RPI and then placed into the bracket. The in-region RPI will only include results from the regular season. Further, the committee will evaluate where the RPI ranks within given regions if teams have the same raw RPI number.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution or conference interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2020 NCAA Division II Softball Championship must: 1) submit a proposed budget, 2) respond to sport-specific questions, and 3) ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "championships available for bid" and select "add bid."

Please note the change in process that allows all member institutions to regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting championships.ncaa.org. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact the respective championship manager.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is April 24.

As a reminder, prospective hosts' budgets should include committee/site representative's lodging expense, game officials' lodging expense, state and city taxes/fees, if applicable, and any ticket fees. Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

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

New in 2020: Per Division II policy, hosts will be required to webstream all games conducted at the site.

KEY CONTACTS

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting championships.ncaa.org.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "budget" tab not later than 60 days after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact Morgan DeSpain or Donisha Carter at 317-917-6222 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.

Appendixes

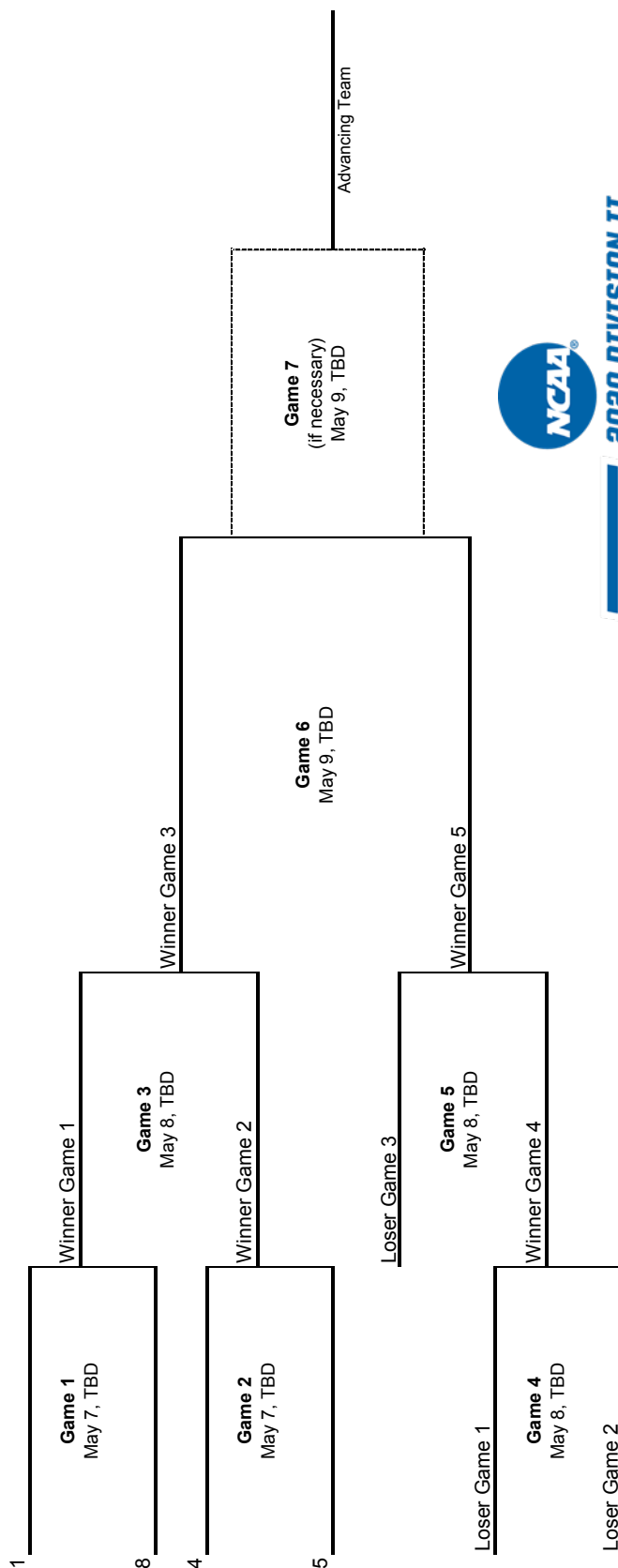
Contents

Appendix A • Brackets	23
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	26
Appendix C • Facility Requirements	34

2020 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL BRACKET



REGIONAL SITES
MAY 7-9



***DENOTES HOST INSTITUTION
ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN.
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGES**

Bracket Notes:

1. If the winner of Game 5 defeats the winner of Game 3, then Game 7 is necessary.

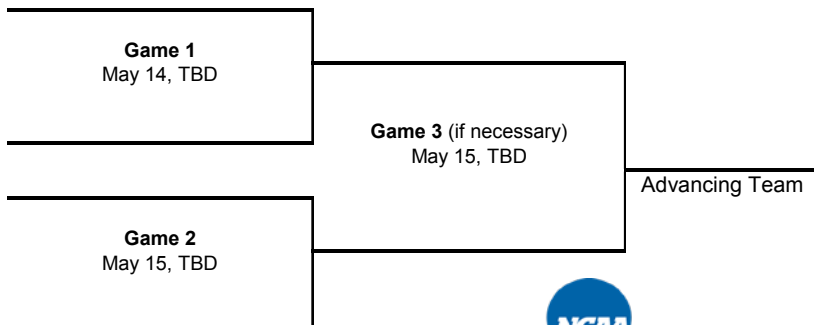
© 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association. No commercial use without the NCAA's written permission. The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.





2020 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER REGIONAL BRACKET

**SUPER REGIONAL SITES
MAY 14-15**



**DENOTES HOST INSTITUTION.
ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN.
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*

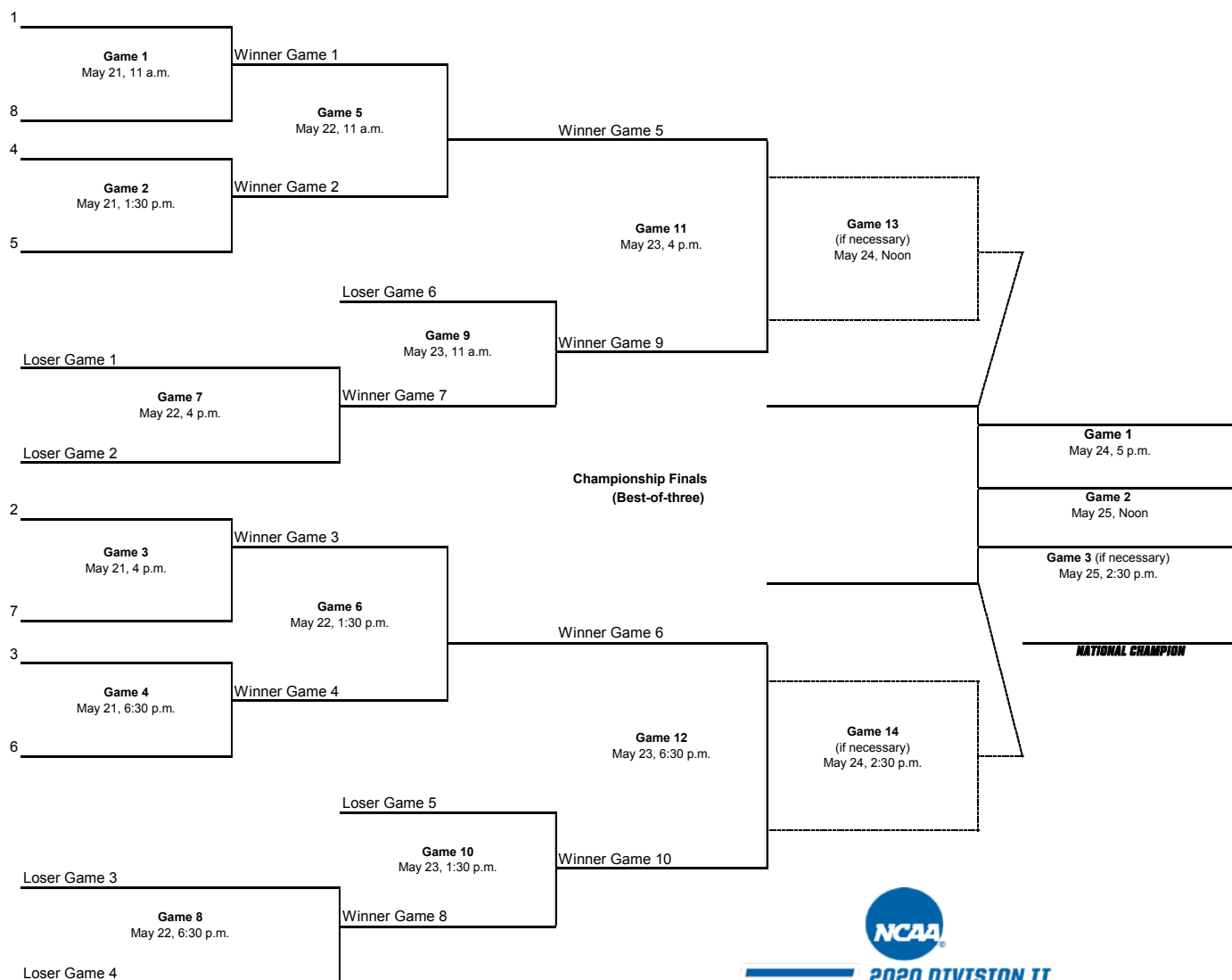


© 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association. No commercial use without the NCAA's written permission.
The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.



2020 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**FROST STADIUM AT WARNER PARK
CHATTANOOGA, TN
MAY 21-25**



ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN.
INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bracket Notes:

1. If the winner of Game 9 defeats the winner of Game 5, then Game 13 is necessary.
2. If the winner of Game 10 defeats the winner of Game 6, then Game 14 is necessary.
3. If only one if necessary game is needed, it will be played at 4:30 p.m. followed by Championship Finals Game 1 at 7 p.m.
4. The Championship Finals is a best-of-three series.
5. All games are webstreamed in high definition on www.NCAA.com.

© 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association. No commercial use without the NCAA's written permission.
The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.



Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

ATLANTIC REGION

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (12)

Bowie State University	Livingstone College
Claflin University	Saint Augustine's University
Elizabeth City State University	Shaw University
Fayetteville State University	Virginia State University
Johnson C. Smith University	Virginia Union University
Lincoln University (Pennsylvania)	Winston-Salem State University

Independent (2)

Bluefield State College	Salem University (West Virginia)
-------------------------	----------------------------------

Mountain East Conference (12)

University of Charleston (West Virginia)	Notre Dame College (Ohio)
Concord University	Urbana University
Davis & Elkins College	West Liberty University
Fairmont State University	West Virginia State University
*Frostburg State University	West Virginia Wesleyan College
Glenville State College	Wheeling University

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (18)

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
California University of Pennsylvania	Mercyhurst University
Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Millersville University of Pennsylvania
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania	Seton Hill University
Gannon University	Shepherd University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania	West Chester University of Pennsylvania

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

CENTRAL REGION**Great American Conference (12)**

Arkansas Tech University
 University of Arkansas, Monticello
 East Central University
 Harding University
 Henderson State University
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma Baptist University
 Ouachita Baptist University
 Southeastern Oklahoma State University
 Southern Arkansas University
 Southern Nazarene University
 Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (14)

University of Central Missouri
 University of Central Oklahoma
 Emporia State University
 Fort Hays State University
 Lincoln University (Missouri)
 Missouri Southern State University
 Missouri Western State University

University of Nebraska at Kearney
 Newman University
 Northeastern State University
 Northwest Missouri State University
 Pittsburg State University
 Rogers State University
 Washburn University of Topeka

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (16)

Augustana University (South Dakota)
 Bemidji State University
 Concordia University, St. Paul
 University of Mary
 Minnesota State University, Mankato
 Minnesota State University Moorhead
 University of Minnesota, Crookston
 University of Minnesota Duluth

Minot State University
 Northern State University
 University of Sioux Falls
 Southwest Minnesota State University
 St. Cloud State University
 Upper Iowa University
 Wayne State College (Nebraska)
 Winona State University

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

EAST REGION

Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (14)

Bloomfield College
Caldwell University
Chestnut Hill College
Concordia College (New York)
Dominican College (New York)
Felician University
Georgian Court University

Goldey-Beacom College
Holy Family University
Nyack College
Post University
University of the Sciences
Thomas Jefferson University
Wilmington University (Delaware)

East Coast Conference (7)

University of Bridgeport
Mercy College
Molloy College
New York Institute of Technology

Queens College (New York)
St. Thomas Aquinas College
*College of Staten Island

Northeast-10 Conference (14)

Adelphi University
American International College
Assumption College
Bentley University
Franklin Pierce University
Le Moyne College
University of New Haven

Pace University
Saint Anselm College
Saint Michael's College
The College of Saint Rose
Southern Connecticut State University
Southern New Hampshire University
Stonehill College

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

MIDWEST REGION**Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)**

Ashland University
 Davenport University
 Ferris State University
 Grand Valley State University
 Northwood University

Purdue University Northwest
 Saginaw Valley State University
 Wayne State University (Michigan)
 University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Great Lakes Valley Conference (16)

Bellarmino University
 Drury University
 University of Illinois at Springfield
 University of Indianapolis
 Lewis University
 Lindenwood University
 Maryville University of Saint Louis
 McKendree University

Missouri University of Science and Technology
 University of Missouri-St. Louis
 Quincy University
 Rockhurst University
 University of Southern Indiana
 Southwest Baptist University
 Truman State University
 William Jewell College

Great Midwest Athletic Conference (13)

Alderson Broaddus University
 Cedarville University
 University of Findlay
 Hillsdale College
 Kentucky Wesleyan College
 Lake Erie College
 Malone University

Ohio Dominican University
 Ohio Valley University
 Tiffin University
 Trevecca Nazarene University
 Ursuline College
 Walsh University

Independent (1)

Oakland City University

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Lone Star Conference (17)

Angelo State University
Cameron University
Eastern New Mexico University
Lubbock Christian University
Midwestern State University
Oklahoma Christian University
St. Edward's University
St. Mary's University (Texas)
Tarleton State University

Texas A&M International University
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
*The University of Texas at Tyler
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Texas Woman's University
West Texas A&M University
Western New Mexico University

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (13)

Adams State University
Black Hills State University
Chadron State College
Colorado Christian University
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University-Pueblo

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Dixie State University
Fort Lewis College
Metropolitan State University of Denver
New Mexico Highlands University
Regis University (Colorado)

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

SOUTH REGION**Gulf South Conference (13)**

University of Alabama in Huntsville
 Auburn University at Montgomery
 Christian Brothers University
 Delta State University
 Lee University
 Mississippi College
 University of Montevallo

Shorter University
 Union University
 Valdosta State University
 University of West Alabama
 University of West Florida
 University of West Georgia

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (12)

Albany State University (Georgia)
 Benedict College
 Clark Atlanta University
 Fort Valley State University
 Kentucky State University
 Lane College

LeMoyne-Owen College
 Miles College
 Paine College
 *Savannah State University
 Spring Hill College
 Tuskegee University

Sunshine State Conference (11)

Barry University
 Eckerd College
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida)
 Florida Institute of Technology
 Florida Southern College
 Lynn University

Nova Southeastern University
 Palm Beach Atlantic University
 Rollins College
 Saint Leo University
 University of Tampa

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

SOUTHEAST REGION

Conference Carolinas (12)

Barton College
Belmont Abbey College
Chowan University
Converse College
Emmanuel College (Georgia)
Erskine College

King University
Lees-McRae College
Limestone College
University of Mount Olive
North Greenville University
Southern Wesleyan University

Peach Belt Conference (11)

Augusta University
Columbus State University
Flagler College
Francis Marion University
Georgia College
Georgia Southwestern State University

Lander University
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Georgia
University of South Carolina Aiken
Young Harris College

South Atlantic Conference (12)

Anderson University (South Carolina)
Carson-Newman University
Catawba College
Coker University
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lincoln Memorial University

Mars Hill University
Newberry College
Queens University of Charlotte
Tusculum University
The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Wingate University

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

WEST REGION**California Collegiate Athletic Association (11)**

University of California, San Diego
 California State University, Chico
 California State University, Dominguez Hills
 California State University, East Bay
 California State University, Monterey Bay
 California State University, San Bernardino

California State University, San Marcos
 California State University, Stanislaus
 Humboldt State University
 San Francisco State University
 Sonoma State University

Great Northwest Athletic Conference (8)

Central Washington University
 Concordia University Portland
 Montana State University Billings
 Northwest Nazarene University

Saint Martin's University
 Simon Fraser University
 Western Oregon University
 Western Washington University

Pacific West Conference (10)

Academy of Art University
 Azusa Pacific University
 Biola University
 Chaminade University
 Concordia University Irvine

Dominican University of California
 University of Hawaii at Hilo
 Hawaii Pacific University
 Holy Names University
 Notre Dame de Namur University

* Denotes institutions in Candidacy/Provisional year. Not eligible for championship selection.

Appendix C • Facility Requirements

The facilities used in the Division II Softball Championship must meet the requirements listed in the [2020 and 2021 NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations Book](#) as well as the ones listed below.

REQUIRED (REGIONAL/SUPER REGIONALS)

Playing Area:

- The distance of the outfield fence shall not exceed 220 feet. Outfield fences shall be a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields. For Division II, a fence 200 feet all around, if permanent, is acceptable. If a portable fence is used, it must be placed at a distance of 190 feet in left and right fields and 220 feet in center field. All portable fencing must be secured to prevent balls from rolling under. If a host's outfield fence does not conform to 190 feet in right and left fields and 220 in center field and a portable fence has to be used, portable pieces of fence may be used in the areas of the field where the field distance requirement has not been met (i.e., if the center field fence is 225 feet, but where the lines are 190 feet, a piece of fence may be brought into the center field area to bring center field into compliance). **An institutional field with a 4-foot fence must be a minimum of 210 feet in left and right fields and 230 in center field, and it is highly recommended that a municipal field with a 4-foot fence used by the institution be at those same distances.**
- If due to inclement weather, it is determined by the NCAA representative in consultation with the Division II Softball Committee Chair and NCAA liaison, games can be moved to a different field other than the one described in the bid process. If this move occurs, ALL remaining games MUST be played on the back-up field.
- It is required to have a 6-foot, non-collapsible fence in the outfield for the finals. The fence may not exceed 220 feet, minimum of 190 feet in the left and right fields. For the regional and super regionals, permanent fencing is recommended but not required.
- Vertical backstop (with no hood), outfield fences and permanent sideline fences must enclose the playing field.
- It is highly recommended that a skinned infield be used. A synthetic granular infield surface or dirt infield must be used. The outfield must be grass or grass-like synthetic surface.
- The distance from home plate to the backstop must be a minimum of 25 feet (maximum 30 feet).
- Dugout must accommodate 28 persons. Cups, water, ice and trash can should be provided in each dugout. Dugouts should be cleaned after each game.
- Dugouts must be covered and enclosed from the spectators. A temporary cover is permissible.
- A designated, restricted and comparable area for stretching and throwing only will be provided to teams in the immediate proximity to the playing field.
- Bullpens must be similar in composition (dirt preferred) and similar in proximity from each dugout. Pitchers for subsequent games may have access to bullpens, with priority given to the game in progress.
- Foul poles must extend vertically upward at the point it intersects the home run fence. The foul pole must be white or yellow.
- Priority will be given to hosts with lighted fields (or access to lighted fields), all other criteria being equal. Recommendation: 150 footcandles in the infield and outfield.
- A tarp, where applicable, should be available for inclement weather. The tarp crew should be prepared for tarping the entire field on short notice, and be able to accomplish this without the assistance of participating teams.
- Guidelines for field maintenance by the grounds crew.
 - Mark field in accordance with all applicable NCAA softball rules.
 - Drag infield.
 - Level out batter's boxes and pitcher's area.
 - Water batter's boxes and pitcher's area, if necessary.
 - Re-mark batter's boxes and foul lines as necessary.
 - Rake to improve field of play as needed.
 - Clean dugouts.
 - Clean stadium.

- An electronic scoreboard and public address system (including a backup, if possible,)
- Mark in catcher's box.
- Tarp the field as appropriate or directed by the NCAA representative.
- The field lines must be 4 inches in width.

FINALS

All of the requirements for regional and super regionals plus:

- National championship site must use a 6-foot, non-collapsible outfield fence.
- Foul poles must extend vertically upward at the point it intersects the home-run fence. The color of the foul pole should be white or yellow.

Facility:

- The facility must be enclosed in order to charge admission and minimum seating should provide not fewer than 500 unobstructed seats.
- Concessions and an athletic training facility must be available on-site. If permanent facilities are not available, tents may be used to meet this requirement.
- Adequate restrooms must be on-site (portable or permanent) within 100 feet of the facility.
- An electronic scoreboard and public-address system (including a backup, if possible) must be available.
- A tournament hospitality room should be available. Also, designate an umpires' lounge.
- Designate a scorer's table. Allow seating for NCAA committee, umpires and liaison (15 persons) on field and in press box. If possible, cover scorer's table with table skirting or other appropriate material.
- Designate a telephone number for teams to call for schedule/field condition updates in the event of inclement weather.
- All on-site corporate signage must be covered.
- Adequate parking must be available on-site for teams, tournament personnel and umpires. Designate parking for NCAA committee, liaison and umpires.
- Locker rooms are not required but are preferred. However, if the home team has a locker room, a comparable area must also be provided for the visiting teams.
- Hosts must provide, in the participant manual, a list of equipment available to all teams (i.e., screens, pitching machines, etc.) as well as a list of off-campus and/or rainy-day/indoor facilities. Sign stating that all practices are closed.
- Two front-toss screens for teams to use during practice and warmups must be provided.
- A 4-foot seating buffer must extend around the field where applicable.

Athletic Training:

- Towels must be available for teams and umpires.
- Designate drug-testing area should championship be selected.
- NCAA cups and coolers must be used at all times at the finals. For regionals and super regionals, plain cups and coolers must be used or covered.

Media:

- Designate photo areas, coin-flip area and team seating area.
- A covered interview area must be provided in a relatively quiet area (i.e., not in close proximity to player or media hospitality) that is secure and secluded from spectators and player hospitality.
- A covered three-sided press area must be provided.
- A minimum of two phone lines must be available for use at press row (radio/Internet/phone/fax) if wireless access is not available on-site.
- A minimum of one phone line is recommended for use at press row (radio/Internet/phone/fax) if wireless access is available on-site.

DIVISION II SOFTBALL

Security:

- Implement security measures for restricted access areas (locker rooms, press area, hospitality, etc.).
- Implement crowd control procedures. At least one uniformed security guard should be at the facility during competition.

Auxiliary:

- Personnel to shag balls during games.
- Designate an area for sale of championship merchandise.
- Appropriate maintenance staff must be on call throughout the championship. A cleaning staff, for all areas of the facility (e.g., restroom, stands, dugouts, concession area, etc.), is required to clean facility at least twice daily.