



*2021 DIVISION II*  
**SOFTBALL**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

***PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP***  
***2020-21 MANUAL***

# NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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### THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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# Section 1 • Introduction

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.

Sections one through eight apply to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the remaining 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 [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 31.2.1.5 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]*

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

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

#### DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

### Section 4•2 Drug Testing

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*[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]*

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), 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division II) and 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division 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

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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

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#### MISCONDUCT

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

#### FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

### Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner, 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. For more information or access the online form and submit a nomination, go to [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

## Section 6 • Fan Travel

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

## 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.

- a. 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)*

- b. 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)*
- c. 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)*
- d. 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)*
- e. 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)*
- f. Preparing student-athletes to be good citizens, leaders and contributors in their communities; *(Revised: 1/12/04 effective 8/1/04)*
- g. 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)*
- h. 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)*
- i. 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)*
- j. 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)*
- k. 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)*
- l. 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)*
- m. 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 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

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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

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**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

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# Section 1 • General Administration

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

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## Section 1•2 NCAA National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

**ATLANTIC REGION****Allie De Witt**

Associate Commissioner/SWA  
Mountain East Conference

**EAST REGION****Dean Johnson, chair**

Head Softball Coach/Associate Director of Athletics  
Caldwell University

**SOUTH REGION****Patrick Peasant**

Head Softball Coach/Assistant Athletics Director  
Miles College

**SOUTHEAST REGION****Kendall Rainey**

Director of Athletics  
The University of Virginia's College at Wise

**CENTRAL REGION****Jason Anderson**

Head Softball Coach  
Southern Arkansas University

**MIDWEST REGION****Melissa Frost**

Head Softball Coach  
University of Indianapolis

**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:

**Roberta Page**

NCAA, Championships and Alliances  
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**Dean Johnson, chair**

Head Softball Coach/Associate Director of Athletics  
Caldwell University  
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## Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>ATLANTIC REGION</b>		
<b>Allie De Witt, chair</b>	<b>MEC</b>	<b>MEC</b>
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
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>		
<b>Jason Anderson, chair</b>	<b>Southern Arkansas</b>	<b>GAC</b>
Kristina McSweeney	Arkansas Tech	GAC
Rachael Page	University of Nebraska Kearney	MIAA
Cody White	Central Oklahoma	MIAA
Shannon Pivovar	Sioux Falls	NSIC
Holly Schreiner	St. Cloud State	NSIC
<b>EAST REGION</b>		
<b>Dean Johnson, chair</b>	<b>Caldwell</b>	<b>CACC</b>
Joe Burbridge	Dominican (New York)	CACC
Susan Cassidy-Lyke	Molloy	ECC
Mike Fazio	Mercy	ECC
Claudia Stabile	Pace	NE10
Neil Duval	Saint Anselm	NE10
<b>MIDWEST REGION</b>		
<b>Melissa Frost, chair</b>	<b>UIndy</b>	<b>GLVC</b>
Dana Callihan	Grand Valley State	GLIAC
Erika Wallace	Wayne State	GLIAC
Mary Ann Mitchell	Missouri-St. Louis	GLVC
Marcella Vanlandingham	Ohio Dominican	G-MAC
Leslie Schuemann	G-MAC	G-MAC
<b>SOUTH REGION</b>		
<b>Patrick Peasant, chair</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>SIAC</b>
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
Kelsi Dunne	Embry-Riddle	Sunshine State

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL REGION</b>		
<b>Donna Fields, chair</b>	<b>St. Mary's (Texas)</b>	<b>Lone Star</b>
Travis Scott	Angelo State	Lone Star
Annie Van Wetzlinga	MSU Denver	RMAC
Brian Wall	Colorado Christian	RMAC
<b>SOUTHEAST REGION</b>		
<b>Kendall Rainey, chair</b>	<b>UVA Wise</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Jamie Grodecki	Georgia College	Peach Belt
Travis Chell	King (Tennessee)	Conference Carolinas
Coy Adkins	Southern Wesleyan	Conference Carolinas
Kathryn Geouge	Flagler	Peach Belt
Tommy Hewitt	Anderson University	SAC
<b>WEST REGION</b>		
<b>Rebekah Gasner, chair</b>	<b>Montana State Billings</b>	<b>Great Northwest</b>
Lonny Sargent	Western Oregon	Great Northwest
Chelsea Herman	Cal State San Bernardino	CCAA
Jennifer Bridges-Mannweiler	Sonoma State	CCAA
Nikki Udria	Biola	PacWest
Crystal Rosenthal	Concordia (California)	PacWest

## Section 1•4 Important Dates

<b>Tuesday, Jan. 12</b>	Deadline for submitting final game schedule.
<b>Monday, March 15</b>	Post bid information for selection of regional sites on <a href="http://ncaa.org">ncaa.org</a> . Deadline to submit bids is April 2.
<b>Friday, April 2</b>	Deadline for submitting bids for prospective regional hosts.
<b>Wednesday, April 21</b>	First official ranking release.
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	Second official ranking release.
<b>Wednesday, May 5</b>	Third official ranking release.
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	Selection of teams participating in the championship.
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	Selection show announcement for field of 48 teams on <a href="http://ncaa.com">ncaa.com</a> . Teams will be notified and sent championship materials after the 10 p.m. Eastern time selection show.
<b>Wednesday-Saturday May 19-22</b>	Regionals (on the campus of one of the competing institutions). <i>All regional competition will be conducted Wednesday-Friday.</i>
<b>Thursday-Monday, May 27-31</b>	Finals, Assembly Athletic Complex, Denver, Colorado; Metropolitan State University of Denver, hosts.

### CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

<b>Regionals</b>	Wednesday-Saturday, May 19-22
<b>Championship</b>	Thursday-Monday, May 27-31

## DATE FORMULA

**Regionals (16)** Thursday through Saturday before super regionals.

**Super Regionals** Thursday and Friday before finals.

**Finals** Fourth weekend in May (Thursday-Monday).

\*Date formula not applicable for the 2021 season.

## FUTURE DATES

	Regionals	Super Regionals	Championship	Location
<b>2022</b>	May 12-14	May 19-20	May 26-30	Denver
<b>2023</b>	May 11-13	May 18-19	May 25-29	Chattanooga
<b>2024</b>	May 9-11	May 15-16	May 21-25	Orlando
<b>2025</b>	May 8-10	May 15-16	May 22-26	Chattanooga

## 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](http://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 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 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.

**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 inals 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 48 teams. Six teams will participate at each of the eight regional sites in a double-elimination tournament.

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

### SIX-TEAM REGIONALS

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

The regionals will be conducted for a three-day period. Every attempt should be made to complete the 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 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 Saturday, it must be completed without starting a game after midnight Saturday (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

<b>Game 1</b>	Team 4 vs. Team 5
<b>Game 2</b>	Team 3 vs. Team 6
<b>Game 3</b>	Loser Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2

#### Day 2

<b>Game 4</b>	Team 1 vs. Winner Game 1
<b>Game 5</b>	Team 2 vs. Winner Game 2
<b>Game 6</b>	Loser Game 4 vs. Loser Game 5

#### Day 3

<b>Game 7</b>	Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5
<b>Game 8</b>	Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 6
<b>Game 9</b>	Loser Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

#### Day 4

<b>Game 10</b>	Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 9
<b>Game 11</b>	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](#).

## START TIMES

Start times for 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 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
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.

\*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 [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](http://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 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. 12. 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 [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com) the last three weeks of the regular season (April 21, 28 and May 5). 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 ([web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login](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](mailto: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 2021 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 16.

## 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.

**Championships Ground Travel.** Institutions are NO longer required to use Go Ground for postseason NCAA team championship ground transportation. For 2020-21 championships, institutions will have the ability to work directly with bus companies or use their regular season providers, if in accordance with the NCAA bus safety standards. This transportation will be secured to and from the site of competition and any other transportation needs while competing in NCAA championships. Institutions must use bus companies that meet NCAA safety standards. These safety standards can be found [here](#). Institutions eligible for ground travel will receive reimbursement directly from the NCAA through the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES).

**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 16. The softball committee will select six 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.

In addition, the Division II Championships Committee agreed that given the challenges inherent within the selection process this year with reduced competitions (particularly nonconference competitions), winter and spring sport committees and their regional advisory committees will be allowed to use any or all of the selection criteria available to them, provided the criteria are applied consistently throughout the season. Those criteria are as follows:

### Additional Selection Criteria

- Division II record on the road.
- Division II results versus teams with a .500 record or better.
- Division II results versus teams with a winning record.
- In-region Division II nonconference won-lost record
- In-region strength of schedule.
- Late season performance
- Performance Indicator.
- In-region Rating Percentage Index.
- Results versus Division II in-region common opponents.
- Results versus ranked Division II opponents.

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 regionals, the six 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 2021 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](https://championships.ncaa.org). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto: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](https://championships.ncaa.org). The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is April 30.

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](https://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: 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](https://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](https://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 Roberta Page or Alyssa Rice at 317-917-6222 or email us at [championshipbid@ncaa.org](mailto:championshipbid@ncaa.org).



# Appendixes

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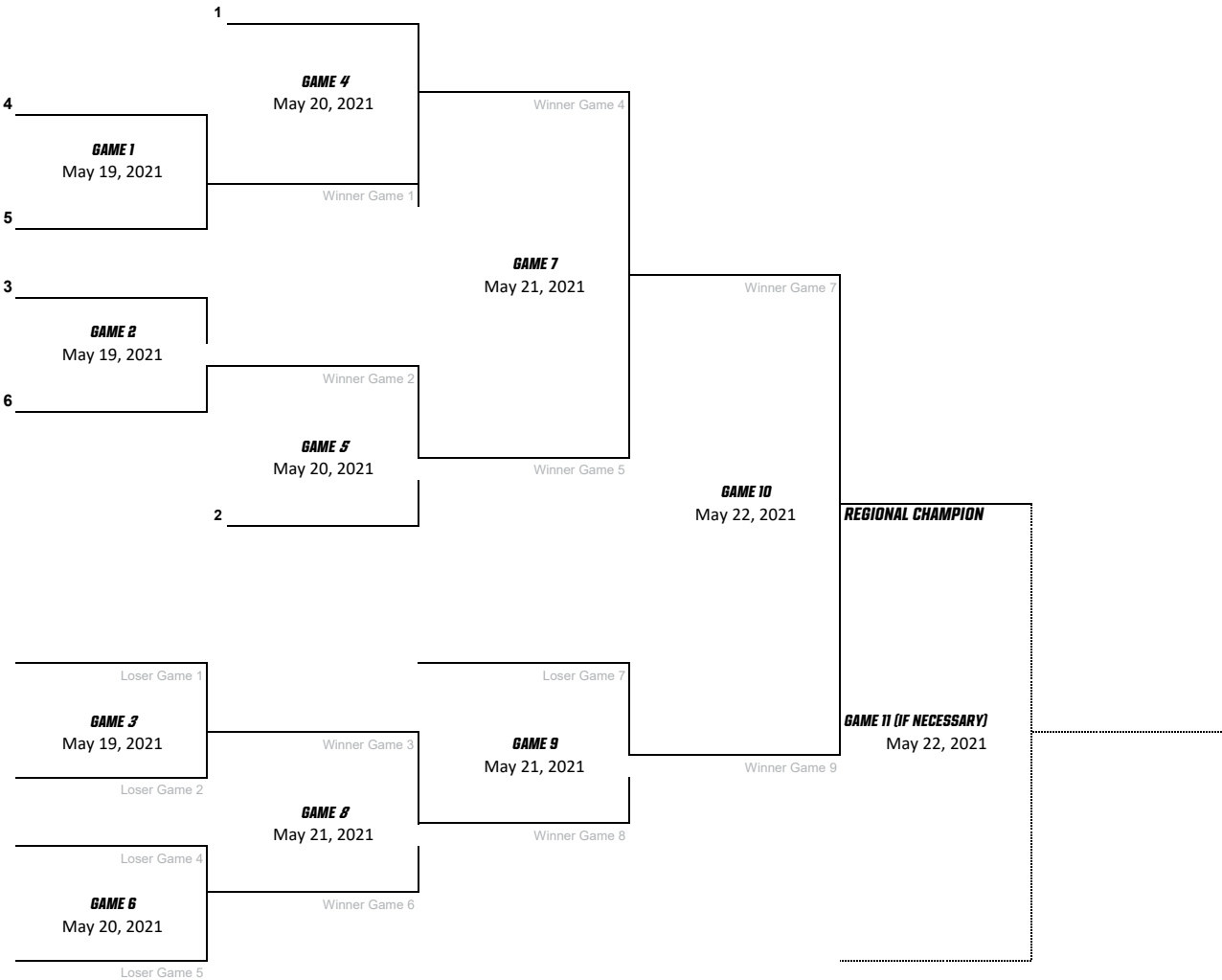
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Appendix A • Brackets



2021 NCAA DIVISION II  
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL

REGION NAME



19-May  
Games 1,2,3,

20-May  
Games 4,5,6,

21-May  
Games 7,8,9,

22-May  
Game 10, 11(if)

\*DENOTES HOST INSTITUTION  
ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME.

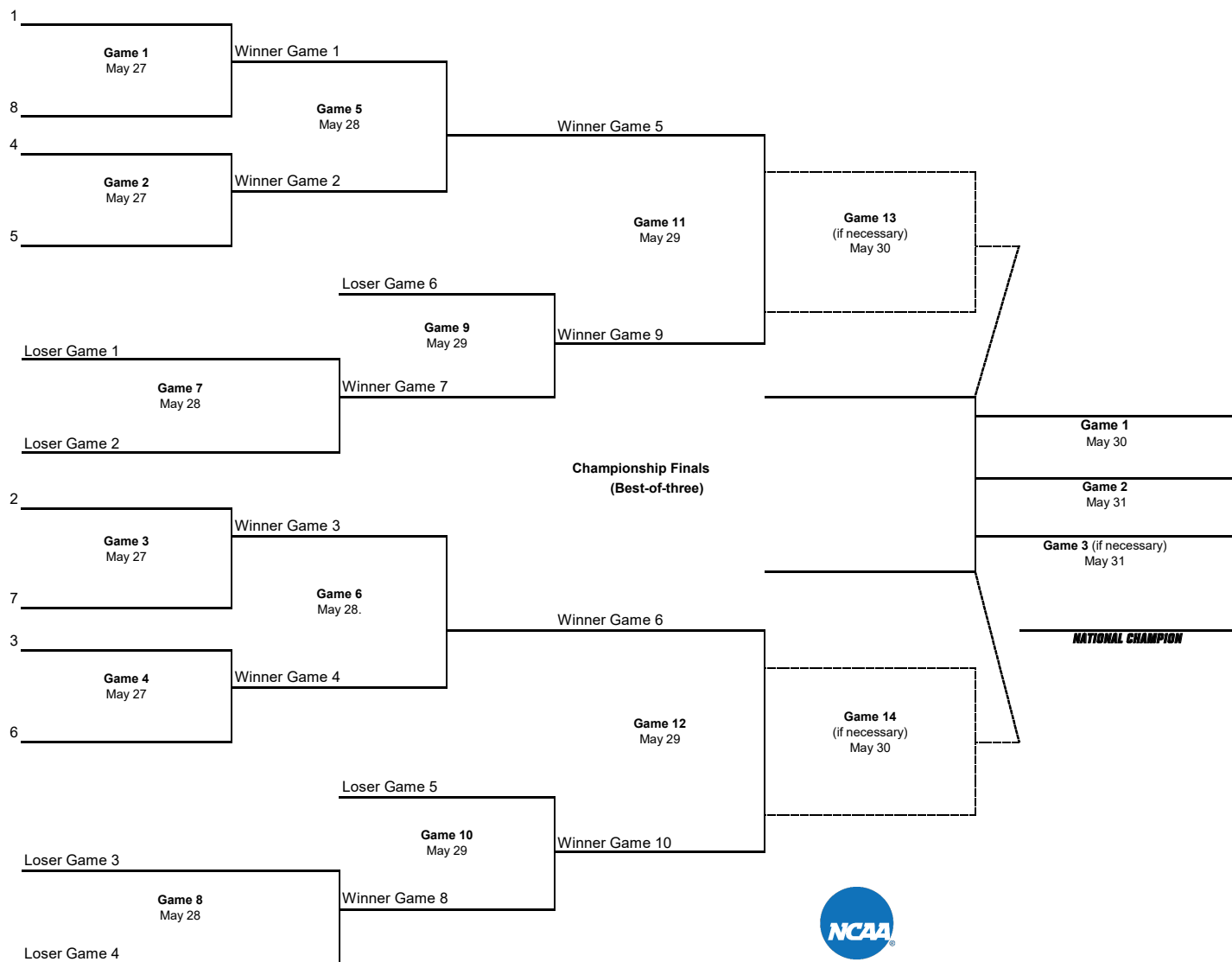


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# 2021 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

THE ASSEMBLY ATHLETIC COMPLEX AT MSU DENVER  
DENVER, CO  
MAY 27-31



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](http://www.NCAA.com).



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## 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)

Alderson Broaddus University	Glenville State College
University of Charleston (West Virginia)	Notre Dame College (Ohio)
Concord University	West Liberty University
Davis & Elkins College	West Virginia State University
Fairmont State University	West Virginia Wesleyan College
*Frostburg State University	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 University  
 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 (15)

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 (12)

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 (16)**

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)

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 Permian Basin  
 Texas Woman's University  
 West Texas A&M University  
 Western New Mexico University

**Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (12)**

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  
 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 (11)

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

LeMoyne-Owen College  
Miles 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

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**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 University  
 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 (13)**

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

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WEST REGION

California Collegiate Athletic Association (11)

University of California, San Diego	California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Chico	California State University, Stanislaus
California State University, Dominguez Hills	Humboldt State University
California State University, East Bay	San Francisco State University
California State University, Monterey Bay	Sonoma State University
California State University, San Bernardino	

Great Northwest Athletic Conference (7)

Central Washington University	Simon Fraser University
Montana State University Billings	Western Oregon University
Northwest Nazarene University	Western Washington University
Saint Martin's University	

Pacific West Conference (9)

Academy of Art University	Dominican University of California
Azusa Pacific University	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Biola University	Hawaii Pacific University
Chaminade University	Holy Names University
Concordia University Irvine	

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## 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.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

- 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.

**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.