



2023 DIVISION II
SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2022-23 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2022-23 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.

Sections one through nine 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. In any championship in which a squad limit has been established by the governing sport committee or by the bylaws, the number of eligible student-athletes in competitive uniform at the start of competition.

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3.1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20.2.4, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 7.3.1.5, 31.2.1.7, 31.2.1.7.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.1.5, 31.2.1.5.2, and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3.2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3.3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. However, we understand that sometimes certain circumstances or conditions occurring during the events may require real-time consideration. When this is the case, student-athletes may reach out to their site representative or NCAA national office staff onsite.

Section 4 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes 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 to access the online form and submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 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

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online [here](#). Please reference Appendix A of the travel policies for reimbursable travel party numbers.

Please reference the NCAA travel policies as they are updated annually [here](#), and the travel policies supersede all other documents.

Section 10 • Division II

Section 10•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 10•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.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Any institution that fails to submit a complete the online form required for the sport administrator and have a complete and accurate signature page on file at the institution 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 chancellor/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

- Have on file at the institution an accurate and complete Division II Code of Conduct signature page 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 institutional personnel traveling with the team (official travel party and additional individuals).
- 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 federal, state and local laws and regulations 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 chancellor/president 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 10•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/videoconferences, 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 chancellor/president 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 10•4 Religious Conflicts

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

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before September 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. *(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 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**Susan Cassidy-Lyke**

Head Softball Coach/Director of Athletics
Molloy University

SOUTH REGION**Valeria Silvestrini, chair**

Head Softball Coach
Florida Institute of Technology

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**Dixie Cirillo**

Associate AD/SWA
Colorado School of Mines

WEST REGION**Rebekah Gasner**

Compliance Coordinator/SWA
Montana State University Billings

For additional information about the softball championship, contact:

Alyssa Rice

Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6627 / arice@ncaa.org

Valeria Silvestrini

Head Softball Coach
Florida Institute of Technology
321-674-7199 / vsilvestrini@fit.edu

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC REGION		
Allie De Witt, chair	MEC	MEC
Herb Minch	West Virginia State	MEC
Matisse Lee	Claflin	CIAA
Dorothy Neal	Saint Augustine's	CIAA
Andrea Miller	Slippery Rock	PSAC
Alison Van Scyoc	Shippensburg	PSAC
CENTRAL REGION		
Jason Anderson, chair	Southern Arkansas	GAC
Brian Madden	Southern Nazarene	GAC
Brenda Holaday	Washburn	MIAA
Rachael Page	Nebraska Kearney	MIAA
Shannon Pivovar	Sioux Falls	NSIC
Allison Monson	Southwest Minnesota State	NSIC
EAST REGION		
Susan Cassidy-Lyke, chair	Molloy	ECC
Melissa Reilly	East Coast Conference	ECC
Nicole Degenhardt	Georgian Court	CACC
Jami Hughes	Holy Family	CACC
Tracey Roman	Le Moyne	NE10
Neil Duval	Saint Anselm	NE10
MIDWEST REGION		
Melissa Frost, chair	UIndy	GLVC
Debbie Hickey	Missouri-S&T	GLVC
Kristin Janes	Farris State	GLIAC
Erika Wallace	Wayne State (Michigan)	GLIAC
Kyle Gross	Hillsdale	G-MAC
Leslie Schuemann	G-MAC	G-MAC
SOUTH REGION		
Valeria Silvestrini, chair	Florida Tech	SSC
Jannelle Iaquinto	Barry University	SSC
Jason Bryant	Albany State	SIAC
David Morton	Kentucky State	SIAC
Thomas Macera	Valdosta State	GSC
Jessica McIntyre	Lee	GSC

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION		
Dixie Cirrillo, chair	Colorado School of Mines	RMAC
Annie Van Wetzlinga	MSU Denver	RMAC
Brian Wall	Colorado Christian	RMAC
Scott Larson	Lubbock Christian	LSC
Leah Glasgow	St. Edwards	LSC
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Kendall Rainey, chair	UVA Wise	SAC
Tommy Hewitt	Anderson University	SAC
Gretchen Krumdieck	Georgia College	PBC
Kathryn Geouge	Flagler	PBC
Brittany Bennett	UNC-Pembroke	Conference Carolinas
Travis Chell	King (Tennessee)	Conference Carolinas
WEST REGION		
Rebekah Gasner, chair	Montana State Billings	GNAC
Rich Wagner	Northwest Nazarene	GNAC
Chelsea Herman	Cal State San Bernardino	CCAA
Claire Sua-Amundson	Cal State East Bay	CCAA
Neil Morgan	Biola	PacWest
Carrie Webber	Azusa Pacific	PacWest

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 10	Deadline for submitting final game schedule.
Wednesday, April 19	First official ranking release.
Wednesday, April 26	Second official ranking release.
Friday, April 28	Deadline for submitting bids for prospective regional and super regional hosts.
Wednesday, May 3	Third official ranking release.
Sunday, May 7	Selection of teams participating in the championship.
Monday, May 8	Selection show announcement for field of 64 teams on NCAA.com . Teams will be notified and sent championship materials after the 10 a.m. Eastern time selection show.
Thursday-Saturday, May 11-13	Regionals (on the campus of one of the competing institutions). <i>All regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday.</i>
Thursday-Friday, May 18-19	Super Regionals (on the campus of one of the competing institutions).
Thursday-Wednesday, May 25-31	Finals, Frost Stadium at Warner Park, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Chattanooga Sports Commission, University of North Georgia and Lee University, host.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Regionals	Thursday-Saturday, May 11-13 <i>All regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday.</i>
Super Regionals	Thursday-Friday, May 18-19
Championship	Thursday-Wednesday, May 25-31

DATE FORMULA

Regionals (16) Thursday through Saturday before super regionals.

Super Regionals (8) Thursday and Friday before finals.*

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

* Tuesday and Wednesday in Division II National Championships Spring Festival Years.

** Sunday through Saturday in Division II National Championships Spring Festival years.

FUTURE DATES

	Regionals	Super Regionals	Championship	Location
2024 (Festival)	May 9-11	May 14-15	May 19-25	Orlando
2025	May 8-10	May 15-16	May 22-28	Chattanooga
2026	May 7-9	May 14-15	May 21-27	Chattanooga

Section 1•5 Equipment

BALLS

Rawlings was named as the official softball of NCAA championships effective through the 2022-23 season. Rawlings will supply balls for all championship rounds; no other softball shall be used.

BATS

Coaches are responsible for legally equipping their team including providing only undamaged bats that appear on the then current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List as posted on www.RefQuest.com.

Bats will be confirmed as legal and barrel compression testing (BCT) will be performed by the NCAA site representative on each competition day for each team. In addition, umpires shall verify the appropriateness of each team's bats prior to each game.

BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT)

BCT will be conducted by the NCAA site representative in the role of bat testing manager on competition days (not practice days) during all NCAA postseason rounds according to the protocol listed in Rule 5.2 of the 2022 and 2023 NCAA Softball Rules Book.

In addition to presenting their bats, coaches shall provide an annotated copy of the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and complete the NCAA-provided BCT log sheet during testing.

- The host institution shall provide the BCT fixture and secure location for BCT. Additionally, bats that fail BCT must be secured before shipping them, along with the notebook with completed log sheets and unused stickers, for further evaluation as designated by the NCAA Softball Rules Committee.
- The bat testing manager shall match each bat to the appropriate model on the provided annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List and complete the summary on its first page. In addition, the bat testing manager will appropriately sticker bats that pass BCT, secure those that fail, and maintain possession of the team's log sheet.
- The NCAA shall provide each site with a notebook with the required log sheets, distinctive stickers for each round of testing, and detailed instructions.

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. 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. The international tiebreaker will not be used in championship play.
4. For all regional, super regional and final competitions, the home team will bat last and occupy the third-base dugout.
5. The eight-run rule will not be used in the national championship series.

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

The [2022 and 2023 NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations](#) shall be followed for the championship.

TOBACCO BAN

[Reference: Bylaws 11.1.5 and 17.1.9 in the NCAA Divisions II Manual.]

The use of tobacco products by student-athletes, coaches, or any team personnel is prohibited during practice and competition. A student-athlete, coach, or member of team personnel who uses tobacco products during a practice or competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that practice or 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, student-athletes a part of the bench size, 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.

DIVISION II SOFTBALL

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:

- Tuesday, 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.

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 [ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information](https://www.ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information).

SQUAD SIZE

Each team is limited to 20 eligible players to compete (squad size) and 24 student-athletes total in the dugout. All 24 student-athletes may actively participate in softball activities on-site (practice/bullpen, etc.) and be in uniform; however, only the 20 a part of the squad size are eligible to compete in the game. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this rule is subject to penalties underlined under **Section 3.4 Misconduct**.

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 30.

An institution that is advised it is in violation of the dugout limit 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. 10. 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 the last three weeks of the regular season (April 19, 26 and May 3). Ranking week is Monday through Sunday. The first ranking will list teams under consideration in alphabetical order.

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), 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 Nick Moeller (nmoeller@ncaa.org or 317-917-6390).

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 2023 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, Monday, May 1.

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.

Institutions who fly, and are eligible for NCAA paid transportation on-site, will be required to use Short's Travel (STM Driven) to book on-site ground transportation. Short's Travel (STM Driven) can be reached at 844/814-3939 or at ncaachamps@stmDriven.com.

Ground Travel. If you are within 600 miles from the host site, you will book ground transportation independently in accordance with the [NCAA safety standards](#) and seek reimbursement through the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES).

All NCAA Championship travel information can be found [here](#).

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 7. 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 super regional competition, the national committee will seed the eight teams advancing to the championship site using the following process: Teams will be seeded based on in-region RPI and in-region rank. For example, teams with the same in-region rank are compared and then seeded based on in-region RPI.

The in-region RPI will only include results from the regular season.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution or conference interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2023 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 28.

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 RQ+ 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.

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

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Hosts must provide in the participant manual a list of equipment available to all teams (e.g., screens, pitching machines) as well as a list of off-campus and/or rainy-day/indoor facilities. At a minimum, hosts are required to provide two tees, two buckets of balls, balls for front toss and two front toss screens for each participating team on practice day, and during warmup on game day.

If batting cage(s) are adjacent to one of the dugouts and can be used during the game, a sock net must be provided for the other dugout to use during the game. If the batting cage(s) is not adjacent to the dugout(s), a sock net should be provided near each dugout.

During the participant call (prior to travel), the host may ask if this equipment is needed.

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 Alyssa Rice (317-917-6627) or Deja West (317-917-6936) or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.

Appendixes

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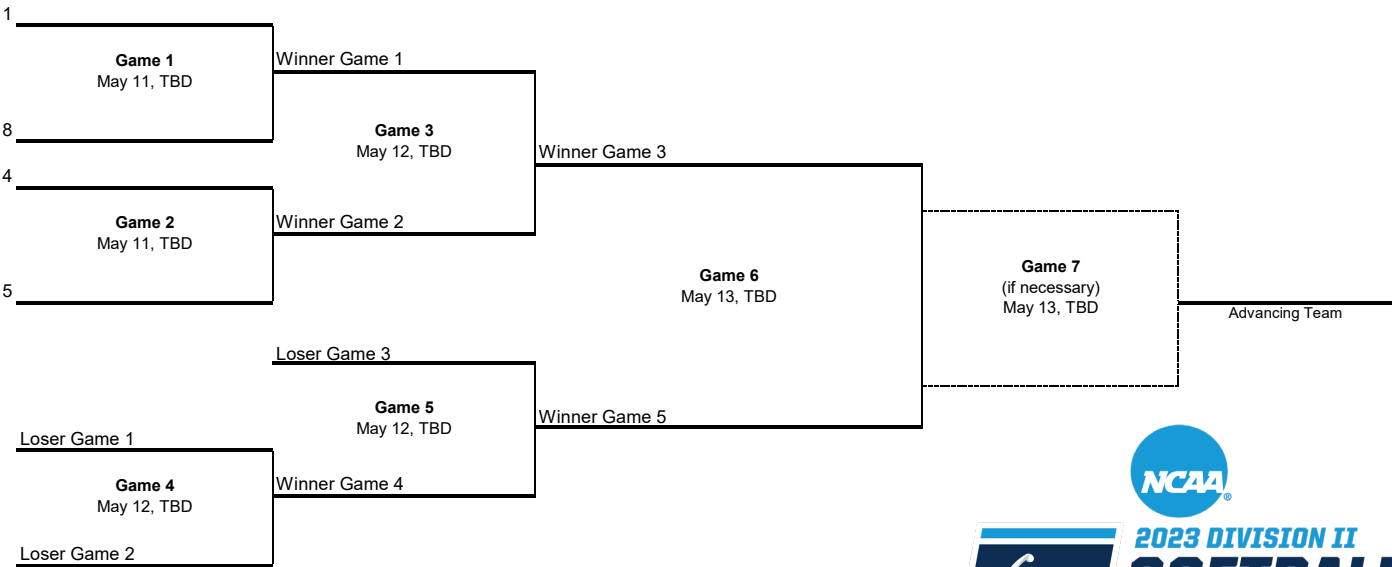
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Appendix A • Brackets



2023 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP REGIONAL BRACKET

REGIONAL SITES
MAY 11-13



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

Bracket Notes:

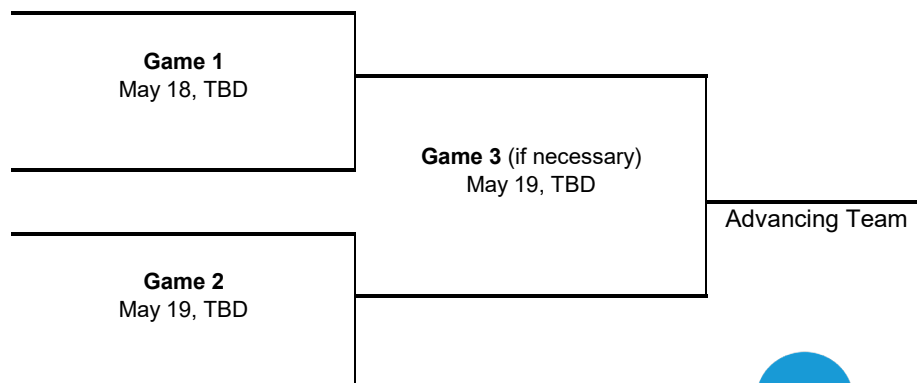
1. If the winner of Game 5 defeats the winner of Game 3, then Game 7 is necessary.

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2023 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER REGIONAL BRACKET

**SUPER REGIONAL SITES
MAY 18-19**



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

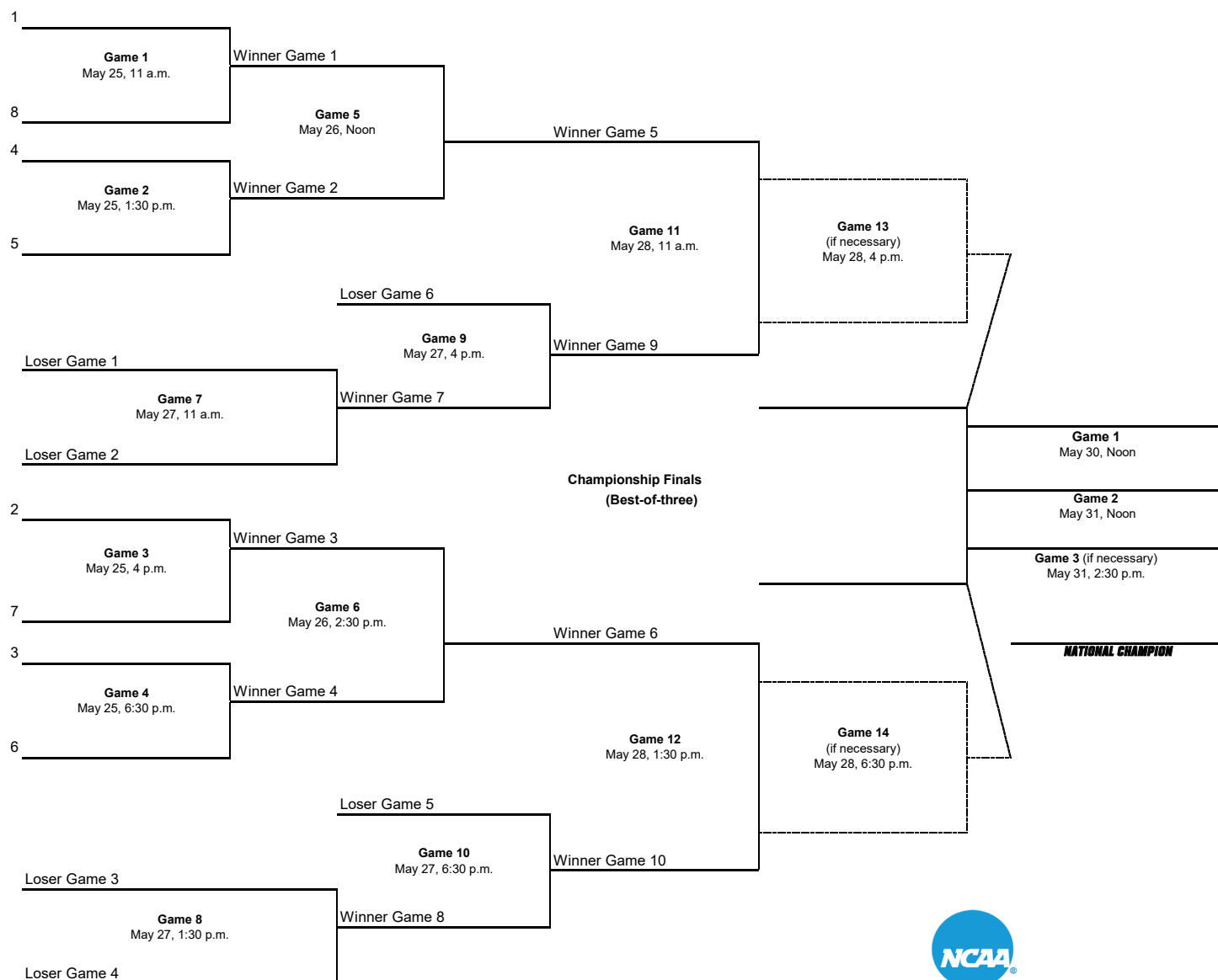


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2023 NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**FROST STADIUM AT WARNER PARK
CHATTANOOGA, TN
MAY 25-MAY 31**



ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN TIME.
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 p.m.
4. The Championship Finals is a best-of-three series.
5. All games are webstreamed in high definition on 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 University	Salem University (West Virginia)
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Mountain East Conference (12)

Alderson Broaddus University	Glenville State University
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	Pennsylvania Western University, California
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion
Gannon University	Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	Seton Hill University
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania	Shepherd University
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania	Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Mercyhurst University	Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
Millersville 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

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 (13)**

Alliance University
 Bloomfield College
 University of Bridgeport
 Caldwell University
 Chestnut Hill College
 Dominican University (New York)
 Felician University

Georgian Court University
 Goldey-Beacom College
 Holy Family University
 Post University
 Thomas Jefferson University
 Wilmington University (Delaware)

East Coast Conference (6)

*D'Youville University
 Mercy College
 Molloy University

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

Northeast-10 Conference (13)

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

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

MIDWEST REGION

Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (7)

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

Great Lakes Valley Conference (13)

Drury University	University of Missouri-St. Louis
University of Illinois at Springfield	Quincy University
University of Indianapolis	Rockhurst University
Lewis University	Southwest Baptist University
Maryville University of Saint Louis	Truman State University
McKendree University	William Jewell College
Missouri University of Science and Technology	

Great Midwest Athletic Conference (14)

Ashland University	Northwood University
Cedarville University	Ohio Dominican University
University of Findlay	*Thomas More University
Hillsdale College	Tiffin University
Kentucky Wesleyan College	Trevecca Nazarene University
Lake Erie College	Ursuline College
Malone University	Walsh University

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

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**Lone Star Conference (15)**

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-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 (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	Shorter University
Auburn University at Montgomery	Union University
Christian Brothers University	Valdosta State University
Delta State University	University of West Alabama
Lee University	University of West Florida
Mississippi College	University of West Georgia
University of Montevallo	

Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (12)

Albany State University (Georgia)	Lane College
Benedict College	LeMoyne-Owen College
Clark Atlanta University	Miles College
*Edward Waters University	Savannah State University
Fort Valley State University	Spring Hill College
Kentucky State University	Tuskegee University

Sunshine State Conference (11)

Barry University	Nova Southeastern University
Eckerd College	Palm Beach Atlantic University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida)	Rollins College
Florida Institute of Technology	Saint Leo University
Florida Southern College	University of Tampa
Lynn University	

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

SOUTHEAST REGION**Conference Carolinas (13)**

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

King University
 Lees-McRae College
 University of Mount Olive
 University of North Carolina at Pembroke
 North Greenville University
 Southern Wesleyan University

Peach Belt Conference (9)

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

Lander University
 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
 *Emory & Henry College
 Lenoir-Rhyne University
 Limestone University

Lincoln Memorial University
 Mars Hill University
 Newberry College
 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 (10)

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

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	

* 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 [2022 and 2023 NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations Book](#) as well as the ones listed below.

REQUIRED (REGIONAL/SUPER REGIONALS)

Playing Area:

- Field must be compliant with NCAA rules.
- 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.
- Permanent fencing is recommended but not required. If temporary fencing is used, it must be compliant with NCAA rules.
- Vertical backstop (with no hood), outfield fences and permanent sideline fences must enclose the playing field.
- 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 30 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.
- Home and away bullpens must be similar in composition (same material as the pitching surface on the game field 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.
- It is highly recommended that hosts provide two bullpens or designated areas for both the home and away team.
- Foul poles must extend vertically upward at the point it intersects the home run fence. The foul pole must be optic orange or white.
- 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.
- Hosts must be able to accommodate all players wearing metal cleats.
- Host should have a designated seating area for coaches to scout games. The location of this area is the hosts decision.
- 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.

DIVISION II SOFTBALL

- 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.
- Locker rooms are not required. However, if the host team has a locker room, a comparable area must also be provided for the visiting teams or the host team may not use their locker room. Hosts must identify a permanent structure that all teams may use should weather delays occur. This may include classrooms, meeting rooms, common areas, etc. All teams should have access to these areas regardless of whether or not locker rooms are provided.
 - The following equipment must be provided to all teams during practice sessions and warmup on game day: two front-toss screens, balls for front toss, two tees and two buckets of balls.
 - If batting cage(s) are adjacent to one of the dugouts and can be used during the game, a sock net must be provided for the other dugout to use during the game. If the batting cage(s) is not adjacent to the dugout(s), a sock net should be provided near each dugout.

Athletic Training:

- Towels must be available for teams and umpires.
- Designate drug-testing area should championship be selected.
- Plain cups and coolers must be used or logos must be 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 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.

FINAL SITE

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 optic orange or white.

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 host team has a locker room, a comparable area must also be provided for the visiting teams or the host team may not use their locker room. Hosts must identify a permanent structure that all teams may use should weather delays occur. This may include: classrooms, meeting rooms, common areas, etc. All teams should have access to these areas regardless of whether or not locker rooms are provided. 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.
- 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. The following equipment must be provided to all teams during practice sessions and warmup on game day: one front-toss screen, balls for front toss, two tees and two buckets of balls.
 - During the participant call (prior to travel), the host may ask if this equipment is needed.
- If batting cage(s) are adjacent to one of the dugouts and can be used during the game, a sock net must be provided for the other dugout to use during the game. If the batting cage(s) is not adjacent to the dugout(s), a sock net should be provided near each dugout.
- Per NCAA rule, 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.
- Ice must be provided to all teams. A list of available modalities should be included in the host participant manual.

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 and personnel 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.

Appendix D • Bat Testing Information

BAT TESTING INFORMATION FOR COACHES IN THE NCAA POSTSEASON

Pre-Competition Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)

General Information

1. Pre-competition BCT will be conducted daily (competition days only) at all rounds and at all sites during the NCAA Softball Championship using the G4 SSL fixture.
2. Each team must have every bat that will be in a team area or on the field in the round tested during the pre-competition testing. There is no limit to the number of bats a team may have tested and bats may be added between testing days.
3. Coaches must bring a current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (hereafter referred to as “the List”) with their bat models highlighted to the testing site and have a daily copy in their dugout during each game for use by umpires.
4. Bat models must exactly match those on the List;
5. The bat testing manager will sticker each bat that passes BCT with an appropriate sticker for that round.
6. Bats that have not undergone BCT, and thus do not have the appropriate sticker, will not be permitted on the competition field or in team areas.

Testing Protocol

1. At each postseason site, at least one individual designated by the NCAA Championship Committee will conduct BCT as the bat testing manager (most likely the NCAA representative and/or a member of the NCAA Championship Committee) according to the protocol listed in Rule 5.2 of the 2022 and 23 NCAA Softball Rules Book.
2. The bat testing appointments and location will be determined by the site representative/tournament director.
3. Bats will be logged in on the NCAA-provided log sheet and tested each day before the team’s competition.
4. Each team must send a representative with its bats and its annotated List to witness the testing. This representative shall assemble the bats in order as they appear on the current List, record daily test results on the NCAA-provided bat log and take possession of the team’s annotated List after it’s competition by the bat testing manager.
5. BCT details: The bat is tested (test 1), removed from the machine, rotated 90 degrees and then tested again (test 2). If after the first two tests:
 - (1) The bat has two (2) pass results; the bat receives the appropriate sticker and is ready to be used in competition.
 - (2) The bat has one (1) pass result and one (1) fail result; the bat is removed from the machine and inspected for damage. If damage is found, the bat will be returned to the team as noted below. If none is found, the bat will be inserted into the machine, tested the third and final time, and that result shall be final.
 - (3) The bat has two (2) fails; the bat is surrendered to the testing team and sent to the equipment consultant at the end of the round for further analysis.

Following testing, the bat testing manager shall complete the summary box (lavender) on the first page of the team’s annotated List for use by the game umpires.

6. All bats surrendered to the bat testing manager will not be returned to the teams while on-site. Please note an exception exists for damaged (e.g., cracked, dented) bats which will be marked and may be returned to the team upon request following the team’s final game of the round.
7. Following the championships, additional testing will be conducted on the bats that failed BCT.

Post-competition Bat Compliance Testing

General Information

1. As in the past, two (2) bats will be selected and secured from each of the teams in the NCAA final game and from the six (6) WCWS teams failing to qualify for the final game for bat compliance testing in the Sport Science Lab at Washington State University.
2. Bats selected to be tested in the lab will be selected randomly, based on performance or based on what is currently in the NCAA bat data.
3. Bats will not be collected until the season has ended for the selected teams.
4. Results on bats sent to the lab, whether taken post-competition or for failing BCT, will take approximately three (3) months to obtain.
5. Bats that pass lab testing will be returned; however, bats that fail in the lab will remain surrendered and will not be returned.
6. Institutions, the bat manufacturers, the NCAA Softball Rules Committee and NCAA Championship Committee will receive notification of a bat model that fails in the lab.

BARREL COMPRESSION TESTING (BCT) APPENDIX INFORMATION FOR SITE REPRESENTATIVES AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Materials provided by

- Tournament director (host) -- BCT case with BCT fixture, calibration ring, stop stick, tape and Sharpie pen, and machine directions, table, three (3) chairs, weather protected location and testing schedule.
- Each team -- current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List with bats highlighted, all bats and representative for logging in bats and results.
- NCAA equipment consultant -- notebook with log sheets, envelopes with stickers separated by day and UPS return ship label.

BCT PROCESS FOR BAT TESTING MANAGERS

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

Regardless of who does the testing, the tournament director (host) is responsible for shipping the notebook with the completed NCAA-provided log sheets, unused stickers, and any bats that failed BCT to the equipment consultant NO LATER THAN THE NEXT DAY (excluding Sundays) UNLESS the site will host the next round. In that case, retain everything (including the subsequent round unused stickers mailed to you) until that subsequent round is completed.

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

The return shipping document for the notebook is provided but if a return label is needed for bats, email Dee Abrahamson a request. As teams complete competition in each round, they may request the return of their damaged and illegal bats.

Contact info for Dee Abrahamson: Cell: 815-751-2648, abrahamson@niu.edu, 498 Quinlan Ave., DeKalb, Illinois 60115.
Backup contact regarding machine or testing: Donna Martin cell 815-761-8626; dmartin1@niu.edu.