



**HOST  
OPERATIONS  
2025-26 MANUAL**

# Division II Softball

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## INTRODUCTION

This manual outlines the responsibilities of an institution/conference hosting this round of an NCAA championship. It is essential that each host institution/conference staff become familiar with the information and policies included in this manual.

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host institution/conference, competition site, committee and the NCAA. The primary objective of each individual involved in the administration of the championship shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, institutional staff member and championship attendee.

## DEFINITIONS

**Championship:** Postseason competition conducted by the NCAA in a particular sport, in which eligible student-athletes and teams of active member institutions compete to determine the division champion (or National Collegiate champion in sports that do not have a separate division championship) in that sport.

**Governing Sports Committee:** The NCAA membership committee responsible for developing policies and procedures governing the administration and conduct of the championship under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the applicable division's governance structure and the requirements, standards and conditions prescribed by NCAA Bylaw 31.

**Host Institution/Conference:** An active NCAA member institution and/or conference selected to serve as host for a championship. The host shall administer the finances of an NCAA championship in accordance with the institutional/conference championship budget, as submitted during the selection process and approved by the governing sports committee.

**Local Organizing Committee:** A local organization formed in the city where a member institution/conference proposes to host an NCAA championship, to provide to the NCAA services and assistance in connection with the various activities related to the championship. The host institution/conference must be a part of the leadership of the local organizing committee.

**NCAA Championships Manager:** The staff member(s) representing the NCAA championships and alliances staff assigned to serve as administrator(s) for a championship.

## ROLE OF NCAA

The NCAA championships and alliances staff, working in conjunction with the NCAA sport committees and other NCAA partners, will lead the planning efforts, management and execution of all NCAA championships and events. The NCAA will oversee all aspects of the championship and its related activities, including facility operations and space allocations, hotel accommodations, media and team operations, hospitality functions and social events, in venue entertainment, fan and sponsor events, broadcast programming, youth events, as well as many other aspects.

The NCAA will work closely with the host institution/conference, competition venue and local organizing committee to ensure that the championship provides a positive and rewarding experience for student-athletes and fans.

## ROLE OF GOVERNING SPORT COMMITTEE

The NCAA's core purpose, values and envisioned future provide the framework for all actions in the committee's administration of the championship and its stewardship of the game. Within the framework and spirit of its charge, the governing sport committee will balance the principle of student-athlete well-being with its efforts to maximize exposure for intercollegiate athletics and revenues from the championship through policies and activities that are subject to the final authority of the NCAA Divisions II Presidents Councils.

NCAA COMMITTEE AND STAFF

**2025-26 DIVISION II SOFTBALL COMMITTEE**

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# Section 1 • Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Products

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Beer, wine and prepackaged/premixed beverages (in the latter case, with alcohol by volume of not greater than 15%, such as most hard seltzers) may be sold and dispensed at NCAA Division I, II, and National Collegiate championship and ancillary events, provided that the host, venue and/or concessionaire:

- Comply with, and certifies in writing the compliance with, the NCAA Championship and Ancillary Event Alcohol Sales Policy, as amended by the NCAA from time to time, which addresses such matters as:
  - Permissible types of alcoholic beverages;
  - Eligibility for the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages;
  - Indemnity, warranty and insurance obligations; and
  - Verification.
- Agree to (i) keep and maintain, or cause its designated vendor or concessionaire to keep and maintain, complete and accurate records of all (a) alcohol-related incidents (e.g., expulsions, arrests) and (b) sales transactions related to the sale of concessions at the NCAA Championship and related ancillary events, including gross revenue, cost of goods, allocable overhead, and applicable taxes; (ii) no later than sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the event, provide the NCAA with a report setting forth in reasonable detail such information, together with the corresponding dates of transaction, including (a) alcohol-related revenue generated on each day of the event, (b) the direct cost of selling alcohol at the event (including the cost of goods), and (c) the indirect cost of selling alcohol at the event (including overhead and increased security needs at the event venue site); and (iii) permit the books, records, and accounts of host, venue and vendor/concessionaire pertaining to the sale of concessions at the event to be inspected, audited, and copied by NCAA or its agents at any time during normal business hours upon giving reasonable notice to host, venue and vendor/concessionaire.
- Agree to pay the NCAA an amount of twenty percent (20%) of the gross revenue generated from the sale of alcohol during the event (and any approved ancillary events), less the pro rata applicable sales tax and credit card fees (without deduction of any operating, costs of goods, indirect, or other expenses, such as overhead, marketing, fulfillment, general and administrative, interest, or other expenses), with such agreement to be reflected in a written agreement between the NCAA and the applicable parties (host, venue and/or concessionaire) executed prior to, or simultaneously with, the NCAA's official selection of the host for the applicable championship.
- Following the championship conclusion, provide the NCAA with certain information regarding the concessions activity—including gross sales, direct costs, and applicable taxes—for food, nonalcoholic beverages and alcoholic beverages sold during the event.
- Execute, as part of the bid submission, the applicable policy and agreement documents maintained in the NCAA Championships Bid Portal.

### General

The NCAA shall determine in its sole discretion whether alcohol will be sold or distributed at the ancillary events.

The venue, LOC/host and/or caterer shall be responsible for any permits unless otherwise directed by the NCAA.

Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags, signs) with commercial slogans or identification or other unauthorized markings are not permitted inside the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s), inside surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used, or outside on practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue property unless expressly approved in advance by the NCAA. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, T-shirts, caps, etc. (except products sold or authorized by the NCAA or its vendors) may not be distributed on these premises. Demographic or other studies may not be conducted unless approved in advance by the NCAA.

## **DIVISION II SOFTBALL**

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An economic impact study can be executed at an NCAA championship to examine the effect of the championship(s) on the local economy. In some cases, the NCAA will conduct an on-site study and will provide the data to the host once the study is completed. In other cases, the NCAA will support the hosts' efforts to execute a study. This can be done using the hosts' own approach/tools or the NCAA's Economic Impact Study "In-a-Box" tool."

### **TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Tobacco products shall not be advertised, sold or dispensed at any championship event sponsored by or administered by the NCAA. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the venue.

## Section 2 • Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title III prohibits private places of public accommodation (e.g., sports arenas) from discriminating against individuals with disabilities. The host institution/conference is required to confirm that each facility in which an NCAA championship or ancillary event occurs is in compliance with the ADA. The host institution/conference is responsible for determining if the competition site will be in compliance as of the dates of the championship. If the host institution/conference becomes aware that a competition site hosting an NCAA championship event will not be in compliance, it shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to discuss the issue.

If the host institution/conference receives a request for an accommodation, which may require input from the NCAA, the host institution/conference shall immediately notify the NCAA national office staff member with responsibility for the event in order to address the request.

## Section 3 • Awards

### CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

MTM, Inc., the NCAA national office awards supplier, will send official NCAA awards to the tournament manager approximately two weeks prior to the championship. The tournament manager will receive one national champion team trophy, 156 regional champion (bronze) team mini-trophies, 26 (silver) runner-up mini-trophies, 26 champion (gold) individual mini-trophies and 24 women's championship watches. When the awards arrive the tournament manager should inventory all awards to be sure they are undamaged, are correctly inscribed and are in the appropriate quantities. The awards boxes should then be retaped, closed and secured in a limited-access area.

No additional awards, unless otherwise approved by the championships manager, should be presented to the student-athletes and coaches of the participating teams.

### ELIMINATION GAME

A postgame ceremony will be conducted following the conclusion of each elimination game. Awards will not be presented during the ceremony. However, the eliminated team will be recognized for their participation by having their awards roster Appendix M read over the public address system. There will be 26 regional champion trophies given to the nonadvancing teams in a box as they depart the facility.

The only time the awards will be given out on the field is to the Championship team following the conclusion of play. The national championship team will receive one championship team trophy and 24 women's watches (two watches will be ordered and sent following the championship).

The host and committee need to ensure expectations related to the trophy presentations are communicated clearly to all participating teams and host site personnel (e.g., PA announcer, field crews). Hosts will be provided template scripts.

### CHAMPIONS LOCKER ROOM PROGRAM

The NCAA has partnered with select NCAA licensees to celebrate the national champions of each of the 90 NCAA championships. Each team champion shall receive a national champions T-shirt and hat to commemorate the experience of winning a national title. A detailed explanation of the logistics of the locker room program will be provided in championship specific section of the manual. However, listed below is a summary of steps that should be followed when implementing the locker room program at all final championship sites.

- The product is for team champions only. Individual championships are not a part of the locker room distribution.
- Please remove all hangtags and stickers (if needed) on the merchandise before being distributed.
- The merchandise should be distributed to the winning team only immediately after the handshake as soon as the game has officially concluded. Extra product (if any) should be given to the team's equipment manager.
- All winning team inquiries about obtaining additional locker room product should be directed to Jared Hunt with Event 1 for T-shirts ([jared.hunt@hanes.com](mailto:jared.hunt@hanes.com)) and Tyler Glines and Matt Boeke at Zephr for hats ([tyler.glines@blue84.com](mailto:tyler.glines@blue84.com) and [matt.boeke@blue84.com](mailto:matt.boeke@blue84.com)). Please contact David Clendenin, associate director of licensing, at the NCAA national office should you have any questions, [dclendenin@ncaa.org](mailto:dclendenin@ncaa.org) or 317-917-6496.

### ELITE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD

The NCAA Elite Scholar-Athlete award was created to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete 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 Elite 90 award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships. Award winners must meet certain criteria including being a sophomore or above, participating in their sport for at least two years at their school, being an active member of their team, and being a designated member of the squad size at their championship. The member school is responsible for submitting its student-athlete who has the highest GPA and meets all other requirements. Olivia Baumhoer or another member of the NCAA communications staff will determine the winner of this award for each championship and provide the name of the recipient to the NCAA championships manager. The

winner's name should not be released to the public until after the student-athlete is publicly recognized. If appropriate, the championships manager can share the information with the coach of the winning student-athlete to make sure of that person's attendance. However, coach should not inform the student-athlete. Baumhoer or a member of the NCAA communication staff will typically send a template of a release and the logo to the sports information director of the winner's school the morning of the announcement to allow the school to prepare. In addition, the information will be given to the NCAA social media staff to prepare a graphic which will post shortly after the announcement.

Each championship should provide an appropriate forum to adequately recognize and celebrate this award winner among student-athletes and fans of the championship. In addition, information about this award winner may be included in local press releases about the championship and in public address and/or video board announcements during the championship.

### **Award Presentation**

When determining the most appropriate time to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete award, the NCAA and host staff should evaluate the time and venue that will create the greatest impact and amount of exposure for the award winner while also appropriately honoring and celebrating the winner's accomplishments. The presentation should be semiformal in nature and not be rushed or overshadowed by other presentations or events surrounding it. In addition, the award winner should be visible, the announcement clearly audible and the award presentation should receive the full attention and respect of all of those in attendance. The standard award script is listed below:

*At this time, we would like to present the Elite Scholar-Athlete award. This award was instituted to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has 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 to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.*

*The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award for Division II Softball with a GPA of X.XXX in (major, is student-athlete and institution).*

### **Presentation at the Student-Athlete Banquet**

This award has traditionally been presented at the student-athlete banquet for most NCAA championships. In many cases the student-athlete banquet provides the best forum for the award presentation and greatest exposure for the winner as it is the one time when all championship participants and administrators are gathered in one place with a controlled, semiformal environment complete with a sound system and set program. Presenting at the student-athlete banquet also alleviates any potential conflicts with the winning student-athlete's participation in or preparation for an NCAA championship event. Guidelines for presentation of this award at the student-athlete banquet are:

- The award should be presented by either the banquet emcee, the NCAA committee chair or the NCAA championships manager.
- The award should be presented near the end of the program and be clearly recognizable as the premier award being given (see student-athlete banquet page for sample run of show).
- The award should be presented after attendees have had a chance to finish their meals.
- If video screens are available, the video slide or footage of the winning student-athlete provided by Van Wagner may be run as the individual is introduced.
- The coach of the winning student-athlete should be informed to help ensure the winner's attendance.
- If a photographer is at the student-athlete banquet or championship, a photo of the recipient receiving the award should be taken. This may be used in-venue during competition days to showcase the academic achievement of the student-athlete or provided to the student-athlete as a memento. The host sports information director should arrange to provide the winner's SID with a copy of the photo.
- If the award winner is recognized primarily at the student-athlete banquet, public address and video board announcements should be made whenever possible and applicable at the actual championship for additional exposure to fans who do not have access to the banquet.

### In-Venue Presentation

The NCAA and host staffs are encouraged to look for opportunities for the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winner to be presented their award in the championship venue during a time when most participants and fans are in attendance. While this may not be appropriate for championships that are spread out over multiple venues, large areas, or have multiple games in one day that disperses the crowd chronologically – it should be explored for championships in which the majority of fans are gathered during a predetermined time frame and can provide their undivided attention to the award presentation. The presentation must also not conflict in any way with the student-athlete's participation or preparation for the championship. Examples could be:

- In a championship with two semifinals played on one day, the award winner could be recognized during the semifinal in which the individual is participating, so that the school's fans are in attendance (video board and/or public address recognition).
- If the award winner is not participating or completes competition in the championship rounds of a sport but is still in attendance, the student-athlete may be recognized during breaks between events, weight classes, heats or during a scheduled break in the game.
- The award winner could be recognized during a scheduled opening or closing ceremony at which all participating student-athletes are in attendance and fans are encouraged to attend.

### Other In-Venue Recognition

If the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winner is not introduced live inside the competition venue, public address and/or video board announcements recognizing the winner should be played during the championship to recognize this individual. Van Wagner will provide the following standard PA announcement sometimes accompanied by a video board slide. The championships manager (or champs engagement representative) will need to provide Van Wagner the name of the winning individual and a headshot photo if a video board is used for the championship.

*The Elite Scholar-Athlete award, an award founded by the NCAA, recognizes the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the-pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The Elite Scholar-Athlete award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships.*

*The recipient of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award for the 2026 NCAA Division II Softball Championship, with a cumulative grade-point average of (list GPA) in (list Major of Study), is (list winner and school: Jane Doe of State University).*

### Press Release

On the day of/or prior to the winner of the Elite Scholar-Athlete award being publicly recognized, the NCAA communication staff will send out a template of a standard press release to the sports information director of the winner's school and to the NCAA championships administrator. For selected championships, a press release will be written by a member of the communications or media coordination staff and be provided to national media by the NCAA public relations. If appropriate, this press release may also be provided to the host for distribution to local media.

### Social Media

The NCAA twitter account will promote the winners after the on-site announcement has been made. Olivia Baumhoer will work with social media staff members to make sure they have the appropriate information, including photo to make the graphic and the timing of when to post. The host or NCAA championships manager should ensure a photo of the presentation is taken and email to [socialmedia@ncaa.org](mailto:socialmedia@ncaa.org).

For more information on the Elite Scholar-Athlete award winners, log on to [ncaa.org/elitescholarathlete](http://ncaa.org/elitescholarathlete).

# Section 4 • Bands/Spirit Rules

## ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS

Artificial noisemakers of any kind including but not limited to, air horns, electronic instruments, inflatable noisemakers, etc., are not permissible. Facility personnel are responsible for confiscating prohibited items at the entrance points or removing such items from the facility. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification, but they shall not be used as a distraction.

## DESIGNATED AREAS

Bands, spirit squads and mascots must remain in an area designated by the tournament director with the approval of the committee. Use tape to designate the boundaries for spirit squad. Bands should be seated in comparable areas of the competition site. Place bands so as not to interfere with spectators, photographers or participants, subject to the approval of the committee liaisons.

## MUSIC

The host institution is responsible for providing pregame music. Music should be clean and free of any profanity and is subject to approval of the NCAA site representative.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The “Star-Spangled Banner” (anthem) shall be played before the first game of each session.

When international NCAA member institution(s) are competing:

- The international NCAA member institution(s) national anthem should be played before the American national anthem; and
- The international NCAA member institution(s) national flag should be hung at the same height and displayed in a similar location, where possible.

**Order of Pregame Anthem & Team Introductions** (regionals and super regionals).

- **If a color guard is available, use the following order for pregame protocol:**
  - On-field team introductions;
  - Color guard presentation;
  - International NCAA member institutions(s) national anthem (*if international NCAA member institution(s) competing*); and
  - National anthem.
- **If no color guard will be present, use the following order for pregame protocol:**
  - On-field team introductions;
  - International NCAA member institutions(s) national anthem (*if international NCAA member institution(s) competing*); and
  - National anthem.

## Section 5 • Banquets

To celebrate and welcome all participating student-athletes and championship personnel at the final site, the host may provide a banquet (or other student-athlete recognition event). The number of guests, financial assistance provided by the NCAA and total budget shall be determined after consultation with the NCAA staff. NCAA corporate champions, partners or official equipment suppliers may receive approval to sponsor the banquet, but no local sponsors are permitted. Officials should not be included in this or any social event including the participating coaches and student-athletes. Per NCAA policy, student-athlete banquets (or other celebratory events) are not permitted at preliminary-round sites.

The NCAA may provide a video featuring the teams and student-athletes advancing to the final site depending on the amount of footage available and cost of obtaining. If practical, the NCAA staff will request the video from the NCAA games presentation team and inform the host.

The host will be responsible for coordinating all other details and logistics of the banquet including location, emcee, speakers, transportation, catering, A/V equipment, a printed program, etc., in consultation with the NCAA staff. The exact run of show and presentations included can be altered slightly to accommodate the number of student-athletes, teams and guests present as well as unique venue, sport or local elements. However, the run of show listed below and the 90-minute time frame should be used as a guiding template. Please note, that a 60-minute event is ideal, and the event should not last longer than 90 minutes.

Words of reflection or invocation are not required but may be included at NCAA student-athlete banquets. The NCAA supports a flexible policy which allows each host to follow the traditions and protocols of their university. If included, any words of reflection or invocation should be respectful and inclusive of all.

### Run of Show

- 6:30 p.m. Greet teams and student-athletes, direct to tables or attractions (emcee or NCAA chair)
- Soft A/V presentation (e.g., music, slideshow of participating teams and student-athletes, NCAA tribute video, DII branding video - optional)
- 6:45 p.m. Welcome/comments to student-athletes and guests from the event emcee and/or a city/host institution representative
- 6:50 p.m. Dinner buffet lines open or plated dinner served
- 7:20 p.m. Guest Speaker (optional)
- 7:40 p.m. Comments by Head Coaches or Q&A with selected student-athletes (optional)
1. Team 1
  2. Team 2
  3. Team 3
  4. Team 4
- 7:50 p.m. Comments by the NCAA committee chair and the presentation of Elite 90 Award
- Championship Video (if available)
- 7:55 p.m. Closing Comments (emcee with talking points from NCAA or NCAA chair)

*\*Comments by head coaches may not be practical at some championships, especially those with a large number of teams or individual qualifiers.*

## Best Practices

While the guidelines above provide a standard framework for the student-athlete banquet, the event should be tailored to suit the needs, size and unique aspects of the championship. The purpose of the event is to congratulate, celebrate and welcome all participating student-athletes to the NCAA championship and the host community.

The most successful NCAA student-athlete banquets have often been enhanced by unique venues, décor, interactive features, program enhancements or keepsake items that showcase the uniqueness of the host city or region and their excitement to host the NCAA championship. The NCAA will rely on the creativity of the host for development of these items. The formality of the event, attendee attire, appropriate number and type of speakers, level of interaction between student-athletes, etc., varies from sport to sport. The NCAA championship manager can help advise the host on sport specific nuances.

The host will assume the lead production role for the student-athlete banquet, but should seek the advice and approval of the NCAA championship manager on such items as location, budget, timing, final run of show, speaker, menu, giveaway items (some may be provided free of charge by NCAA official equipment suppliers) and additional enhancements. Some past student-athlete banquet enhancements that have been well received are listed below. Please note, however, that the potential impact of all possible banquet enhancements on student-athletes should be weighed against appropriateness, available budget and other needs of the overall championship.

## Sample Enhancements

- Unique venue – a skybox club overlooking the host school’s football stadium; a historical or cultural center; an aquarium or museum where brief tours can be incorporated into the programming; an iconic restaurant, theater or arena in the area; a beach party setting; etc.
- Slideshow – before and/or after the formal presentation, a slideshow of participating team or student-athlete images is shown on video boards or mixed with NCAA branding messages (host would be responsible for collecting images from the NCAA ftp site or from schools).
- Speakers – relevance to the participating student-athletes is the most important factor. Former NCAA champions or graduating student-athletes who went on to professional or Olympic fame in the given sport are ideal; however, other options available at no or little expense to the host should be explored as some speakers transcend their sport or profession. Examples of previous speakers include: Todd Martin – Tennis, Dot Richardson – Softball, President of the USGA – Golf, Bill Belichick – Lacrosse (Boston), ESPN personalities, comedians, motivational speakers, well-known football or basketball coaches at the host institution, etc.
- Photo opportunities – opportunities for teams or individuals to pose for a photo in front of a championship backdrop (possibly with the championship trophy) or in conjunction with unique or iconic elements of the area (e.g., with giant hanging shark in Florida, with longhorn steer in Texas, in winners circle at Churchill Downs, overlooking city skyline, football stadium).
- Favors unique to the sport or area – examples include: mini soccer balls, mini lacrosse sticks, baseball shaped cheese – Wisconsin, make-your-own beach flip flops – Florida; please check with your championship manager regarding budget, appropriateness and possibility of items provided by official equipment suppliers before pursuing.
- Special entrances for student-athletes – red carpet into venue, spotlights, limos, local youth teams wearing team colors or with pom poms/signs to greet the student-athletes.
- Band/DJ/Interactive Games – are generally only appropriate in more informal settings with numerous teams of both genders, relaxed time constraints, fun atmosphere, etc.
- Event 1/Championship merchandise – sales booth or display area with order forms on-site.

### Coaches' Association Award Guidelines

The primary purpose of NCAA student-athlete banquets is to honor, celebrate and welcome participating student-athletes in a concise and entertaining manner. Coaches' association awards and other presentations not directly related to the championship itself may be considered for inclusion if they are in the best interest of the attending student-athletes:

- The presentation should be relevant and provide a significant enhancement to the banquet programming for the student-athletes (awards or speakers which have limited relation to the championship or significance to the student-athletes will detract from their enjoyment and the attention they pay to other programming).
- The presentation should be brief (in most cases it should be limited to 5-10 minutes, but should never exceed 30 minutes).
- Awards presented should be limited to those presented to participating student-athletes and coaches or those which have some special significance to the student-athletes in attendance.
- The presentation should be secondary in significance and placement in the programming to any official NCAA championship presentations.
- If these conditions are not met, other championship related platforms should be explored by the NCAA to assist the coaches' association.
- All final decisions on inclusion of coaches' association awards, other presentations, scripts and presenters should be made by the NCAA staff with the best interest and overall experience of the student-athlete in mind. If these conditions are not met, other championship related platforms should be explored by the NCAA to assist the coaches' association.
- NCAA staff may call on leadership team members to assist in delivering and explaining the specific decisions to the coaches' association as needed.

Officials shall NOT be included in any social event involving the participating coaches or players.

# Section 6 • Broadcasting/Internet

Please go to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media) for information regarding broadcast/internet rights.

# Section 7 • Championship Presentation/Fan Engagement

## BRANDING

### Ancillary Events

The NCAA prohibits host institutions/conferences from conducting special ancillary entertainment activities for fans in conjunction with the championship. Should another entity (e.g., convention and visitor's bureau) elect to stage such activities, the following policies shall apply:

- All plans must be approved in advance by the NCAA.
- NCAA marks, logos, name or references to the championship or tickets may not be used.
- No activity connected with the championship may be sponsored by an entity that is not an NCAA Corporate Champion/Corporate Partner (CC/P).
- Such an activity may not take place on property controlled by the competition venue.

No entity may contact NCAA CC/Ps directly. All such contact shall be directed through the NCAA staff.

### Logos

The NCAA owns and controls all rights and interests in its name, logo, seal, trademarks and service marks. Use of these marks is prohibited without advance written approval by the NCAA. Host institutions/conferences should review information outlined in NCAA Bylaw 31.6.1. Only official NCAA Corporate Champions/Partners (CC/Ps) and licensees are permitted to use NCAA marks and logos in commercial advertising and promotions, unless written approval is provided by NCAA Marketing. All and any proposed commercial advertising and promotions, if not by a CC/Ps, must be reviewed by NCAA Marketing staff prior to approval and production.

### Game Presentation

NCAA championship hosts are required to utilize NCAA provided public address announcer scripts, run-of-shows and video board content. Host and participating team messaging or video board content is not allowed. This includes promotion of upcoming events at the championship site, recognitions, and sponsorships. Any enhancements that you'd like to propose for the event must be approved in advance by the championship staff manager.

### Public Address and Text Board Scripts

The public address announcer scripts allow game management/game presentation to keep the flow of the championship moving through the communication of important information to those in attendance. Communicate with your NCAA championship manager to secure a timing sheet, PA script and run of show for the championship event you are hosting.

### Video Boards

The NCAA will provide video board content to sites that have such capabilities. The video board content is important to the overall championship experience for student-athletes and those in attendance. Please work directly with your NCAA championship liaison to identify if there is a Van Wagner producer assigned to you (final sites) or if content should be downloaded from the Van Wagner box site directly (preliminary rounds).

Questions related to video board content logistics should be directed to:

Brandon Anthony – Senior Producer  
Van Wagner  
Telephone: 925-354-5721  
Email: [banthony@vanwagner.com](mailto:banthony@vanwagner.com)

## IN-VENUE ENTERTAINMENT

NCAA championship hosts are encouraged to explore in-venue entertainment options during the championship to keep fans engaged, excited, and to enhance the atmosphere for both the fans and student-athletes. Various potential areas of in-venue entertainment and the guidelines associated with them are shared below. Please discuss any forms of in-venue entertainment you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person for approval.

### Break in Action Contests or Promotions

Hosts should consider continuing nonsponsored regular season halftime/quarter break/timeout contests and promotions or creating new, unbiased/nonsponsored promotions to use during NCAA championships. Entertainment can also include local performance groups or youth scrimmages. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- Must not include any commercial recognition (unless approved/provided by an NCAA corporate champion, partner or official equipment supplier and signed off by a member of the NCAA Corporate Relations staff).
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- Must not negatively impact the championship playing surface in any way.
- No links or resemblance to gambling.
- Participants must be randomly selected.
- No bias toward or against any participating team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the contest or promotion.
- NCAA championship merchandise purchased by the host (e.g., extra volunteer apparel, committee or contributor gifts, items or certificates purchased from Event 1) make good prizes for these contests as prizes with commercial recognition would not be permitted.

### National Anthem Singers

Hosts are encouraged to explore their resources to bring in local, regional, or even nationally recognized celebrities or groups to sing the national anthem (e.g., recording artists with strong local ties, military, local individuals, choir groups or bands). Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- No bias toward or against any participating team (e.g., performers should not wear the apparel of a participating team).
- Performances should not come at a cost and will not be reimbursed by the NCAA.
- A brief description and “thank you” for the performing group or individual may be incorporated into the script, but no commercial recognition, sponsorship, sales or recruitment messages should be included.
- Anthem should take two minutes or less to perform, however please build extra time into the script for introduction and placement of the color guard (if applicable).
- Highly recommend a pre-event rehearsal with the performer(s) and others involved.

### Enhanced Team Introductions

Examples of this could include using special music, smoke machines, flame units, on-field fireworks, team banners/flags, inflatable tunnels, youth athletes forming a tunnel or holding hands with student-athletes as they are introduced, etc. Guidelines and ideas for consideration:

- No bias toward or against any participating team and should be equally executed for all participating teams.
- Must fit safely within given time constraints with no chance of interfering with the competition.
- Must be appropriate and in good taste.
- Should be discussed with the NCAA point person in advance.

### **Musical Entertainment**

Participating school bands will be scheduled into the overall championship presentation when they are available. When they are not, the host institution marching band, other school bands or local bands may be appropriate for entertainment during pregame, halftime or other breaks in the action or for greeting fans in the stadium entrance or other congregating area.

### **Affiliated Award Recognitions**

If appropriate, award winners for the given sport who are in attendance but not competing at the time of the scheduled recognition may be awarded on field during NCAA championships (e.g., Elite 90 award, coaches' association player of the year). Please consult with the NCAA point person to determine appropriateness. Sponsored awards should not be incorporated without approval from an NCAA Corporate Relations staff member.

### **Military Involvement**

Military involvement in NCAA championships may include national anthem or break performances (military singer, instrumentalist, or band), color guard, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, etc. Please work with the NCAA Corporate Relations and Game Presentation team to finalize military involvement, as some elements may be influenced by partnership agreements. *Please see Military Involvement below for full description and guidelines.*

## **MILITARY INVOLVEMENT**

The NCAA is supportive of inviting the military to participate at NCAA championships if their involvement enhances the championship experience for student-athletes and fans while at the same time honoring the military in an appropriate and unobtrusive manner. At many NCAA championships, local or national military groups have been arranged by the host to perform pregame, during halftime or other breaks in the action. These performances have included, but are not limited to: national anthem performances (military singer, instrumentalist or band), color guard, presentation of large flags, fly-overs, parachute teams, precision drill teams, eagle releases, reunions of troops returning from overseas with their families, honorary recognitions, etc. Please discuss any forms of military involvement which you would recommend with your NCAA staff point person who would in turn discuss with the NCAA Corporate Relations and Game Presentation teams as some elements may be influenced by partnership agreements.

### **Guidelines**

- Involvement from military groups often requires substantial government paperwork. Fly-overs and parachute jumps will also require FAA approval to be handled by the host. Please allow adequate lead time to coordinate.
- Host connections with local military bases may be more cost-effective in arranging military involvement
- No messages about military recruitment should be incorporated into on-field performances.
- General messages paying tribute to all military personnel and thanking the particular military unit which has performed are encouraged (e.g., "Let's give a big round of applause for tonight's performance from the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band... and for all of the American military service personnel who they proudly represent.").
- Request for any type of presence on-site (e.g., booth space, interactive elements, inflatables, giveaway items or space within an NCAA fan festival) is not permitted unless discussed with your NCAA point person who would in turn discuss with the NCAA corporate relationships team.
- Campus and venue rules must be considered when developing the presentation.
- Please discuss with your NCAA point person if providing complimentary access to watch the championship before or after their presentation is appropriate and possible.
- When several military groups are in attendance and recognized during one game/session of a multiday championship, you may want to consider a theme night "Military Appreciation Day/Night." This should be discussed with your NCAA point person. Marketing should also be involved if you do a theme night.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE RED CARPET ARRIVALS/TEAM WALKS

At many NCAA championships, a red-carpet arrival or team walk featuring the participating teams and their band and/or cheer squads can be a significant fan enhancement. A red-carpet arrival/team walk allows fans to feel a greater connection with the student-athletes through brief personal interaction that provides lasting memories for young fans and may help create a greater overall impression of the championship for both fans and participating student-athletes, if conducted properly. Listed below are some elements to consider before deciding to conduct a red-carpet arrival/team walk, a list of guidelines for a red-carpet arrival/team walk, and a checklist of items needed for the event.

### Elements to Consider

- Number of fans – will there be an adequate number of fans to support a red-carpet arrival/team walk and make it a positive experience for the participating student-athletes.
- Timing and location – is there a time and place available in which there will be an adequate number of fans, space and the event will not conflict with the student-athletes' preparation for or participation in the championship (e.g., before each semifinal match concludes, during a highly attended ancillary event surrounding the championship or only before the championship game).
- Equitable participation – will all participating teams have equal opportunities to participate (it is permissible to have a red-carpet arrival/team walk only on championship night with the two final teams only versus semifinal day and championship day).
- Team's experience – this should be a positive experience for all participating student-athletes, and it should not interrupt their team's normal schedule for a competition. It should be communicated to the team's that a 5-15-minute window between teams is needed. Depending on the schedule of the teams you can predetermine the arrival times or if they do not have any other commitments prior to the arrival at the venue, you can allow the teams to pick their arrival time as long as they are between the 5- and 15-minute window of separation, giving them more control of their schedule and not interrupting their normal game day routine.
- Fan's experience – consider the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walks for the fans as well. Consider using one of the main entrances or going through a fan fest location (if applicable) to the venue so that even if they did not know a red carpet/team walk event was happening, they still might see it and participate.
- Visibility and promotion – is the red-carpet arrival/team walk in a place that will be highly visible and accessible to all fans and/or can it be adequately promoted through social media, NCAA.com, e-blast, push notifications and/or signage? Ask each participating team to send out the red-carpet arrival/team walk times to their ticket holders and on their social media platforms as well.
- Timing of buses – Consider the route that the buses will need to drive in order to arrive on the correct side of the street and the time it will take them to get from the hotel to the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk.

### Guidelines

- The host staff will have primary responsibility for coordinating and managing the red-carpet arrivals/team walk, as well as all staff, volunteer, equipment and logistical needs associated with them.
- The host staff should work with the NCAA staff point person to determine if red carpet arrival(s) or team walk(s) are appropriate, for advice, approval, look and collateral.
- The host should arrange for a walkthrough of the event with the NCAA point person as well as security, the facility rep, bus drivers, team hosts the event sponsor and/or fire marshal when appropriate.
- If a team has a band and/or spirit squad, communicate to the team that they should also participate in the red-carpet arrivals/team walks. If only one team has a band, ask the other team for a copy of their fight song to play over a speaker, if sound is available at the red-carpet arrival/team walk area.
- Select a time when the most fans can be accommodated and student-athletes will be least inconvenienced, consider what time the venue opens to the fans and what time the teams would normally choose to arrive.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

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- Student-athletes should wear game apparel or matching team issued warmup gear.
- Student-athletes should be escorted by staff, volunteers or security to the security check-in area or their locker room.
- Red carpet arrivals/team walks should have stanchions or barricades to create a safe environment for the student-athletes. Security should also be considered.
- No local sponsorship of student-athlete red carpet arrivals/team walks will be permitted.
- A sound system which can be used in conjunction with the red-carpet arrivals/team walks can be effective in communicating which team is arriving, providing fans with additional championship events and for keeping fans entertained with music and/or team statistics.

### Checklist

- Carpet – red, blue or black are all acceptable if the venue has one of these colors on hand, otherwise rent red carpet when the budget allows. Carpet is always preferred, but not essential to making this a successful event.
- Stanchions or other form of a barrier between the student-athletes and fans.
- Red carpet arrival/team walk sign or entrance way (e.g., balloon arch), if appropriate.
- Staff or volunteers.
- Security, if appropriate.
- Lighting elements if it is going to be dark out, depending on the time of the arrivals.
- Tents over the carpet if it is raining, unless the location of the red-carpet arrivals/team walk is already under a covered location, consider cancelation plan (notifying the teams and fans if the weather is not conducive to hold the red-carpet arrivals/team walk).
- Announcements for emcee – instructional, NCAA branding, NCAA corporate champion or partner recognition, team stats, if appropriate.
- Radios or cell phone numbers for communication. Essential for either the team host or bus driver to notify someone at the red-carpet arrival/team walk location of the arrival time changes, if appropriate.
- Other entertainment (e.g., DJ/music, local drum line) to keep fans entertained before and in-between team arrivals, if appropriate.

# Section 8 • Commercialism/Contributors

## SPACE REQUIREMENTS

**Activation of Corporate Champion and Corporate Partner Program.** The NCAA may request/require that certain areas of the competition site be made available for use by NCAA Corporate Champions or Corporate Partners (CC/Ps) for the purpose of marketing/promotional events/activities. If such requests are made, the host institution will provide requested space or similar accommodations.

**Local Organizing Committee Hospitality.** If approved by the NCAA, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has the option to host specified events during the championship. Commercial identification of any kind at any LOC function is prohibited unless specifically approved by the NCAA. The NCAA must approve all uses of NCAA logos, names, or other graphics (including school logos). The LOC shall submit detailed proposals (e.g., location, date, time, food and beverage, entertainment, budget), to the NCAA for review and approval at least 60 days in advance of the event. Any such events conducted are conducted at the LOC's expense.

**Other Functions.** To enhance the experience for participating institutions, fans, and alumni during NCAA championships, the NCAA (in conjunction with a third-party agency) may facilitate an official hospitality program in or outside of the competition site.

## PREMIUMS GUIDELINES

Competition Venue shall provide to the NCAA a set of guidelines, similar to those outlined below, that identify items that are not permitted in the venue no fewer than 120 days prior to the first NCAA championship related event. The NCAA will then utilize and share that information with its NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners.

**Laser Pointers.** Laser pointers of any kind are not allowed.

**Noisemakers.** Artificial noisemakers of any kind including but not limited to, air horns, electronic instruments, inflatable noisemakers, etc., are not permissible. Facility personnel are responsible for confiscating prohibited items at the entrance points or removing such items from the facility. Megaphones may be used for voice amplification, but they shall not be used as a distraction.

**Promotional Items.** Promotional items (e.g., cups, shakers, flags) with commercial slogans or identification are not allowed on the premises. Items such as newspapers, handbills, flyers, memorabilia, T-shirts, caps, etc., except products sold/distributed by the NCAA or its agents, may not be distributed on the premises.

**Signs, Flags, Banners.** Large signs, flags or banners are not permissible. It is the facility personnel's responsibility to confiscate all prohibited articles. Items that can be held by one individual, reflect good sportsmanship and do not block the view of other ticketed patrons may be permitted. In no case may a sign, flag or banner be affixed to the facility.

**Video Camera/Still Camera Policies.** Ticketed patrons shall not bring video equipment into the facility on game days. Still cameras with a lens no longer than four inches are permissible on any day.

## NCAA CORPORATE CHAMPION AND CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM

The NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners Program (i.e., corporate sponsors of the NCAA), managed by the NCAA along with TNT Sports and CBS Sports, authorizes the exclusive rights to license NCAA trademarks, tickets and taglines in commercial promotions with respect to the NCAA championships.

The host shall not solicit or permit involvement by any corporations or entities whose products may be in competition with any of the NCAA corporate champions or corporate partners. All proposed commercial involvement must receive prior approval of the NCAA.

NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners are dedicated to emphasizing the role of athletics in higher education, support all NCAA Championships and are granted a wide variety of benefits, including certain category exclusivity around use of NCAA logos, trademarks, designations and championship tickets.

For more information and a current list of corporate champions and partners, please click on the following link:  
[NCAA Corporate Champions & Partners](#)

### LOCAL CONTRIBUTOR PROGRAM

Currently, local non-CCP corporate entities are not permitted to utilize the NCAA's registered marks, logos, tickets, name or references to the championship in a promotional/commercial manner. If a host institution/conference has an interest in using value-in-kind contributors, the contributor plan must be approved in advance by the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff. The LOC is permitted to involve a local contributor in the championship only as a sponsor of LOC activities or as a ticket package purchaser (pending NCAA approval of said local entities and approval of the arrangement).

Local contributors may only be referred to as "local contributors of the LOC." Local contributors may not use the word "official," "official sponsor of" or "corporate champion/partner" in any manner. Local contributors will not receive any in-venue or on-site recognition/branding/exposure, with the exception of small signage in private hospitality locations; in the souvenir (print or digital) game program, and/or additional digital advertisement space. In being recognized, these local contributors must be referenced as supporters of the local organizing committee, and not of the NCAA. Any recognition, branding and/or exposure creative must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for review and approval.

Local contributors may be provided an opportunity to purchase an advertisement in the souvenir game program, provided the corporation is not a competitor of any NCAA Corporate Champion. All advertisements must be submitted to the NCAA Corporate Relationships staff for advance approval. As noted above, local contributors who purchase an NCAA-approved ticket package may not receive recognition of any kind without the advanced approval of the NCAA staff.

### NCAA TRADEMARKS

*NOTE: These general guidelines do not include merchandise designs. All product designs must be submitted through the NCAA's licensing program administered by The Collegiate Licensing Company. Inquiries should be directed to the NCAA licensing staff.*

1. ALL uses of NCAA trademarks or logos must be submitted to the NCAA for approval.
2. Downloads of NCAA logos may be obtained through the [NCAA Digital Library](#).
3. The NCAA's position on inclusion of ® and ™ marks is first and most prominent use.

The location of the trademark and how it is used is the primary factor in determining if a trademark symbol should be included in text. If the protected logo location is prominent and the primary focus on the page or product design, an ® or ™ in the text is not necessary. However, if the logo location is placed lower on the page or is secondary to the message being delivered, an ® or ™ in the text or header (first use only) should be inserted.

In the case of NCAA Women's Final Four, an ® is required after NCAA and after Women's Final Four. The NCAA owns "NCAA" and "Women's Final Four", but "NCAA Women's Final Four" is not a registered mark in itself: NCAA® Women's Final Four®.

To further expand, if the NCAA primary logo, which displays the registered mark, is used in a prominent position; NCAA Women's Final Four would require an R-ball only after the Four because the NCAA has already been identified as a registered mark. NCAA Women's Final Four®.

4. In radio and television advertising, NCAA should only be pronounced as N-C-A-A or N-C-double-A. It should not be referenced as "N-C-two-A" or in any other fashion.
5. Official names cannot be changed or abbreviated unless specifically trademarked (Final 4, F4).
6. There may be no registration of or use of NCAA marks within internet domain names unless advance approval from the NCAA is secured and ownership of the URL is maintained by the NCAA. Such use of NCAA marks in Internet directories is prohibited; however, members may use an NCAA mark within a member URL, provided such NCAA mark does not appear in the domain name portion of the URL. By way of example, members may use the following URL: [memberx.edu/ncaa](http://memberx.edu/ncaa).

### Identification of Commercially Named Venues on NCAA Materials

- For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the location of an NCAA championship, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships can be printed, in text-only, on any and all pertinent materials bearing NCAA marks (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics).
- The logo of a commercially named venue cannot be used on any materials bearing NCAA logos or trademarks.
- The venue's name and information (without use of logos) will also be included on the dedicated website that the NCAA will provide to sell tickets.

### NCAA Logo Use by Commercially Named Venues

For the purposes of providing information about and promoting the sale of NCAA tickets, the venue/competition site of any round of NCAA championships is permitted to display (subject to NCAA approval of the graphics) the championship site-specific logo as recognition of the event being held in its facility. The NCAA logo must be in the form of a link to a dedicated web page that will be established and/or assigned by the NCAA championship administrator to sell the NCAA tickets.

The following conditions apply to this NCAA logo use:

- The NCAA championship site-specific logo can be used by the venue to communicate the NCAA event as one of the variety of upcoming events at the facility. The NCAA logo must be used only once and only as a part of a group of other logos of events being held at the venue.
- The one-time logo use is limited to the site's "home web page" or "event web page."
- The NCAA logo must be placed in a location on the venue's web page so that there is clear and defined separation between the NCAA logo and any other commercial logos (including that of the commercially named venue). [This is because NCAA Corporate Champions/Corporate Partners and WBD/CBS have graphic exclusivity in the use of NCAA logos and marks.] Logos of the venue's or the website's advertisers/sponsors may be used on the home/event web page even with the NCAA's championship site-specific logo on the same page if those commercial entities are clearly separated from the NCAA logo (e.g., are on a different colored background and are located at the bottom of the website page).
- The venue is not permitted to claim to be "the home," a host or co-host of any session of the NCAA championship.
- The logo provided by the NCAA championship staff cannot be modified in any way.
- ALL uses of NCAA logos must be submitted to the NCAA staff for approval.

### NCAA Trademarked Protection Language

NCAA trademarks benefit from consistent "source identification" to the public through basic legal language attributing ownership.

The legal statement should be used on "printed" materials of all types for all NCAA trademarks, except where there is agreement by key staff stakeholders that aesthetic or space limitations prevent legal language. The legal statement is NOT required when the NCAA blue disk or the word NCAA is used alone and part of NCAA-produced materials without any of the conditions below.

- Printed items that display logos of other business entities/organizations (i.e., corporate champions/corporate partners, network partners, official suppliers, official licensees, local organizing committees and NCAA members).
- Printed items that are produced to be "used" by other business entities/organizations including NCAA members and host institutions.
- Printed items produced for advertisement/promotional purposes (i.e., magazine and newspaper ads, NCAA souvenir publication ads, posters, newsletters).

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

The NCAA requires protection language as outlined below. This does not have to be prominently displayed language and is expected to be included as some form of “mouse print.”

The examples below are written only to represent the most typical examples. If you are unsure of exact wording for a specific example, please contact Ashley Murray at [amurray@ncaa.org](mailto:amurray@ncaa.org) or 317-917-6349.

For blue disc and/or secondary (word) mark, please use:

- NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark, please use (for example):

- NCAA and March Madness are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.
- NCAA, NCAA Sweet Sixteen and Road to the Final Four are trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For blue disc/secondary marks plus another NCAA trademark used with other authorized business entities, please use (for example):

- The NCAA, March Madness, Men’s Final Four and Women’s Final Four are trademarks owned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

### NCAA Licensed Trademarks

College World Series and Women’s College World Series: The NCAA is the exclusive licensee of these marks, registered by Major League Baseball, in connection with the NCAA Division I Men’s Baseball Championship and the Division I Women’s Softball Championship.

All other licenses or trademarks are property of their respective holders.

### Helpful Links

[The NCAA’s Advertising and Promotional Standards](#)  
[NCAA Trademarks](#)  
[NCAA Trademark Protection Program](#)  
[NCAA Digital Library](#)  
[NCAA Corporate Champions and Corporate Partners](#)

## OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS/LICENSEE SUPPLIERS

The NCAA licensing program is designed to ensure the quality and consistency of all of the NCAA’s Championship Event merchandise, protect the intellectual property of the NCAA and our member schools, and generate revenue to enhance programs that support NCAA student-athletes.

Any premiums and/or other merchandise that bear NCAA marks, brackets, taglines or other NCAA references must be produced by an official NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier. There may be royalties or other related costs associated with such items. If the NCAA is unable to identify a current NCAA Licensee or NCAA Official Equipment Supplier to provide a specific piece of merchandise, the NCAA will work to sublicense (on a short-term basis) a company that can provide the specific item.

For a list of NCAA licensees and official equipment suppliers, visit [ncaa.org/championships/marketing/ncaa-official-licensee-list](http://ncaa.org/championships/marketing/ncaa-official-licensee-list).

## ADVERTISING/SIGNS/“LOOK AND DÉCOR”

- Advertising/Banners/Signs/Displays.** The host shall not permit advertising, marketing identification, banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the general public seating/viewing area of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) (i.e., any place that can be seen from the playing surface or seats), including the scoreboard and the playing surface prior to or during the conduct of the championships, other than NCAA, media partner or NCAA corporate champion/partner branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scoreboards, LED scorer’s table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements) approved by the NCAA. Any permanently affixed (or previously leased) advertising banners, signs, cup holders, select equipment

bearing corporate marks (e.g., TVs, computer monitors, stats monitors or displays), product/exhibit displays (e.g., car displays, branding exhibits/kiosks) shall be covered with décor elements or other NCAA directed elements by the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) and at the expense of the venue(s) as specified by the NCAA, including costs of production and installation and strike. Similarly, for any surrounding areas/facilities that are to be used by the NCAA for official events, no advertising, marketing, identification, banners, signs, decals, sampling, distribution or displays of any kind shall be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within those areas unless authorized by the NCAA. All professional signage/marks/pennants/banners/retired numbers/etc. may continue to be displayed. NCAA staff representatives have the discretion, during their site visit or when on-site in advance of the tournament, to have the building staff remove a sign/banner. Collegiate championship banners or those with retired numbers of collegiate performers can remain. All usage of marks must follow NCAA brand guidelines and must be approved by NCAA staff in advance.

- b. **Alcohol/Tobacco/Gambling.** All alcohol, tobacco and gambling advertisements/corporate identification within broadcast view or viewable by game attendees in the competition venue bowl must be covered at the expense of the host or venue. Any alcohol, tobacco or gambling advertising that is deemed by the NCAA as not viewable from within the bowl does not need to be covered, whether in the concourse or in ancillary venues. All other advertisements/corporate identification in the noted areas must, at a minimum, not be backlit unless otherwise authorized by the NCAA. This would apply to preliminary rounds and the championship rounds for all the NCAA's 90 championships.
- c. **External Signs.** All exterior venue corporate signage, other than professional franchise identification, must be covered as specified by the NCAA and must be covered with décor elements as specified by the NCAA at the expense of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s).
- d. **Commercially Named Venues.** Commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) may display no more than two preexisting interior signs consisting only of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) name at the top of the venue, with placement designated by the NCAA. The competition, practice and ancillary event venue(s) signage design and placement must be approved by the NCAA. If the commercially named competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s) is an existing NCAA Corporate Champion or Corporate Partner, the NCAA, in its sole discretion, may allow additional branding of the commercially named venue(s).
- e. **Covering Existing Signage/Product Branding.** In regard to any signage that is to be covered in accordance with these bid specifications, the practice, competition and/or ancillary event venue(s) shall not limit or prohibit the ability of the NCAA to use signage or other elements of its own third-party designees in covering such existing signage/product branding.
- f. **NCAA Corporate Champion and Partner Branding/Recognition.** The NCAA shall have the right to display branding/recognition (e.g., signage, banners, scorer's table, video board, ribbon board, PA announcements, inflatables, projections, kiosks, decals, window clings, lighting, street teams, logos) for the Association, its corporate champions and partners and media partners inside and outside of the competition, practice and/or ancillary event venue(s). These locations, include but are not limited to the concourse, within the competition bowl and venue exterior without limitation.
- g. The NCAA shall provide the competition venue with the appropriate stickers/field stencils for the approved playing surface markings for the championship.
- h. If facility approves, patrons are permitted to bring in small signs (signs which can easily be held by one person and cannot block the view of anyone seated around them), as long as any writing or slogans on them are in good taste. In addition, it is permissible for patrons to bring in non-noise-making items (in compliance with NCAA and facility premium guidelines) as long as they do not include any (non-CCP) commercial identification.
- i. At no charge, the NCAA will have full access to, and control of, any and all LED and other digital signage inventory, both internal and external to the competition venue. This includes TV monitors, video screens, video walls, LED fascia, and all external signage, digital or otherwise. This includes any and all digital inventory to be made available at the time of the championship, inclusive of any inventory that may be added by the venue after this bid document is signed.

# Section 9 • Competition Site Requirements/Diagrams

## NEUTRALITY

For the final site, host institutions should keep in mind that an NCAA event is not a home event. Neutrality is important; therefore, items such as host institutional signage should not be used to create a “home” atmosphere. Traditional pregame or halftime activities are not permissible (e.g., tossing items to the crowd, permitting mascots to lead “trains” through the stands).

## CONCESSIONS

Food and beverage prices shall be no higher than similar events or primary tenants in the competition site.

**Vending.** No food, beverage or merchandise, of any nature, may be vended or dispensed in the seating areas, except before games begin. During competition, selling is restricted to the arena concourse and established selling locations.

## DECORATING AND ADVERTISING

**Banners Inside Competition Site.** The following banners are permissible inside the competition site:

- NCAA TV Banners.
- NCAA Radio Banners (These may be used to cover nonpermissible signage.)
- NCAA Banners.
- Institutional banners with no corporate marks.
- Corporate signage if an NCAA Corporate Champion or Partner. Visit [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) for a full list of current Corporate Champions and Partners.

**Covering.** The competition site shall not permit any advertising banners, signs or displays of any kind to be hung, posted or displayed anywhere within the seating area (i.e., any place that can be seen from the playing field or seats), including the scoreboard, during the championship session or practices, other than NCAA, TV partners and radio banners, as specified by the NCAA. No local/school radio banners are allowed.

**Institutional Signage.** Institutional signage does not need to be covered. Championship banner may remain if permanent (not hung seasonally). If temporary and hung on a seasonal basis, they must be taken down.

**Directional Signs.** Directional signs should be posted in all areas used by the participants and the media.

**Video Boards and Electronic Messages.** No electronic board advertising of any kind or messages promoting non-NCAA events in the competition site may be displayed during practice or competition. The following kinds of messages are permissible: announcements of results from other NCAA competition; reminders that NCAA merchandise and concessions are on sale on the concourse; or any public-services announcements or promotional messages specifically provided by the NCAA. The NCAA will provide programming on request (regionals, super regionals and finals).

**Table Banner (generic for regionals and super regionals and site specific finals).** The NCAA will provide one banner for the scorer’s table/press box. The NCAA staff will consult with the tournament manager to determine the dimensions for the banners. No other ornamentation or signage is allowed.

## EQUIPMENT

**Scoreboard.** Scoreboards shall display the names of the participating institutions rather than “Home” and “Visitors.” If the scoreboard does not have the capability of displaying the teams’ names electronically, printed generic home and away signs must be posted on the scoreboard.

**Press Area.** A covered three-sided press area must be provided.

**Telephones.** Telephone communication must be available for radio and television (if applicable).

**Timing Device/Clock.** Game clocks must be operational at all practice sessions, and host institution personnel must be on hand to operate the clock during practices.

**Video Screens.** If electronic video replay screens are available, they may be used at the competition site's expense. Video screens may not display advertising.

**Softballs.** The Rawlings softball is the official softball for the championship and must be used at all practice and competition sessions.

Upon elimination, teams will be awarded 26 commemorative balls; the host institution may keep the remaining balls.

The winning team should be awarded two balls; the host institution may keep the remaining balls.

## BEVERAGES AND EQUIPMENT

**Sideline Equipment Hydration Program.** Coca-Cola will provide final site hosts with a bottled water product (e.g., Dasani), BODYARMOR powder, and when applicable, BODYARMOR in bottles. Hosts will also receive the following hydration equipment:

- 3 cases of 9-ounce cups.
- 6 cases of cup holders.
- 6 coolers.
- 10 50-quart ice chests.
- 4 12-quart ice chests.
- 9 cases of 32-ounce squeeze bottles.
- 6 cases of bottle carriers.

Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice in the NCAA-provided equipment. Equipment carrying any branding other than BODYARMOR, however, will not be permitted on the sidelines during NCAA championships.

If a championship also receives BODYARMOR-branded squeeze bottles, they should be provided to student-athletes. Non-BODYARMOR-branded squeeze bottles brought by teams/student-athletes will not be allowed.

Please reference Section 15 for more information regarding hydration product.

## COMPETITION SITE

The facilities used in the Division II Softball Championship must meet the requirements listed in the [2026 and 2027 NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations Book](#) as well as the ones listed below.

### COMPETITION SITE REQUIREMENTS

#### Playing Area

- The 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.
- The facility must be enclosed in order to charge admission, and minimum seating should provide no fewer than 500 unobstructed seats.
- Vertical backstop (with no hood), outfield fences and permanent sideline fences must enclose the playing field.

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- 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.
- If two teams are waiting to play and only one team has access to bullpens due to the other bullpens being used by a team whose game is in progress, both teams must wait to use the bullpens until there is equal access.
- 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, must 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 host's decision.
- 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.
- Tables used for awards must be covered with nonbranded cloth or NCAA branded table cloth provided by the NCAA.
- Adequate parking must be available on-site for teams, tournament personnel and umpires. Designate parking for NCAA committee, liaison and umpires.
- 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.

- Remark batter's boxes and foul lines as necessary.
- Rake to improve field of play as needed.
- Clean dugouts.
- Clean stadium.
- An electronic scoreboard and public address system (including a backup, if possible).
- Mark in catcher's box.
- Tarp the field as appropriate or directed by the NCAA representative.
- The field lines must be 4 inches in width.
- 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 (e.g., screens, pitching machines) 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: two front-toss screens, two buckets of balls for front toss, four tees and two additional 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 and tee 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 and tee should be provided near each dugout.
- Per NCAA Softball Rules, 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) when wireless access is available on-site.

### **Security**

- Implement security measures for restricted access areas (e.g., locker rooms, press area, hospitality).
- 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 (restroom, stands, dugouts, concession area, etc.), is required to clean facility at least twice daily.

## COMPETITION SITE USE

The competition site shall be reserved for the exclusive use of the NCAA beginning at 8 a.m. two days before the competition through the conclusion of the final game (i.e., Tuesday through the following Wednesday). All space shall be available and the competition site set up no later than 1½ hours before the beginning of the first practice.

## NCAA SPACE REQUIREMENTS

**Entrances.** Entrances must be staffed by an adequate number of persons. Signage should be posted to clearly identify all entrances (i.e., media, player-ticket and band/spirit squad).

**Locker Rooms.** 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.

**Supplies.** Each locker room must be clean and adequately supplied with toilet paper, water and ice, soft drinks (Coke products), grease boards, markers and erasers for all practices and games. The games committee will inspect the locker rooms before the first practice, where applicable.

**Signs.** Signs should be posted to identify the teams' and officials' locker rooms, where applicable.

**Media Areas.** A table must be available for the working press at the field. In addition, a telephone and a wireless connection at the site should be made available for the media. Statistics should be distributed as quickly as possible to the media after each game.

**Refreshment Area.** A refreshment area should be set up adjacent to or in the media workroom to accommodate the working press throughout open practices and competition. Only NCAA approved and/or generic drinking cups (devoid of commercial identification) should be used in the refreshment area.

**Postgame Interview Room.** In addition to the above items, (a) setting up a platform for the interviewees and moderator; (b) providing a riser for photographers and cameramen at the back of the room; and (c) providing a sound system.

**Backdrop.** The NCAA will provide a backdrop with the NCAA logos to be hung behind the podium.

**NCAA Committee/Games Committee Meeting Room.** Room should be large enough to accommodate 15 people comfortably. This area needs to be close to the competition field.

**Training Room.** Provide a training room with necessary equipment, and staff it with the appropriate personnel before and during the games and practice sessions.

## PARKING

There should be enough parking spaces adjacent to the stadium for the committee, team personnel, game officials, NCAA staff and media. In addition, designate an area for team buses to drop off and pick up passengers. Please ensure officials parking is designated yet no identifiers made available to public.

## VIDEO RECORDING

Designate a video recording area for teams and indicate its location on the competition site map included in the information packet. Coaches may only record their own games. Video recording for scouting purposes is not allowed. Parents and spectators can record games from anywhere in the stands without signing a release form or obtaining prior approval from the NCAA. Per NCAA Softball Rule 5.9.3 - Taking photos and video recording done by any team personnel may not be done from the team's dugout or bullpen.

# Section 10 • Critical Incident Response/Emergency Plan

## PREPARATION

The competition site liaison and host institution staff shall review with the local law-enforcement agencies their procedures for circumstances requiring emergency evacuation of the competition site or interruption of the game. Competition site management is reminded of its responsibility to provide sufficient security and/or law-enforcement personnel to ensure that access to the competition and surrounding areas is restricted to players and credentialed individuals.

Each host will be asked to provide the following:

1. Develop contact lists.
  - a. NCAA.
  - b. Local authorities and critical incident response team.
2. Review emergency protocol before the start of the event.
3. Identify chain of authority.
  - a. Incident Commander (second in command).
  - b. Decision-making personnel/team.
4. Identify incident command center.
5. Identify incident communication plan.
6. Review evacuation plan – Review plan with competition site manager.
7. Review emergency response plan for typical emergencies.
8. Review emergency response plan for national disasters.
9. Review emergency response plan for terrorists' actions.
10. Connect with the closest Protective Security Advisors (PSA) for your area and notify them of the event to receive security notifications and instructions. Send a request to [PSCDOperations@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:PSCDOperations@hq.dhs.gov) to receive the contact for a local PSA.

In the event of a critical incident, contact the NCAA championship administrator immediately before any decisions are made.

**Interruption of Game.** The officials have the authority to interrupt play. If play is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the committee, it shall be continued from the point of interruption at a time determined by the committee. If necessary, the remaining schedule of games also shall be adjusted by the games committee. The committee should review the following procedures for interruption of a game:

Officials. Assure that the officials know the exact game situation when play was halted.

Student-Athletes and Coaches. These individuals should proceed to the dugouts or, on instruction from the NCAA staff or committee members, retire to the locker rooms or outside the stadium to await further instructions.

Power Source/Public Address. Competition site management should protect the power source and the public-address system. If an alternate public-address location is available (i.e., away from the competition area) it should be used so communication is not interrupted.

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**Responsibility.** Building security and/or law-enforcement personnel shall be responsible for the restoration of order in the event unauthorized individuals occupy the competition area or if play is otherwise disrupted. The NCAA suggests that law-enforcement personnel attempt to communicate with the leaders of the group occupying the competition area (if applicable) to ascertain whether the situation can be rectified in the short term. Under no circumstances are players, coaches, officials or NCAA representatives to become involved in the removal of such persons.

**Communication.** A senior member of the competition site management and the senior law-enforcement officer at the site must proceed immediately to the press box with means of portable communication to and from other competition site staff and security officers. The public-address announcer should keep spectators informed of the conditions, if possible. Teams and game officials must be kept informed throughout the delay.

**Meeting.** The committee chair, NCAA staff and game-management staff (competition site manager, game management liaison and senior law enforcement officer) should assemble immediately at the press box (or an appropriate space if press box not safe) to assess the situation.

**Normal Conditions.** The committee shall determine when conditions have returned to normal.

**Resumption of Play.** As soon as possible, play shall be resumed from the point of suspension. The games committee shall determine the revised schedule after consultation with the national softball committee. If possible, the contest should be resumed in the primary competition site. If necessary, the games committee has the authority to limit attendance to credentialed individuals, those on each institution's pass list, other individuals designated by each institution's director of athletics and required competition site operations personnel. Also, the games committee has the authority to reschedule the game or session in a nearby competition site (e.g., on campus or elsewhere in the city), provided the alternate competition site meets the provisions of NCAA playing rules.

**Spokesperson.** The committee chair or his or her designee, working with the competition site management, the NCAA and, when appropriate, city, county, state and federal law-enforcement agencies, will serve as spokesperson in the event of an emergency.

# Section 11 • Drug Testing

The NCAA is dedicated to fair and equitable competition throughout each round of NCAA championships and strongly supports the drug-testing program established by its membership, to safeguard the health and safety of the participating student-athletes.

Comprehensive drug testing details for hosts can be found at the following link: [NCAA Drug Testing Program - ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org/sportscollection/2019-2020/08/20/2019-2020-ncaa-drug-testing-program).

## DRUG TESTING STATEMENT

The following statement will be read by the NCAA championship manager or the NCAA site representative at the mandatory administrative meeting prior to competition:

“NCAA championships committees, following a recommendation from the NCAA drug-testing subcommittee, have discontinued the practice of announcing whether drug testing will be conducted at NCAA championship events. Although knowing prior to competition whether NCAA drug testing was to occur had value for reasons of convenience, it left open the possibility that student-athletes might be tempted to use banned substances if they knew that NCAA testing was not being conducted at the site of competition.

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

# Section 12 • Financial Administration

## AUDIT

Sites will be randomly selected for financial and box office audits following the championship.

The NCAA will make every effort to notify sites selected for audits within 30 days after the submission of financial reports, but reserves the right to audit a site up to one year after the championship. Receipts, facility settlements, expense reimbursements and honorariums are subject to change until the audits are reviewed and accepted by the NCAA. If selected for audit, the following documentation will be requested: box office audit reports or sales summaries; ticket purchase invoices or statements; unsold tickets; invoices, contracts or timesheets supporting all expenses; general ledger; bank statements; check copies and reconciliations; and competition venue rental agreement; and any other documentation to support details reported on the host financial report. In addition, overages between budgeted and actual numbers will be reviewed.

## APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET

As part of the site-selection process, each prospective host must submit a proposed budget for approval by the NCAA. All receipts and expenses associated with the conduct of the championship competition shall be included in the proposed budget. This includes lodging expenses for officials and site representatives, if applicable. The proposed budget must be submitted before the selection date in accordance with the schedule set by the sport committee and approved by the NCAA prior to the first date of competition of the championship. Additionally, best efforts should be made by the host to reasonably forecast expected ticket sales from the hosted event due to attendance driving a number of host expenses.

The host institution is responsible for adhering to championship expenses as approved by the NCAA, including (but not limited to) competition site rental, maintenance, insurance, printing of tickets, ushers, maintenance personnel, ticket sellers, ticket takers, minor officials, police and security, promotion, publicity, advertising, meetings, banquets, medical staff. Other expenses not included in the original proposed budget must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

It is also incumbent upon the host to understand and remit all necessary taxes related to the sale of tickets to the given championship for sales made by both the NCAA and the host at their given state and locality. All consideration must be given by the host for certain relief of taxes with respect to the NCAA's not for profit status under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Additionally, certain championships may be required to provide a letter of attestation regarding tax status provided by an outside CPA/accounting firm.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Host institutions must complete the online financial report, which includes accurately reporting all revenues and expense, within 60 days after the final date of competition at the site (if applicable). An automated email will be generated notifying the host of the final, approved settlement payable/receivable amount. Remittance of any amount due to the NCAA should be made to the NCAA upon approval of the financial report by NCAA staff and receipt of the automated email noted above. If requested, the host may be required to provide all supporting documentation to validate the revenues and expenses of their site. As a best practice, hosts are encouraged to upload all appropriate receipts, ticket audits and other supporting documentation to their host report on the "Summary" tab as documentation supporting their revenue and expense figures.

Financial reports showing net receipts are not considered complete until payment is received at the national office. Institutions that fail to meet the 60-day reporting period will be assessed the following penalties: 60-90 days past due (25% reduction in honorarium), 91-120 days (50% reduction in honorarium) and 121 days or more (100% reduction in honorarium). If the financial report results in the NCAA paying the host, the NCAA will make best efforts to reimburse the host within five business days of the report being approved by the NCAA accounting department.

## DRUG TESTING EXPENSES

The budget for drug testing expenses should only be completed and returned to Drug Free Sport if the host has been notified that drug testing will occur. The drug-testing budget and expenses are separate from the financial report form. The drug-testing budget form is an appendix in the [drug testing manual](https://ncaa.org/Student-Athlete%20Programs/Health%20and%20Safety) (ncaa.org/Student-Athlete Programs/Health and Safety).

## PARTICIPANTS

The NCAA will reimburse the competing institutions for transportation and per diem expenses in accordance with the appropriate NCAA policies. The competing teams shall be responsible for their local transportation, unless otherwise allowed under NCAA policy. Once the championship is completed, participating institutions should submit online expense forms via the Travel Expense System (TES) to the travel group at the NCAA national office within 30 days of the competition. Please note that if you host a championship, the submission of per diem and/or transportation reimbursement is a separate process and submission from completing the host budgeting and approval process defined above.

## SITE REPRESENTATIVES

The NCAA representative's hotel room and tax shall be paid (via direct bill) by the host institution and submitted on the financial report. All other expenses (i.e., per diem, travel) will be paid directly by the NCAA.

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The NCAA National committee members' hotel rooms and tax shall be paid (via direct bill) by the host and submitted on the financial report. All other expenses (i.e., per diem, travel) will be paid directly by the NCAA.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Transportation.** The NCAA shall pay for the rental of cars for a predetermined number of game officials and the NCAA committee representative(s). The championships staff will approve the individual to get a rental car and the individual will need to call Short's Travel to book.

**Local Transportation for Teams.** For team sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation, must arrange ground transportation through Short's Travel. Individual sports, eligible for reimbursable ground transportation receive mileage reimbursement in accordance with the travel policy.

**Air Transportation for Teams.** If a school is eligible for air transportation, all air travel must be booked through Short's Travel.

### NCAA Championship Travel Policies

# Section 13 • Game Management

## ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS

The use of electronic audio or video devices that transmit information from any location in the competition site to the dugout is not permitted unless otherwise stated by NCAA Softball rules. No video to video; audio to audio; or video skill pictures. Electronic video devices that are set up in the designated video area may be used as aids for postgame analysis only.

Cell phones are not allowed on the field but may be used in team areas for purposes other than coaching or scouting. Use of a cell phone camera in a team area or dugout by anyone is prohibited from the start of the pregame meeting until the game's conclusion. Statistical information may be entered into electronic equipment (for example, cell and smart phones, tablets, laptops) but may not be accessed or retrieved during the game.

## GAMES COMMITTEE

The games committee will be the NCAA Division II Softball Committee.

## PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Public Address Announcer.** The public-address announcer will follow the NCAA script for player introductions.

Announcers should ensure neutrality for in-game announcements which is consistent with serving as an NCAA postseason host.

**Game Announcements.** Other than player introductions, game proceedings announcements are limited to (a) those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor); (b) those of a "practical" nature (e.g., announcing that a car has left its lights on); (c) announcements that NCAA souvenir merchandise, game programs and concessions are on sale in the competition site; (d) announcements of scores from another NCAA competition site; and (e) the paid attendance figure. It is not appropriate for the public-address announcer to provide information pertinent only to the host institution's activities unrelated to the tournament.

**Division II Softball Committee.** At the final site, the NCAA Division II Softball Committee and championship manager, in collaboration with the host, are responsible for conducting championship competition according to the policies and procedures outlined in this manual and the prechampionship manual. The NCAA championship manager and Division II Softball Committee chair will lead the participant call prior to teams arriving on-site and the administrative meeting on site. The Umpire In Chief will oversee all officials meetings at the final site.

**Tournament Director.** The tournament director should serve solely in this capacity. He or she may not also serve as scoreboard operator, timer, public-address announcer, team administrator, etc. This is to ensure that he or she is able to oversee all aspects of the competition and be readily accessible to the committee liaisons. The tournament director should review the tournament schedule, including meeting, practice and game times, emergency action plans, Weather Sentry login, and staffing with the Site Representative prior to his/her arrival to campus.

## STARTING TIMES

The committee will approve all starting times. The host institution in consultation with the committee will determine order of games.

**Times.** Game times should be set a minimum of two and a half hours apart with the earliest game time set for 10 a.m. local time for a site without lights and 11 a.m. local time for a site with lights.

If the tournament schedule cannot be adhered to, time must be permitted for field maintenance and warm-up periods for both teams before the start of the next scheduled game.

*Reference: Bracket section in handbook.*

## SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR

The keeping of statistics is an integral part of the championship's success, and every effort should be made to provide an efficient crew.

**Recommendations.** Usually, the sports information director or an appointed designee will submit the final stat files to the NCAA stat site. **Copies should be available immediately following the completion of each game.**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

All competing teams must line up on the baseline during the introduction of coaches and teams. Participants must go directly to the baseline during team introductions without touching any bases or home plate. Additionally, participants should not step on the chalk lines.

## Section 14 • Health & Safety Considerations

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 with event staff and personnel including, among others, those relating to concussion management, catastrophic injury prevention, inclement weather and independent medical care, consulting with institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel as necessary. These requirements and related information can be found in applicable division manuals, sports playing rules and the materials located on the [Health, Safety and Performance site](#). More detailed information on each of these topics can be found in the following websites: [Guidance Medical Care and Coverage for Student-Athletes at Away Events](#) and [NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook](#).

- Blood-Borne Pathogens and Other Biohazards.
- Catastrophic Incidents and Emergency Action Plans.
- Cleaning and Disinfection.
- Inclement Weather, Air Quality and Other Environmental Considerations.
- Independent Medical Care.
- Medical Facilities.
- Medical Disqualification, Removal and Return to Activities.
- Medical Staff: Resources, Communications, Training and Responsibilities.
- Medical Supplies and Equipment.
- Medical Treatment (including for, among others, the following emergency conditions):
  - Asthma.
  - Burners (Brachial Plexus Injuries).
  - Cardiac Emergencies.
  - Cervical Spine Injuries.
  - Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury.
  - Diabetic Emergency.
  - Head and Neck Injury.
  - Heat Illness and Heat Stroke.
  - Hypothermia.
  - Mental Health Emergencies.
  - Rhabdomyolysis.
  - Sickle Cell and Other Exertional and Non-Exertional Collapse.
  - Skin Infections.
- Prescription Medications, Banned Substances and Drug Testing.
- Protective Gear and Equipment.
- Sexual Violence.
- Visiting Team Care and Coverage.

In addition, and as a supplement to the legislative and policy requirements and related guidance described above, the following health and safety considerations and expectations will also apply to all championship events.

**Ambulance Service**

Planned access to an ambulance shall be provided by the championship host. If it is determined that an ambulance should be provided on-site, the championship host shall obtain the ambulance service and the incurred cost is reimbursable by the NCAA. Any ambulance used must be equipped in accordance with all applicable government regulations and industry medical and safety standards.

**Coaches, Officials, Event Staff and Spectators**

Host institutions should consult as necessary with applicable institutional legal, medical and risk management personnel to determine and appropriately plan for the management of emergency and other health and safety incidents involving individuals other than student-athletes that may occur at the championship event or venue.

**Medical Staff Credentials and Access**

Travel party credentials for participating institutions will include credentials for medical personnel; provided it is the responsibility of the participating institution to include medical personnel in their normal credential numbers. Institutions may include medical staff beyond travel party limits provided they pay for the additional numbers with institutional funds. Competition site access can be secured by acquiring session tickets through purchase or an institutional pass list.

Any medical staff traveling with participating teams will have access to their team participants with the assistance of host medical staff, should an injury occur. If medical staff are not to be seated with the team during any championship event for any reason, they should communicate to host medical staff their seat locations and host medical staff should be prepared to provide all participant medical staff with the necessary credentials to access and provide necessary escort to the team locker room or athletic training room in the event of an emergency. Typically, an access point from the stands supervised by security will allow access by medical personnel to student-athletes.

**Portable Immersion Tubs**

Portable immersion tubs (hot or cold) are permitted at championship events only where use is a component of an established emergency or other health and safety plan and managed under the direction of sports medicine staff, an athletic trainer or physician in accordance with all applicable institutional and government health regulations and requirements.

# Section 15 • Hydration Product

## POWERADE

The NCAA will provide certain championships relevant equipment (sidelines hydration, competition playing equipment, etc.) on a sport-by-sport basis that must be used in all championship activity. The purpose of the equipment is to hydrate student-athletes for competition. Each championship will receive information from the NCAA pertaining to any equipment that will be provided. Following the championships, each host site will be required to provide the NCAA with a completed inventory sheet (template provided by the NCAA) and pictures for proof of performance.

### Cups, Coolers and Water Bottles

Drinking cups, water coolers, ice chests, cooler carts and water bottles should be provided for each scheduled practice or competition of any round of an NCAA championship. Participating teams shall place any premix fluid replacement in the NCAA-issued coolers and water bottles when applicable. Only cups, cans, coolers or water bottles may be used during championships that are provided by the NCAA. If applicable, the host may retain the coolers, cooler carts and ice chests after the competition. Reoccurring host sites are strongly encouraged to use the same equipment the following year unless otherwise notified by the NCAA. Participating teams may retain the water bottles and bottle carriers after the competition.

### Hydration Program

Coca-Cola will provide a bottled water product (e.g., Dasani), POWERADE powder, and when applicable, POWERADE in bottles. Participating teams and student-athletes in NCAA championships continue to be free to use/consume permissible hydration beverage(s) of their own choice in the NCAA-provided equipment. Equipment carrying any branding other than POWERADE, however, will not be permitted on the sidelines during NCAA championships.

If a championship also receives POWERADE-branded squeeze bottles, they should be provided to student-athletes. Non-POWERADE-branded squeeze bottles brought by teams/student-athletes will not be allowed.

If the host must provide and/or purchase product for any NCAA championship use (e.g., student-athlete banquet, committee tent/suite, hospitality areas, media areas), the host must purchase and provide only Coca-Cola products (e.g., Dasani, POWERADE, Coca-Cola, Sprite).

Competitors of NCAA Corporate Champion Coca-Cola may not provide product (beverages, water, isotonic) for any NCAA championship, even if the competition offers product for free or at a reduced cost. The championship budget will cover the purchase of Coca-Cola beverage products.

### Use of NCAA-Provided Coolers from Previous Years

The host may use previously supplied equipment from the NCAA, specifically POWERADE equipment with approval from the NCAA; however, unless approved by the NCAA (which is often possible), they must be used in areas not within television or photographer view [they may not be used on the sidelines or within the competition area(s)].

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact Alyssa Rice 317-917-6627; [arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org)).

## Section 16 • Insurance

### LIABILITY

#### If event is held on-campus:

Host institution must maintain and provide proof of at least \$1 million of Commercial General Liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. Certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of CGL coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

#### If event is held off-campus:

Host institution must maintain and provide proof of at least \$1 million of Commercial General Liability (CGL) insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. Certificate must be submitted to NCAA prior to competition. State institutions subject to state governing tort laws are permitted to provide proof of limited liability under state laws instead of CGL coverage. (This is the minimum requirement per NCAA bylaws).

Venue must maintain and provide a minimum of \$1 million in Commercial General Liability insurance on an occurrence form for Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including Products Liability (including completed-operations coverage), coverage for contractual liability, independent contractors, and personal and advertising injury. Coverage cannot exclude liability arising from athletic participation, spectators, alcohol or food-borne illness. NCAA must be named as an additional insured.

*NOTE: All insurance must be provided by an insurance company with an A.M. Best Rating of A-, VII or higher.*

# Section 17 • Lodging

## COMMITTEE/UMPIRES' LODGING

Six umpires plus the Umpire-in-Charge will be assigned to the final site. Umpires and NCAA committee representatives (eight people) should not be housed in the same hotel as the participating teams unless there are no other accommodations available. At a minimum, they should stay on a different floor or wing of the hotel.

## TEAM LODGING

On Location acting on NCAA's behalf shall contract hotel accommodations for the participating institutions/student-athlete(s). Hotels are expected to be located within 30-45 minutes of travel time from the venue, with a preference for 30 minutes. Hotels beyond 45 minutes, but no more than 60 minutes, may be considered by the sport committee. The selection of a competition site may be dependent on availability and quality of rooms for participating institutions/student-athlete(s). Teams must stay at an NCAA contracted hotel unless otherwise noted. Hosts are no longer required to secure the rooms. On Location, the official hotel management provider of the NCAA, will solicit, negotiate and contract all hotel rooms at these sites.

Once the teams have been determined, the reservations will be reconfirmed in the names of the institutions, and thereafter, the institutions shall be responsible for the reservations, rooming assignments, meetings, payment agreements and all hotel expenses incurred. Detailed information regarding the team hotel shall be distributed by the host institution/conference and local organizing committee in the participant manual. The participating institution may use the rooms for persons accompanying the official traveling party only.

## Release Policy

Participating institutions are expected to stay at the hotel assigned by the host and are responsible for confirming with the hotel the number of rooms they will require and the rooming lists. If an institution prefers to stay in another hotel, the institution must use the rooms for persons accompanying the official travel party or will be charged a financial penalty as follows:

1. If the event is one to three nights, the institution will be required to pay for one night.
2. If the event is four or more nights, the institution will be required to pay for two nights.

The participating institution is expected to pay the penalty to the impacted hotel prior departing from the locale.

## MERCHANDISING

The hotel understands that the NCAA exclusively will have first right of refusal to sell products licensed by the NCAA for merchandising at the selected hotels, unless otherwise noted in the hotel agreement. If the NCAA executes this right, the hotel agrees to provide space in its lobby, tables, electricity, dedicated phone line and a secure storage location for such sales at no charge to the NCAA merchandising agent. The NCAA guarantees that the merchandise will be displayed in a neat, professional manner.

In return, the NCAA merchandising agent will pay to the hotel a percentage of the net sales from the hotel location. Net sales are defined as gross sales minus sales tax and credit card fees. The percentage rate will be a predetermined, nonnegotiable rate included in the contract between the two parties, except as specified in the following sections.

# Section 18 • Marketing

## CONTACTS

The host institution should designate a marketing contact or marketing team for the championship. This person should be familiar with marketing strategies that have worked in the community where the championship will be held to sell tickets and drive attendance. It is the primary responsibility of the marketing contact to work closely with the NCAA championships marketing contact to create and implement the championship marketing plan. While many host institutions may have a marketing contact in the athletics department, this individual may also be from the local organizing committee, convention and visitor's bureau, sports commission or a combination thereof. Contact information for the designated marketing contact(s) should be submitted through the key contact portion of the Championship Bid Portal.

## EXPECTATIONS

- Know the marketing budget. The NCAA championship tournament manager on your campus or the NCAA championship manager point person can communicate your marketing budget.
- Develop marketing goals. The primary focus should be driving ticket sales and attendance at the championship by developing inclusive promotion and awareness opportunities and utilizing diverse targeting strategies.
- Map out the time frame to market the championship.
- Determine how to best use the marketing materials provided by the NCAA.
- Establish grassroots initiatives to implement in your local and regional communities by creating and promoting messaging that resonates with people of all race, sex, class, national origin, creed, education background, religion, gender identity, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and which appeals to diverse communities.
- Explore opportunities with traditional media (print, radio and television) in your area.
- Track marketing efforts and analyze results post-championship to share with your NCAA marketing contact

## MARKETING PLAN

Host institutions/conferences shall establish a marketing plan in coordination with the NCAA championships marketing contact. The marketing should reflect the host's commitment to creating an environment where all guests feel welcome and see themselves represented throughout the championship experience. All marketing plans, marketing budgets and collateral must be approved by the NCAA Championships Marketing contact prior to implementation. A marketing plan template may be found in Appendix M.

## MARKETING COLLATERAL

**NCAA Marketing Portal.** The NCAA Marketing Portal is a comprehensive tool designed to help hosts create marketing products which will generate awareness, drive ticket sales and promote attendance at championship events. The [NCAA Marketing Portal](#) can be accessed at [NCAA Champs Promotions - Brand-to-Local Marketing Platform | SproutLoud](#).

Championship hosts should customize and download all necessary artwork to promote the championship from the website. Hosts should utilize imagery from the artwork provided, produce the items locally and obtain reimbursement for production costs, up to the reimbursable allocation provided for the championship round you are hosting.

Each NCAA Championships host marketing contact and tournament manager will receive an email with the marketing website address, username and password. Please contact [ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org](mailto:ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org) if you are unable to locate this information.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

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Customizable artwork templates and marketing resources available on the NCAA Marketing Portal include, but are not limited to:

- PRINT
  - Poster
  - Flyer
  - Print ad
  - Table tent
- DIGITAL
  - Email blast
  - Banner
  - Social media graphics
- OUTDOOR
  - Billboard
  - Banner
- RESOURCES
  - Marketing best practices
  - Social media guidelines
  - Special artwork requests

If you have artwork needs and/or sizing which may not be available on the NCAA Marketing Portal, you may submit a special request through the website. Any additional questions can be directed to [ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org](mailto:ncaachampspromotions@ncaa.org).

All requests must be approved by the national office staff before you proceed. Artwork requests and approvals will be managed through the website. If you do not have a local print vendor, we have listed NCAA preferred vendors on the website.

Collateral should not be created outside of the NCAA Marketing Portal. The website ensures proper usage of NCAA logos and trademarks, as well as ensures consistent branding across each championship round and all 90 NCAA Championships.

**Television/Video and Radio Ticket Spots.** The marketing website allows hosts of select predetermined championship sites to download TV, video, and radio spots for immediate use. Questions regarding the availability of these spots for your championship event should be directed to your NCAA Championship Marketing contact.

### SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Host institutions/conferences may use already established social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter [X], etc.) as a place to promote the hosting of an NCAA championship. However, host institutions/conferences should use marketing messages and assets supplied from or approved by the NCAA (links, web banners, flyers, updates, etc.). If the championship does not have an official NCAA social media page, a host is NOT permitted to create a social media page. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the established pages, as necessary. Please refer to [ncaa.org/socialmedia](https://ncaa.org/socialmedia) for a listing of official NCAA social media accounts.

## Section 19 • Media Services

The NCAA considers this hosting opportunity a partnership between the host school/conference, facility and the NCAA. The primary objective of everyone involved in the administration of the championship, shall be to provide a memorable championship experience for each participating student-athlete, coach, administrator and tournament attendee.

Note that health and safety protocols related to preparedness, response and protocols might have an effect on the media services detailed below, with any changes provided to all hosts in advance of each championship.

### ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

An all-tournament team will be selected at the national championship. Twelve players, including the most outstanding player will be selected. An all-tournament committee comprised of the NCAA Division II Softball Committee will conduct the balloting.

The announcement of the all-tournament team should take place immediately after the last game, according to the script provided.

### BROADCASTING/INTERNET

Please log on to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media) for information regarding broadcast/internet rights.

### CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS

NCAA championship records are available in PDF format at [ncaa.org/championships/statistics/ncaa-records-books](http://ncaa.org/championships/statistics/ncaa-records-books). Click on the appropriate sport, select the year and then click Division II Records.

### CREDENTIALS

The NCAA will print and send to the host institution all credentials for each team's bench personnel, the media, the committee, umpires and other tournament personnel, as necessary. Credentials are not transferable.

**Gambling.** NCAA policy prohibits the issuance of media credentials to representatives of any organization that regularly publishes or otherwise promotes the advertising of "tout sheets" or "tip sheets," or other advertising designed to encourage gambling on college sports events.

Institutions hosting National Collegiate Championships competition are subject to the Association's enforcement procedures if the media coordinator disregards this policy.

**Issuance of Credentials.** Working credentials shall not be mailed. The media coordinator shall issue credentials individually. Credentials may be issued to the following:

- Conference Offices. Two all-access credentials may be issued to full-time members of the host institution's conference office to each conference office who has a team participating at the site. Staff members from other conferences shall not receive credentials unless they are serving as volunteer assistants for the host.
- Credentials List. During the administrative meeting, the media coordinator must submit a listing of all individuals receiving credentials to the committee representative.
- Drug Testing Team. In the event of drug testing, plastic credential badges will be issued for the drug testing team by The Center for Drug Free Sport staff. A minimum of 10 nonmedia seats shall be reserved for members of the drug testing team. Individuals serving in this capacity will be identified for the tournament manager at each site by the national office staff.
- Official Travel Party. The official travel party for the championship is 26.
- Media. All media credentials are authorized and issued by the host or NCAA media coordinator. The NCAA provides credentials for all final championship sites and selected preliminary rounds sites.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

The following is a sample of the types of credentials that can be produced, if applicable:

- All Access – For event management-type people who need access to every area, including game surface.
- Event Management – For event management staff who does not need all access (based on space and demand, it may not be necessary to produce a staff and an all access pass).
- Media – For members of the media to provide them access to press areas (press box, media room, interview room, locker rooms (postgame only)).
- Participant – For student-athletes, coaches, equipment managers (anyone in the official travel party).
- Photo – For still photographers and television camera operators (if the contest is not going to be televised) to allow them access to appropriate areas [playing surface, locker rooms (postgame only), press box and media room].
- SID – For sports information directors of the participating teams (may allow access to media areas and locker rooms as needed).
- Television Network – If the game is going to be televised by ESPN, Turner Sports, etc., those entities should have their own credential to allow them to specific places such as the truck compound.

It is up to the tournament director to determine which areas may be accessed with each credential type. Media credentials shall be issued according to the press criteria.

**Printing (National Championship Final Site only).** The NCAA will distribute 10 credential boards, print photography policies, news film and mini-camera policies, and the following types of credentials as approved by the NCAA Division II Championships Committee:

1. Bench	6. NCAA	11. Security	16. VIP
2. Event Management	7. NCAA Committee	12. Sports Information	17. Volunteer
3. Host/LOC	8. Official	13. Team Administrator	
4. Media	9. Participant	14. Team Personnel	
5. Medical	10. Photo	15. Television	

**Press.** Refer to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media).

**Radio/Internet Audio Coverage.** Radio broadcast rights and made-for-internet audio at any NCAA championship may take place only through advance written request and permission of the NCAA media services group. (Refer to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media).)

All stations broadcasting any round of an NCAA championship shall be required to fill out the NCAA Championship Radio/Internet Streaming form online. To access the form, log onto [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media) then click “Quick Reference Guide to Broadcast Rights.”

**Television Providing Play-by-Play (if applicable).** A total of 50 credentials shall be provided to the entity televising the games and claimed in person by the producer. Please refer to the Media Services website at [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media).

**Softball Committee.** Representatives of the national softball committee should be issued a credential that gives them all-access to the competition site.

**Volunteers.** It is not permissible to issue credentials to volunteer workers except for those directly involved in event management

## CREDENTIAL BOARDS

The NCAA will provide credential boards at all final sites. These are for public display to advise security personnel at the competition venue which credentials are allowed into specific areas of the venue. For credentials that are not allowed into a specific area, use a black marker to cross out the credentials not permitted.

## CREDENTIAL QUALIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE

Approximately one month before the start of final site competition, the site media coordinator should send credential application information to media representatives who regularly cover intercollegiate athletics in their markets. The information should direct media to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media), which includes credential application instructions, credential criteria and links to the NCAA media policies. The site media coordinator will approve or deny all credential requests in the online credentialing system (Sport Systems) There will be training sessions for any SID who doesn't know how to use the system. The system will notify via email all media members who apply for credentials whether their request has been granted or denied. If a media member is granted a credential, the site media coordinator is responsible for sending that member of the media information regarding game times, press conference schedules, credential pickup times and location, parking and any other pertinent information.

**All practices are closed to media personnel.**

## STATISTICS

The host institution shall provide complete statistics of all NCAA championships competition.

### STATISTICS REPORTING TO THE NCAA

The host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official championship results to the Association's website, [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com), with the NCAA providing delivery information. At the conclusion of each championship contest or session (preliminary rounds and finals), please forward information that specifies the division, sport, round, date and official results, and provide a brief game/event summary. On the final day, the email should include the all-tournament and Most Outstanding Player selections.

Institutions should send all information as follows:

- Email the information to [NCAA-Editorial@warnermedia.com](mailto:NCAA-Editorial@warnermedia.com).
- Specify the division, sport, round and region in the subject area.
- Paste the text (official results, including date of competition, round, etc.) directly into the message box.
- Attach HTML box score, if available.

## INTERNET POLICY

The NCAA website, [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com), serves as the official online resource for NCAA championships.

The NCAA and its partners own the Internet rights to all of its 90 championship events. Rights include live statistics, video and audio streaming, electronic commerce, and post-event footage use. The NCAA and its partners own all game action, practice footage, press conferences, one-on-one interviews or any other content on the NCAA website.

## INTERNET LIVE STATISTICS

The current live statistics policies can be found at [ncaa.com/media-center/coordination-statistics](http://ncaa.com/media-center/coordination-statistics).

## MEDIA GUIDES AND POSTSEASON GUIDES

The NCAA or host media coordinator should notify each school that qualifies for the championship how many media guides and/or postseason guides should be sent to the championship site and/or if media guides and postseason information should be uploaded to the NCAA box library. If wanting to provide a printed version, the media coordinator should provide an overnight address where the schools can send the information (their office or the facility) and a deadline as to when it should arrive. Consider security when selecting the location where these materials will be shipped.

## HOSPITALITY

Media hospitality is strongly encouraged and media coordinators are responsible for coordinating media hospitality functions. Accordingly, disbursements for these items shall be guided by the budget that was originally submitted by the tournament manager and approved by the committee. Budgets cannot be changed without the prior approval of the NCAA championship manager.

### MEDIA ACCOMMODATIONS

If necessary, the media coordinator should arrange for a block of rooms to be set aside for media, preferably at the headquarters hotel. Media members should be given a contact/link at the hotel whom they can call or link to make reservations; this can be listed on the credential application form along with the room rate and deadline for making reservations.

**Meals.** Media meals are not required at all championships. Disbursements should be guided by the budget which was originally submitted by the tournament manager and approved by the NCAA national office.

**Parking.** Media parking should be provided at all championship host sites. The media coordinator should determine if it would be more effective to use parking passes or a parking list. If passes are used, the host institution must generate them. Media shuttle systems may also be used provided any costs are approved in advance by the specific sport committee and NCAA championships staff liaison.

**Media Workroom.** If possible, a media workroom should be designated at each site, where media members can be provided a workspace. The workroom should provide an adequate amount of media seating, electrical outlets, complimentary wireless internet access and a pool of high-speed internet lines, if possible. Each school's media guides and/or postseason guides, along with any materials the host institution distributes (statistics, game notes, quotes, etc.), should be provided in this area.

### NEWS FILM AND MINI-CAMS

Please visit [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media) for updated information related to television, video and ENG policies.

### OFFICIATING QUESTIONS/POOL REPORTER

**The host media coordinator shall appoint one member of the media to serve as the pool reporter at the competition site and must be approved in advance by the NCAA staff.**

Pool reporters may request an officiating and/or rules interpretation via the NCAA committee and staff members on site, when a game includes a potential fighting situation that results in a technical foul and/or ejection of a participant; if a rules interpretation is needed; or there is a clock/timing issue. Additionally, if a member of the respective sport committee deems it in the best interest of the championship for broadcast partners and members of the media to receive an interpretation pertaining to another specific situation, the officiating crew shall return to its locker room and conduct a conference call with the NCAA's national coordinator of officiating for interpretation. No one other than the game officials, members of the committee and the NCAA staff representatives assigned to the site are permitted in the locker room during this meeting.

Upon completion of the meeting and if competition is continuing at the host site, staff will communicate with the pool reporter and the sideline reporter from the broadcast entity (without camera or microphone) to share the officiating crew's interpretation to help enhance the public's understanding of what transpired.

The NCAA will issue a statement and will distribute it to its broadcast partners, on social media and to media covering tournament games at that site.

### PERSONNEL

Each media coordinator is responsible for organizing workers to assist in the media operations of the championship. It is important to remind volunteers that they may see very little of the championship competition because of their responsibilities and the NCAA will not pay any expenses. All volunteers should be a minimum of 16 years or older. It is preferred that all media coordination volunteers have experience with media relations or championships.

The number of workers will depend upon the media demand for the games at the site. Communication with the participating SIDs and the media coordinator's knowledge of the area media will help with advance planning.

The following is a basic list of duties for volunteers (if applicable):

- Copy Machine Personnel - Photocopies materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Credential Distribution - Pass out credentials to the media; check government-issued photo ID.

- External PA – Announcer for fans.
- Internal PA – Announcer for the media.
- Locker Room Attendant – Person to identify when the locker room is open and closed to the media.
- Mixed Zone Coordinator – Coordinates interviews in the mixed zone in events such as track and field and swimming and diving. Depending on the number of participants, this individual may need several assistants.
- Note Takers – Compiles worthy notes during and after the game or day.
- Photo Marshall – Makes sure photographers work in approved event coverage locations. Hands out photo armbands, if necessary.
- Press Conference Moderator – Introduces players and coach; directs questions from media.
- Quote Takers – Records postgame quotes from the press conferences/locker rooms. A minimum of one person should be designated to take quotes for each team. They should get quotes from the head coach and student-athletes.
- Results Disseminator – Transmits stats, notes, quotes, through appropriate delivery means (website, email, social media, etc.).
- Runner(s) – Distributes photocopied materials (stats, notes, quotes, etc.).
- Spotter – Helps the official scorer identify assists and any other assistance for official scorer.
- Stat Crew – Records the official stats. Note that when applicable, NCAA LiveStats software must be used at all NCAA championships.
- Team Escorts – People to escort the coaches and student-athletes to the postgame press conference.

## POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCES

It is required that the host provide postgame press conferences.

All coaches and student-athletes must be made available for postgame interviews, immediately following the 10-minute “cooling off” period. Failure to do so may result in possible misconduct, as determined by the respective sport committee. This not only applies to formal news conferences, but also to any interview requests made to coaches and/or student-athletes not involved in the news conference.

It is mandatory for the head coach and at least one student-athlete to report to the press conference following the cooling-off period. However, media coordinators should request a minimum of two student-athletes. A coach can shorten the cooling-off period but cannot extend it.

The head coach must complete all NCAA championship media obligations before honoring any in-season radio or television contracts.

*NOTE: In the event that a student-athlete has been selected for drug testing, all media obligations must be fulfilled before going to the drug testing center.*

**Players and Head Coach.** The SID representing each participant shall escort the head coach and players to the interview area.

**Obligation of Head Coach.** Regardless of any personal regular-season radio or television contract(s), the coach first is obligated to the entire media staffing the tournament and must report to the interview room immediately after the 10-minute cooling-off period expires. The coach cannot delay a postgame interview with the covering media to conduct a program for a single newspaper, radio or television reporter unless requested to grant a short interview (not to exceed four minutes) by the television network that has purchased rights. (The media coordinator or designee shall have the responsibility to terminate the four-minute interview period, not the network that has purchased rights.) After fulfilling this commitment to the media staffing the tournament, the coach and players may participate in a special interview, where applicable.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

**Assistant Coach's Interview.** An assistant coach is permitted to participate in a radio interview on the head coach's behalf before the expiration of the cooling-off period.

**Equipment.** The host institution shall provide all the necessary equipment (microphones, multi-box, adequate lighting, nonbranded or table covers provided by NCAA) for the interview room.

**Competition Site Coordinator.** Host media coordinators must designate an interview room at the competition site and an individual to coordinate the activities in it.

**Moderator.** The media coordinator shall serve as a moderator for each news conference who shall keep the conference moving on schedule. The media coordinator, or a member of the coordinator's staff, shall attend all press conferences, including any conducted before the start of championship play.

### Moderator Duties

1. The moderator should give pertinent game statistics (i.e., leading rushers, passers, tacklers, game records) to media while they wait for the first team to arrive. Statistics should be distributed to the media, coaches and student-athletes as soon as they arrive.
2. Media coordination representatives should obtain the names of the student-athletes who will be attending the press conference and give them to the host or NCAA media coordinator, who then will provide them to the moderator so that they can be announced in advance.
3. The moderator should open the press conference by asking the head coach for his/her opening statement.
4. After the coach's comments, the moderator should invite questions from media.
5. If necessary, the moderator should direct a question to student-athletes to get them involved, if the media do not do so.
6. Limit the losing team to 10 minutes and the winning team to 20 minutes.
7. The moderator should keep the flow of the press conference moving. If there is a gap of time between questions, limit questions to one more and then thank the head coach and student-athlete(s).

**Order of Appearance.** Per NCAA policy, the winning head coach and student-athletes will be interviewed first, followed by the nonadvancing head coach and student-athletes. For the championship game only, the runner up head coach and student-athletes will be interviewed first followed by the national champion head coach and student-athletes.

**Press Conference Setup.** Each host media coordinator should designate an interview room or area at the facility, and an individual to coordinate the activities in it. The interview area should have a public address system and an elevated head table.

Media coordinators should use an audio mixer (mix down unit) in the interview area to permit individuals using microphones to attach their equipment to it, eliminating the presence of audio equipment and/or operators in front of, or adjacent to, the speakers at the dais.

The following is a checklist of suggested minimum requirements for the interview room:

- Seating for a minimum number of media or VIPs (check with the previous host for an approximate number).
- Risers or an area with an unobstructed view for television cameras.
- Table for a minimum of 4-6 interviewees.
- Sufficient electrical outlets.
- Sufficient lighting for dais and workspaces.
- Mult box.
- Wireless microphones.

For selected NCAA championships, press conference backdrops, interview room table tents and microphone flags will be sent to the institution by the NCAA. Quotes shall be distributed to the media immediately following each press conference.

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Commercial use of any still photographs is prohibited unless permission is obtained from the NCAA. Specific areas will be designated for photographers, and these areas will be limited by priority and space. Please refer to information online [here](#) for further information regarding photography done at the championships.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AREA POLICIES

The media coordinator shall be prepared to designate “photographer positions,” should media requests warrant it. “Prime” positions should be given to NCAA Photos and/or Getty Photos, or otherwise rotated among members of the media. All special requests (i.e., placing a remote camera on the backboard) must be approved by NCAA staff or site representatives.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

NCAA Photos (also known as Clarkson-Creative/Clarkson) will be on site for the final day of competition, unless otherwise specified. Hosts should have a photographer on site during each day of competition. An additional photographer should be hired by the host to shoot additional days and ancillary events. Hired photographer(s) must complete the photography services agreement.

All photographers will agree to the NCAA Championship Photography Terms and Conditions upon requesting a credential. Photo sales on site are strictly prohibited.

Images for use by NCAA member institutions are available at a special rate and are bound by the following rights:

“For official NCAA member institution athletic department website and publications only. Other reproduction, distribution, and/or display print production is prohibited unless specified in writing.”

For internal member institution use, please contact Clarkson-Creative at [info@ncaaphotos.com](mailto:info@ncaaphotos.com) with the name of the image(s) you would like to purchase, and an online transaction will be set up to download the image(s). All images should be credited, where it appears, to: ©Photographer’s Name/NCAAPhotos. For all other uses, please contact Andy Krause ([Andrew.Krause@gettyimages.com](mailto:Andrew.Krause@gettyimages.com)).

Any other entity, with the exception of the NCAA membership, seeking a championship event photo must license it through Getty Images. To license an NCAA championship event photo, please visit [on.ncaa.com/NCAAonGetty](https://on.ncaa.com/NCAAonGetty).

For additional questions regarding championship photography, please contact Nate Flannery ([nflannery@ncaa.org](mailto:nflannery@ncaa.org); 317-917-6222).

## TEAM VIDEOGRAPHER

Institutions are permitted to videotape championships competition by their teams or their individual student-athletes for archival, coaching or instructional purposes. Each institution is permitted to use one camera and may videotape only that portion of the competition in which it participates. The videotapes may not be used for any commercial purposes. An institutional representative shall contact the event coordinator at the host site to arrange for camera space at that site. For the latest information and policies in regard to team content, go to “Team Content Policy” link at [ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services](https://ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services). Filming/still photography from the dugout by any institutional representatives is not permitted at any time, for any purpose.

**Restricted Space.** On completion of the game being filmed, the representative will be required to immediately depart the area in order for other videographers to establish their shooting positions.

For the latest information and policies in regard to team content, go to “Team Content Policy” link at [ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services](https://ncaa.com/media-center/broadcast-services).

### RADIO/INTERNET AUDIO COVERAGE

Radio broadcast rights and made-for-internet audio at any NCAA championship may take place only through advance written request and permission of the NCAA media services group. (Refer to [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media).)

All stations broadcasting any round of an NCAA championship shall be required to fill out the NCAA Championship Radio/Internet Streaming form online. To access the form, log onto [ncaa.com/content/audio-policies-0](http://ncaa.com/content/audio-policies-0).

### INTERNET

Complimentary wireless internet access must be available at all championship rounds for media use. The host institution may NOT assess an additional “hookup fee” to any media agency. Any wireless charges should be charged to the host or reflected in the proposed budget.

### SEAT ASSIGNMENTS

Media coordinators should provide preferred seat locations for media agencies that regularly staff games played by the participating and host institutions.

### SECURITY

Security personnel should be instructed to protect the working media areas and interview area, especially before and after each game, and to limit access in all restricted areas to individuals wearing credentials.

### TELEVISION

If an NCAA championship is to be televised, the media coordinator will be notified by the NCAA championships liaison, media coordinator or member of the broadcast staff. This person will relay any needs specific to television, such as power, press row space, etc., to the host media coordinator. Information about NCAA broadcasts can be found online at [ncaa.com/media](http://ncaa.com/media).

### LIVE STREAMING

For final sites of all nontelevised championships, [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com) will provide live streaming of the contest.

Apply for NCAA internet streaming rights online at [ncaa.com/rights-request](http://ncaa.com/rights-request). Questions about Internet streaming can be directed to Nate Flannery (317-917-6523; [nflannery@ncaa.org](mailto:nflannery@ncaa.org)).

### HOST CITY/NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS MICROSITE GUIDELINES

NCAA championship hosts and LOCs are welcome to build a city-specific microsite to house local information regarding things-to-do, travel tips, restaurants, volunteer info, ticket sales, etc. The primary purpose of the microsite should welcome fans to enhance their experience in preparation for traveling to your city. The following information should assist you with the creation of a local microsite.

#### Dining, Shopping and local Attractions

The following topics are permissible and encouraged to house within your microsite, but must link away from the main page:

- Local fan gathering and entertainment locations.
- Shopping and dining options.
- Special attractions unique to the city.

#### Local News

The microsite can contain story modules to promote local press releases or additional information pertaining to hosting the event. This should not include national information about the competition that is covered by the NCAA. You should link back to the official NCAA championship page, when applicable. The championship manager can provide this information as needed.

### Venue Information

City transportation and host venue details should be included within the microsite; the following are topic suggestions for this section:

- Venue address.
- Venue parking map details including hours, pricing, etc.
- Venue information.

### Volunteer Information

The microsite can contain additional details to recruit and register volunteers. A general overview, schedule and registration information are commonly found details within this section.

### Travel and Transportation Information

It is permissible, and encouraged, to share travel information such as local hotel options, car rental, public transportation, etc., within the microsite for consumer knowledge. Links should direct away from the microsite and no mention of company names are to be included within the copy of the microsite.

EXAMPLE: “For hotel options within the {CITY NAME} area, please click here” (link can be to city tourism page or visitor’s bureau, etc.).

### Selections, Preliminary Rounds and Broadcast Schedule

All information regarding the details of selections, all regional and super regional rounds and broadcast schedules should be linked to [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com). The championship manager can provide this information as needed.

### Email Sign Up

The following link should be included on the microsite for fans to sign up to receive email communication: [ncaa.com/newsletter-signup](http://ncaa.com/newsletter-signup)

## LOGO USAGE

For official NCAA blue disk and championship logos, please submit a request to access the NCAA Digital Library at [ncaa-logo.pd.dmh.veritone.com/user/login](http://ncaa-logo.pd.dmh.veritone.com/user/login).

### Copyrights, Photos, Licensing, Trademarks and Corporate Marks

The following are guidelines for use of NCAA trademarks and the process for requesting licensing for photos:

- Host corporate partner marks or any commercial advertising are prohibited from being displayed on the microsite.
- The NCAA primary logo must be displayed more prominently than any other logo and must precede or be placed above any other identification marks.
- Photos from previous years’ championships can be accessed by submitting a request form here: <https://ncaaphotos.photoshelter.com/contact>
- All imagery must be owned by the NCAA or host city.
- The microsite must adhere to fair and equitable treatment for ALL participating student-athletes and schools.
- Trademark script must be included on the homepage of the microsite. This text can be in a mouse print format at the bottom of the page as follows: *NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.*

A complete list of NCAA trademarks and trademark protection can be found by [clicking here](#).

If the microsite is built within an existing site’s framework, exceptions will be made at the NCAA’s discretion, as needed.

### Social Media

All social media icons should link to the appropriate NCAA-hosted platforms for the specific championship. The official list of NCAA social media pages and hashtags is located at [ncaa.com/social](https://www.ncaa.com/social).

### Mobile Version

The NCAA championship information pages will be mobile friendly. In order for the microsite to convert to mobile devices, pages will need to be created for use on a mobile site.

### Local Contributor Recognition

The host can recognize their local contributors under the following guidelines:

- This page should be titled, “Local Contributors.”
- Do not use any other reference such as “sponsors” or “partners.”
- Contributor name can be listed in text format only. No corporate logo usage is permitted.
- The NCAA logos should not be included within this specific page.
- Include text at the bottom of the page indicating that the Local Contributors are not official sponsors of the NCAA.

### Microsite Example

If you would like to review an approved championship microsite, please reference the following pages:

- [Visit Oklahoma City/Oklahoma City Women's College World Series Microsite](#)
- [University of Wisconsin/Division I Cross Country Championships](#)

*NOTE: A reminder the website should be clean of any and all corporate sponsor marks. Additionally, the information provided regarding local travel accommodations, restaurants or the like, must link away from the microsite completely. Final approval of the city-specific microsite will come from the NCAA event marketing, ticketing and/or branding team. Prior to the microsite URL going live, please share with the championship manager to begin the official approval process.*

## NCAA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS

The official NCAA social media pages and official hashtags can be found here: [on.ncaa.com/sociallinks](https://on.ncaa.com/sociallinks)

### Host Promotion of Championships

A lot of hosts already have an established presence in social media. Examples are school, local organizing committee, sports corporation, venue or city pages/accounts. These pages/accounts are all acceptable places to promote hosting of an NCAA championship through the use of marketing messages and products supplied from the NCAA (links, web banners, fliers, etc.). The NCAA also promotes the championships (and the host involvement) on the appropriate NCAA social media pages/accounts. If the championship does not have an official NCAA account on a social media site, a host is still not permitted to create a page for it. The NCAA will make efforts to promote this championship on the other established methods, as necessary. Collaboration is encouraged through the use of cross-posting on Facebook (@ linking within text to drive fans to each other's pages) and mentions on Twitter (X) (@ links to show coordination in posts). In addition to collaboration, idea-sharing is also encouraged and can be coordinated through the championships associate director of social media, [lphillips@ncaa.org](mailto:lphillips@ncaa.org).

**A host should not create a social media account or page (Facebook page, Twitter (X) feed, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.) solely devoted to promoting an NCAA championship.** These pages become outdated, distract fans from established pages and fracture the NCAA message.

### Top considerations when planning for social media event marketing:

1. **Know your social media audience.** Utilize account analytics to learn about your fan demographics and monitor the engagement levels on your posts. Figure out what engages your fans.

2. **Encourage community.** Ask for feedback and opinion. This helps engage the user and may provide you with some good input. Also, reply to user questions with correct and helpful answers.
3. **Cross-post.** Cross-posting or mentioning others will help increase your visibility and spread credit throughout social media platforms.
4. **Use images.** Pictures are necessary to grab attention and interest. Users are more likely to engage versus text only.
5. **Be concise.** Get to the point within two sentences. Less than that, if possible.
6. **Lead your video.** You have mere seconds to garner a user's attention on social media. Make sure your videos have an immediate point of interest to keep users engaged.
7. **Like or Follow people to help you.** Networking with members of the media, partner organizations and constituents on Twitter (X) and Facebook is just as beneficial as in real life. On Facebook, like their pages, cross-post to them when you mention them or make them one of your favorites. On Twitter (X), retweet, join in on hashtags (#NCAA) and mention feeds in your posts.
8. **Keep it light.** While it is important to stay on message and deliver the facts, this is social media, after all. Have fun with it.
9. **If you hesitate about posting something, you probably shouldn't.** There are no re-dos in social media. A "delete" doesn't mean you can delete someone seeing it.

Please send direct questions to Lynnea Phillips, [lphillips@ncaa.org](mailto:lphillips@ncaa.org), or send ideas or news to the general box, [socialmedia@ncaa.org](mailto:socialmedia@ncaa.org).

# Section 20 • Meetings/Schedule of Events

## PRETOURNAMENT MEETING

The mandatory meeting is jointly conducted by the tournament manager and site representative and includes: all participating head coaches, team administrators, the umpire-in-chief, tournament director, all members of the national committee, host athletic trainer and host sports information director. In addition to the prechampionship meeting, the team administrator (director of athletics, senior woman administrator or designated assistant/associate athletics director) is required to attend all competition in which the team participates. This person cannot be acting in a dual capacity as an individual member of the coaching staff, sports information director or athletic training staff. The sports information director may attend the meeting but cannot be the designated administrator. A \$200 fine will be assessed for noncompliance of this policy.

## UMPIRES MEETING

Before the first game, an umpires meeting shall be conducted to review NCAA policies and procedures to coordinate assignments and responsibilities, to review collegiate rules modifications and to explain expense and reimbursement procedures. The umpire-in-chief chairs the meeting of all umpires. The officials liaison from the national committee should attend this meeting as well.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The committee representative, in conjunction with the NCAA, will approve the schedule of events.

## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement represents a critical pillar in Division II's strategic positioning and emphasizes the relationship of athletics in strengthening communities. Community engagement is at the core of the Division II championship experience.

Our ability to build and create successful community engagement events in your community around our National Championships depends largely on our successful partnerships with the Local Organizing Committee and/or Sports Commission.

Area youth and adults who interact with NCAA Division II teams during outreach events are then invited to attend championship events, often through complimentary admission. The objective of community engagement is to build relationships by bringing communities to experience Division II events, which also increases attendance and enhances the competitive experience for student-athletes. Those participating in outreach experiences are often invited into the championship as halftime performers, ball boys/girls and/or special guests in another capacity.

Division II governance funds a community engagement contractor to ensure a consistent community engagement philosophy and experience across each national championship final site. The contractor works with your local organizing committees and community groups on behalf of the championship sport manager, identifying shared experience opportunities and alleviating logistical burden from the sport manager. This contractor will communicate with your point person early and often in order to foster great community partnerships and events in held within our National Championships.

# Section 21 • Merchandise/Licensing

## ADMINISTRATION

The NCAA licensing department has oversight for the event merchandising program at all rounds and sites of NCAA championships. All licensing and merchandising questions should be directed to David Clendenin (317-917-6496; [dclendenin@ncaa.org](mailto:dclendenin@ncaa.org)).

## AVAILABILITY

An online ordering system will be available to participating institutions interested in ordering Event 1, Inc., merchandise in advance of the championship. Orders will be shipped by Event 1 directly to the participating institution's campus.

## GENERAL POLICIES

The NCAA retains the exclusive right to sell souvenir products at all rounds and sites of the 90 championships; host institutions/conferences and sponsoring agencies for all NCAA championships are required to sell items provided by the official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser. The official NCAA event souvenir merchandiser is Event 1.

Event 1, Inc. will enter into an agreement with the official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency and will supply merchandise and inventory reconciliation forms to the official vendor. The official vendor of the host institution/conference or sponsoring agency at the site of the championship(s) is responsible for complete retail vending accountability, including full responsibility for inventory. When the requirements listed below are met, the host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee for providing these services. The 20% commission fee will be from net sales, which is defined as gross sales minus taxes and credit card fees. The following is a list of the requirements that must be met to qualify for the 20% commission fee:

- a. Receive and count in all merchandise upon arrival from Event 1, Inc., as well as receiving all reorders required to meet customers demand. Reorders could arrive any day of the week and could be as early as 8 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday.
- b. Locked and supervised storage adequate to accommodate all championship merchandise.
- c. Immediate notification (within 24 hours of receipt) to Event 1, Inc. of any discrepancies in initial inventory counts. Non-notification will represent host or vendor acceptance of initial inventory provided by Event 1, Inc.
- d. Total management, control and accountability of the merchandise. If goods are lost, stolen or damaged, those goods are the responsibility of the host institution/conference or vendor.
- e. Everything sent must be returned to Event 1 within two days of the conclusion of the event.
- f. An appropriate number of selling locations and sellers throughout the facility in order to meet the demands of the projected crowds.
- g. Selling locations that are well displayed and fully stocked prior to the public's access to them.
- h. Strict adherence to the merchandising and display standards as outlined below:
  - Merchandise made available for sale at all times during the event.
  - Each item neatly displayed with correct prices clearly marked.
  - Merchandise should be neatly folded at all times.
  - Neatly dressed personnel that are customer-oriented.
  - Skirted tables for display and checkout.
  - Display boards and grids to properly display product at all selling locations.
  - Selling locations located in high traffic and easily located locations.
  - Vendor shall be responsible for hanging any display or signage material provided by concessionaire.
  - Keeping selling areas clean and neat at all times.

## DIVISION II SOFTBALL

- Restocking of back-up inventory in a fast and efficient manner.
  - Transferring merchandise between the slower and higher volume stands to meet the demands of the consumers.
  - Providing electricity and either hard internet lines or dedicated secured Wi-Fi network connection to support the merchandise sales effort at no extra cost.
  - Calling Event 1, Inc. to request re-orders should sales warrant.
- i. A complete inventory accounting of all merchandise sold with a final inventory count and merchandising report supplied to Event 1, Inc., no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the event.
  - j. Total gross sales revenues and a final copy of the inventory report must be sent to Event 1, Inc., within two business days of the conclusion of the event.
  - k. The remaining inventory forwarded to Event 1, Inc., or the next event site as determined by Event 1, Inc., within two days of the conclusion.
  - l. Having met each of the above requirements, Event 1, Inc. will pay to the host institution/conference, sponsoring agency or its assigned vendor, a commission equal to 20% of sales net of taxes and credit card service fees. The host institutions will keep commissions earned and the remaining money owed to Event 1 must be sent within seven days of the conclusion of the event.

The host institution/conference may not sell or allow for sale any merchandise that infringes upon the exclusive rights of Event 1, Inc.

**Institutional Merchandise.** A buy-out option can be made with Event 1/NCAA when the host institution/conference wants to sell merchandise that features the host mark or logo at the NCAA competition. This can only be done when the host institution/conference agrees to purchase the entire product that Event 1 provides. The host institution/conference will receive a 20% commission fee of net sales, gross sales minus credit card fees and taxes, on product supplied by Event 1. The host institution or official vendor will provide the NCAA 15% of sales (net of taxes and credit card service fees) of all non-NCAA championship merchandise. The quantity of NCAA merchandise available for sale shall not be less than a comparable shipment to a comparable site of the previous year's championship.

**Reordering Process.** The host institution/conference may contact Event 1 to place an order for additional merchandise during the event. The concessionaire must contact Event 1 no later than the conclusion of each day to evaluate inventory levels. The more time Event 1 has to react to the request, the better the chance a reorder can be processed and shipped in a timely manner. Event 1 cannot guarantee that additional merchandise will be available.

**Event 1 will provide an event manual, which will include the contact information for the event coordinator assigned to the event as well as additional merchandising guidelines.**

## DIVERSE SUPPLIERS

The NCAA strongly encourages the participation, directly or indirectly, when possible, by diverse businesses in providing goods and services in support of NCAA championships and requests local organizing committees/hosts to explore opportunities for diverse businesses to provide any necessary goods and services for awarded championships. At the NCAA, diverse suppliers are defined as entities that are majority (at least 51%) owned, managed and controlled by ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities or veterans. At a minimum, we encourage local organizing committees/hosts to ensure that at least 10% of the suppliers invited to participate in the championship are diverse suppliers.

# Section 22 • Officials

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Participating teams will be advised of the umpires assigned to their competitions at the administrative meeting. The softball umpire program (SUP) is responsible for the assignment of umpires to tournament sites. The umpire-in-chief will meet with the umpires (separately from the participants' meeting) to review their responsibilities and distribute the NCAA patches. Fees and per diem will be reimbursed after the championship via the NCAA reimbursement portal.

Hosts will be notified of umpire assignments once all umpires have confirmed availability. Once hosts receive the assignments, they should contact the crew to review pertinent information such as schedule and hotel accommodations.

## ADMINISTRATION

The tournament director should notify all umpires of the following:

1. Time and place of the umpires meeting;
2. Game schedule; and
3. Location of and directions to the competition site.

In addition, the tournament director must determine if any of the umpires will need lodging.

## FEES AND EXPENSES

**Payment of Umpires.** Final umpires receive a flat fee of \$1,235. Travel expenses for the umpires will be paid by the NCAA via RefQuest (RQ+) at the current NCAA rate per mile (maximum 1000 miles roundtrip), not including local transportation. Umpires who receive approval for air transportation must make flight arrangements through the NCAA travel service, Short's Travel, 866-821-8547.

The umpires at each site will be paid \$45 per diem allowance for meals and incidentals for each day of the championship, beginning with the day of arrival and ending with the day of departure.

Official fees, per diem and travel will be paid by the NCAA via the RQ Pay system.

## HOTEL

Please see the Lodging section of this manual for specific information on umpires' lodging.

## MEETINGS

The umpire in chief, will conduct an umpire meeting with the crew at the HQ hotel, the night prior to competition beginning. National committee members assigned as umpire liaisons should attend the meeting.

## SELECTION

All umpires will be assigned by the SUP based on recommendations from the National Umpire Coordinator and site representative.

## TICKETS

Each umpire is entitled to purchase tickets to the competition (e.g., for family members or friends); the tournament director will administer this process. The umpires themselves should be provided a credential for admittance.

## UNIFORM

Umpires shall wear uniforms outlined in the [NCAA Softball Rules and Interpretations](#) book.

# Section 23 • Participating Teams

## ADMITTANCE TO COMPETITION SITE

Participating institutions must submit a roster form via email to Kacee Murphy ([kmurphy@ncaa.org](mailto:kmurphy@ncaa.org)) and the host tournament director by the Tuesday prior to the start of competition. This list will provide the names of the teams' official bench size who should be admitted into the competition site. This list is limited to 30 individuals. Please reference [Appendix M](#).

## PARTICIPANT MANUAL

The NCAA shall make available a participant manual to all schools under consideration for selection. The manuals shall provide details for championship and will be posted on the host institution's and NCAA's website.

## TEAM HOSTS

Each team should be assigned a host or hostess to assist during a team's stay. Team hosts may assist with laundry, transportation, restaurant recommendations, etc.

# Section 24 • Practices

## ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Each participating institution is required to have an administrator accompany the team to closed practices to ensure that only those individuals affiliated with the institution or designated by the coach (excluding media) are allowed in the closed practice. This individual may be a trainer, sports information director (SID) or other administrator, but not a member of the coaching staff or a student.

## TEAM PRACTICES (ALL ROUNDS)

All teams should be allowed access to practice facilities of equal quality beginning with the day immediately preceding the tournament and during the tournament.

Participating teams must be allowed to practice on the game field for a maximum one hour, weather permitting. Additional time must be provided for hitting/stretching, etc. (the game field may not be used for this purpose). In case of inclement weather, an alternate site should be available for practice. At a minimum, the alternate site should allow for throwing and hitting to take place. The NCAA representative will monitor practices on the competition field.

Be sure to build in transition time (approximately 10 minutes) into the practice schedule. Practices are closed and may not be used for scouting purposes. Please refer to Competition Site Requirements in Section 9 of this manual for required list of equipment the host must provide.

If a bullpen or batting cages are available on-site the facilities must be available to all participating teams no less than two-hours before competition.

**Regionals/Super Regionals/National Championship Final Site.** Practice will not be allowed on the game field beginning on the day of the opening game so that it may be prepared for competition. Practice will be scheduled for all teams on adjoining fields.

## ALTERNATE PRACTICE SITE

The host institution is not obligated to arrange for an alternate practice competition site for the visiting teams in the event they arrive early. Practice at an alternate site is permissible, but the visiting team is responsible for making these arrangements themselves.

## Section 25 • Programs

This championship will feature a digital game program that can be viewed online or downloaded at no charge. This program will be available online generally no later than two days prior to the first day of the event.

All digital programs available can be found at [ncaa.com/gameprograms](http://ncaa.com/gameprograms).

### CONTENT/EDITORIAL

#### LEARFIELD Responsibilities

Responsible for all program production, including editorial content, layout and design, advertising, and printing.

#### Host Responsibilities

Media contact should provide LEARFIELD with text and photos for editorial pages about host institution/venue/city, if requested by LEARFIELD.

Any pages promoting the host institution/venue/city will not be display advertisements; those interested in purchasing advertising space for sponsors, etc., should contact Clerrinda Queen ([clerrinda.queen@learfield.com](mailto:clerrinda.queen@learfield.com)).

### PROMOTION

The NCAA will provide a PDF including a QR code that links to the digital program, a URL where the digital program can be accessed and imagery of the NCAA's Corporate Champions and Partners. This PDF, or digital handout, is also shared with participating schools for their promotional use.

If you would like this information ahead of time, please contact your NCAA administrator.

### BEST PRACTICES

Below are a few best practices for promoting the championship digital program:

- Distribute the digital handout to fans.
- Create signage to direct fans to the digital program by using elements on the digital handout.
- Post the link on athletics and school-affiliated websites.
- Share the link on athletics and school-affiliated social media outlets.
- Share the link with student-athletes, faculty, alumni organizations and local media outlets, and any other group that may have interest.

### SUPPLEMENTAL HANDOUTS

At championships sites where a digital program is available, LEARFIELD allows the host institution/venue to distribute supplemental handouts (i.e., updated statistics and notes) provided any such materials:

- Do not include any advertisements, local sponsor logos, etc.
- Include the QR code and URL to the digital program.
- Include the NCAA Corporate Champions and Partners imagery.

Printed supplements may be distributed free or sold, with all proceeds retained by the host. The host should not include expenses for such supplements in the championship budget and/or financial report.

All supplemental content is subject to NCAA and LEARFIELD approval.

### QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your NCAA administrator or Chad Laytham ([chad.laytham@learfield.com](mailto:chad.laytham@learfield.com)) at LEARFIELD.

## Section 26 • Safety and Security

The NCAA is committed to supporting a safe and secure environment for championship events and is appreciative of the many federal, state and local partners who aid in maintaining a safe events for all athletes, coaches, fans and staff.

The NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop Best Practices for all NCAA championships. The SSAG developed these Best Practices based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and their own experience and knowledge. All hosts and competition venues are strongly encouraged to refer to the [Best Practices for Venue Safety and Security](#) when developing a safety and security program.

The suggestions outlined in the Best Practices for Venue Safety and Security are based on practices that are employed by competition venues across the nation. The need and ability to implement them at each facility and event will vary. Properly trained and equipped personnel constitute the primary element of implementing a successful safety and security program.

Best Practices for championships competition venue safety are intended for guidance purposes only; they are not a requirement under NCAA or other regulations or legislation. In addition, because of the wide variety of designs and sizes of competition venues; and composition and profile of particular events, not all Best Practices will be reasonable or applicable.

The Best Practices should not be viewed as a complete or primary source of information for developing or implementing the safety program for the competition venue hosting an NCAA championship. Rather, facility managers and local public safety personnel should consider the current national threat level, nature of specific threats and the full range of resources available when responding to changes in the threat condition levels.

Please submit your final safety and security plan with your bid materials. In addition, you will be prompted to provide information for the Critical Incident Response Team form when completing our bid via the NCAA Championships Bid Portal. Please be as specific as possible when providing emergency contacts and numbers.

Unless otherwise expressly authorized by applicable law, no firearms or weapons are permitted on these premises for NCAA championships and events, excluding authorized law enforcement officers. Failure to abide may subject you to ejection as well as other applicable discipline or action. The foregoing shall not limit the applicable equipment used in and for fencing and rifle competitions in accordance with NCAA rules, at the venues for such competitions.

### WEATHER

To support and facilitate host institution management of weather and other environmental considerations and requirements, the NCAA has made arrangements to provide a complimentary lightning detection and weather monitoring system to each host institution on a complimentary basis for all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. It is important that the location address provided by the site representative and tournament director in the monitoring system is the actual physical location of where the event is taking place.

It is expected that the host institution will identify one or more tournament staff members that who will have designated responsibility for weather monitoring. The site representative, host tournament staff, and any other stakeholders should share relevant email and/or cell phone contact information to enable timely receipt of all weather updates. A severe weather plan should be created and available for reference. The tournament director should also consider contacting a local meteorologist or the nearest National Weather Service office to further facilitate weather and environmental monitoring as part of each event.

If the tournament director and/or site representative determine that weather conditions could alter the approved championship event schedule, they should promptly contact the NCAA championship administrator manager with a summary and details of the anticipated weather/environmental issue and proposed alternative schedule prior to before making or announcing any formal changes.

# Section 27 • Ticketing

## TICKET POLICIES/OPERATIONS

1. **Ticket Design/Printing.** If championship tickets must be printed, the NCAA will manage the design and printing of the tickets, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The NCAA will forward artwork of the proposed ticket design to the LOC/host and competition venue for review and input. The NCAA logo shall be the only logo used on the front or back of the tickets unless specifically authorized by the NCAA. The name of the host institution/conference may be printed on the front of the ticket(s) and/or on the cover of the ticket booklet. The NCAA will coordinate the printing of the tickets unless the NCAA directs the LOC/host or competition venue to coordinate the printing. The LOC/host shall incur all expenses associated with ticket printing, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA.
2. **Ticket Pricing.** With input and a recommendation from the LOC/host, the NCAA shall establish all ticket prices, including tickets for suites and standing room only. One hundred percent (100%) of the revenues from ticket sales shall be included in the championships receipts to help offset the NCAA guarantee (if applicable), championship expenses, and further revenue sharing opportunities. Revenue from the sale of championship tickets and championship-related event tickets will be exempt from sales, amusement, entertainment taxes and other surcharge obligations to the extent possible. The NCAA is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization. If a tax exemption is not applicable, then all applicable taxes and rates shall be disclosed (disclose in the sport-specific facility questionnaire) and any increases in the tax rates from the time the bid was submitted shall be absorbed by the bid respondent or rebated back to the NCAA.

Minimum ticket prices are as follows (tickets must be purchased as a package until the day of the first game); the host institution may charge more if appropriate for the particular market:

- \$10 general admission, \$6 for student and senior citizens and \$3 for children 3 to 12 years of age, children 2 years old and under are admitted free with a paying adult.

The NCAA does not allow complimentary tickets to its championships. However, the NCAA will permit the purchase of tickets to use for championship promotional efforts. All ticket promotions must be approved in advance by the NCAA.

3. **Control of Ticket Sales.** The NCAA shall control all ticket sales for the championship, assigning specific duties to the LOC/host and competition venue as needed. The LOC/host and competition venue shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners (e.g., primary ticket sales system provider, official ticket and hospitality package provider, official ticket exchange). The NCAA shall not be responsible for securing an exemption to any exclusive contracts the LOC/host, competition venue or surrounding areas/facilities might have, nor will the NCAA be responsible for any buyout or other means necessary to secure such an exemption.

Admittance to the competition venue on game days will be by ticket or NCAA-issued credential only. Every individual, regardless of age, must have a game ticket for admission, unless specified by the NCAA or venue policy. Unless specifically granted an exception, the NCAA requires that the competition venue utilize a ticket scanning system at all general public access points into the competition venue. The host venue system will be used for access control, box office walk-up sales and day of event issue resolution in the box office.

Since all members of the general public must have a ticket in order to enter the competition site, a minimum number of ticket windows must remain open until the conclusion of the event.

4. **Control of Venue Seating.** The NCAA shall control all seating assignments within the competition venue, including club seating, press boxes, hospitality clubs and restaurants.

The NCAA shall be responsible for determining the allocation and the location of all ticket allotments.

- a. **Nonparticipating Teams.** Complimentary seating should be provided to institutions during contests they are not participating in.
- b. **Umpires.** Hosts should reserve seating for the nonworking umpires.
- c. **Site Representatives/National Committee.** Hosts should reserve seating for site representatives (regionals/super regionals) and NCAA Softball Committee members (final site) for all games during the tournament.

- d. **Drug Testing Crew.** Reserve seats for members of the drug testing crew, in an area approved by the NCAA. Members of the drug testing crew will have a special credential (provided by The Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc.) that will admit them to the competition site, locker rooms and drug testing site.

The LOC/host or competition venue may not resell allotted championship game tickets at any price, nor may enter into a sponsorship agreement or hospitality/travel package agreement with any ticket broker, tour packager or other secondary ticket marketer to provide championship tickets in return for other considerations unless specifically authorized by the NCAA.

#### 5. Suites.

- a. The competition venue shall stipulate a quantity of private viewing suites available for the sole use of the NCAA or its designees at the time of the bid. All revenue from such suites will belong to the NCAA.
- b. The NCAA will provide tickets, as necessary to the LOC/host and/or competition venue for those suite holders displaced to fulfill the NCAA suite seat requirements.
- c. Subject to NCAA approval, suites not made available to the NCAA or its designees shall remain under the control of the competition venue, but the face value ticket revenue for such suite seats will belong to the NCAA.
- d. Suite holders will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the suite to which they have purchased tenant rights. The venue's box office staff if assigned by the NCAA, shall solicit and confirm suite purchases by suite holders. At that time, suites not purchased by suite holders will be made available to the NCAA for additional use/sales opportunities in accordance with the agreed upon financial parameters.

#### 6. LOC/Host Ticket Policies.

- a. **Allocation.** For all championships other than Division I men's basketball, the NCAA shall allocate to the LOC/host a maximum of 10% of the saleable competition venue seats. These tickets shall be used to accommodate LOC/host guests, including but not limited to local contributors.
- b. **Budget Relief.** At its sole option, the NCAA shall notify the LOC/host of certain budget relief that may be provided in exchange for a reduction in the LOC/host ticket allotment.
- c. **Ticket Allocation Limitation.** No more than 20 tickets shall be made available from the LOC/host or competition venue to any one entity without NCAA approval.
- d. **Assignment Information.** The LOC/host shall provide the NCAA with the names of those individuals assigned to each seat within the LOC/host's ticket allocation.

#### 7. Competition Venue Responsibilities.

- a. **Seating Manifest.** The competition venue shall forward the NCAA a complete ticket manifest with a PDF or CAD drawing of the venue's configuration and cooperate fully with any NCAA ticketing partners.
- b. **Broadcast Partner Site Survey.** The NCAA's broadcast partner, in conjunction with the NCAA and the competition venue, may conduct a site survey approximately nine months in advance of the championship to determine the host set location, camera locations and determine the need for "seat kills."
- c. **Final Manifest.** Upon completion of the site survey and determination of "kill" seats, the competition venue shall provide the NCAA with a final seating manifest, reflecting all saleable seats, available suites and available hospitality/party suites.
- d. **General Public Assignments.** Subject to NCAA approval, the assignment of general public seats is the competition venue box office's responsibility, unless directed otherwise by the NCAA. The seat locations shall be designated by the NCAA. The competition venue must comply with all applicable city, state or federal laws and regulations including those concerning access and seating for the disabled and assist with inquiries from ticket holders in need of disabled tickets. Additionally, the box office shall assist with all lost, stolen, or misdirected ticket issues. The competition venue shall be responsible for the labor necessary, as well as costs incurred, to process and distribute lost, stolen, or misdirected tickets.

- e. **Participating Institutions' Tickets.** Participating institutions may purchase tickets for their student-athletes in accordance with the regulations specified in Bylaw 16.2. A pass gate should be established at the competition site to administer the players' tickets. A designated individual from each participating institution will be responsible for submitting the names of the individuals who will use those tickets to the tournament manager (or his or her designee). Individuals using those tickets will proceed through the pass gate to a nearby area with a table or booth, where they will be identified by the appropriate institution's designee, given a ticket stub and directed to their seats.
- f. **Sales Reports.** The competition venue's box office shall be responsible for providing the NCAA with timely and accurate sales reports. Reports should be provided on a regular basis, as directed by the NCAA. The competition venue's box office shall cooperate fully with the NCAA's official ticketing vendors and/or ticketing partners in providing the reports.
- g. **Final Ticket Database.** Each host conference, institution and/or venue must provide ticket purchaser information to the NCAA upon request, as well as, at the conclusion of the competition. Collecting purchaser information is essential for marketing efforts and postevent purchaser surveys which allow the NCAA to improve the championships experience. All relevant purchaser information must be submitted in an Excel or CSV file. The information should include, but not be limited to: last name, first name, address, city, state, zip code, email, phone number and purchase information such as total seats purchased and total purchase price.

### **2025-26 STANDARD TICKET BACK DISCLAIMER LANGUAGE**

The NCAA's standard ticket back language is posted online at [ncaa.com/ticket-terms](https://ncaa.com/ticket-terms).

The ticket back language should be placed on the back of all ticket stubs, but if it cannot be done (e.g., no new ticket stock is produced), this language must at a minimum be posted at all ticket windows for patrons to see, be included as an insert with the ticket mailing, etc. Patrons must be put on notice regarding the restrictions.

# Section 28 • Transportation

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Teams eligible for air travel (greater than 600 miles away from host site) must arrange make arrangements through Short's Travel. Short's can be reached at 866-655-9215 or by email at [ncaaalo@shortstravel.com](mailto:ncaaalo@shortstravel.com).

Institutions that 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](mailto:ncaachamps@stmDriven.com).

The home side ground transportation will be arranged by the institution in accordance with NCAA safety standards. Institutions that are eligible to drive to the championship (within 600 miles of the host site) will book ground transportation independently in accordance with the NCAA safety standards and seek reimbursement through the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES).

Expense reimbursement for participation in championships will be filed through our online system. The TES can be found at [travel.ncaa.org](http://travel.ncaa.org).

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

## PARKING

The host institution is responsible for securing complimentary parking at team hotels for team buses and any courtesy vehicles provided, if possible. The competition venue shall provide a designated complimentary parking area for team buses and courtesy cars at the competition venue.

# Section 29 • Volunteers

## GOAL AND RECRUITMENT

A volunteer program for the championship should be implemented to accomplish the following goals:

- Provide an enthusiastic and warm welcome to participants and guests.
- Answer questions and provide information to visitors.
- Contribute to the general excitement surrounding the championship.
- Assist the LOC with championship operations.

Championship volunteer programs should represent the student-athletes and communities we serve, embrace diversity and be inclusive of individuals from all backgrounds and identities. The NCAA and the LOC shall encourage recruitment and participation of volunteers from a talent pool of individuals that reflect diversity across all aspects, including race, age, sex, class, national origin, creed, educational background, religion, gender identify, disability, gender expression, geographical location, income, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation and work experiences. The LOC/host institution should keep the NCAA's commitment to diversity top of mind as they assign volunteers to the various roles and responsibilities throughout the championship.

Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must sign a volunteer release waiver. Individuals with driving responsibilities MUST be 25 years of age or older.

Student-athletes or prospect-aged individuals MAY NOT be recruited in any way different than general public volunteers. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) cannot make a specific volunteer presentation to student-athletes of the host institution/conference. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals may apply to volunteer in the same manner as individuals from the general public. Student-athletes and prospect-aged individuals must be selected by the same criteria as the general public applicants.

The NCAA may request additional volunteers from the LOC as necessary.

## WAIVERS

Each volunteer must sign a waiver of liability before the start of the championship (Appendix I). If there is a written agreement governing volunteer service, a release component must be added if one does not already exist. After the championship, all waivers shall be collected and kept on file, in case requested.

## APPAREL

The NCAA will coordinate ordering and production of the apparel through the NCAA volunteer apparel program. BDA Sports and Event 1 have been selected as the official NCAA volunteer apparel providers for all 2025-26 championships. The NCAA will offer its Corporate Champions/Partners the opportunity to help offset the cost. The champion/partner would be permitted to place one logo on each apparel item, if a separate apparel item is provided for these volunteers.

The championship logo and the licensee's mark will be embroidered on the apparel. The licensee's logo may appear on the right chest or sleeve. The licensee's logo may be no larger than 2¼ inches square.

The LOC will distribute uniforms during the required volunteer training sessions to ensure each volunteer's commitment. When ordering uniforms, the LOC will ensure that apparel includes women's styles and sizes.

The games management staff, media coordination staff and host media operations staff should be included in overall volunteer numbers and should receive volunteer apparel.

*NOTE: Hosts shall work in collaboration with the championship administrator on the selection, ordering and distribution of volunteer apparel.*

# Appendixes

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## Appendix A • Awards Recipient Forms

### AWARDS RECIPIENT FORM – FINAL SITE

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of all student-athletes followed by team personnel that should receive participant awards at the awards ceremony. There will be a maximum of 26 awards presented on site. Additional awards may be ordered following the championship.

***[LIST THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE ORDER YOU WISH THEM TO BE CALLED.]***

**Please return to Alyssa Rice at the coaches meeting.**

	Position	Year	Name	Phonetic (Name)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.	Head Coach			
26.				
27.				
28.				
29.				
30.				

Designate person(s) to accept the team award: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM BALLOT

*(A copy of this completed form should be given to Alyssa Rice)*

Position	Institution	Year	Name
Pitcher:			
Pitcher:			
Catcher:			
Infield:			
Outfield:			
Outfield:			
Outfield:			
At-Large:			
At-Large:			
At-Large			
*MOP:			

*\*MOP to be selected from one of the 13 names listed above.*

## Appendix B • Guidelines for Field Maintenance

### GUIDELINES FOR FIELD MAINTENANCE

Between games, arrange for necessary maintenance as follows:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Drag infields before each game.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Level out batters' boxes and pitchers' area.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Water batters' boxes and pitchers' areas, if necessary.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Rake to improve field of play as needed.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Water infield, if necessary.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Be prepared to tarp field.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Allow ten minutes to drag main field between each practice.
- The field maintenance supervisor may not be a coach of a participating institution.
  - All field maintenance should be approved by the NCAA representative.

## Appendix C • Media Checklist

### NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### MEDIA CHECKLIST

1. **Pre-Tournament Publicity.**
  - a. Review “Radio” and “Rules” sections of championships handbook.
  - b. Ticket information.
  - c. Press release on participating teams.
2. **Media Credentials.**
  - a. Production, if necessary.
  - b. Seating assignments.
    - (1) Print media.
    - (2) Radio/TV.
    - (3) Others.
  - c. Media parking.
  - d. Distribution.
3. **Lodging Recommendations.**
  - Media should be able to receive team rate.
4. **Facility Communications.**
  - a. Telephone(s).
  - b. Electrical outlets.
  - c. Internet access.
5. **Media Accommodations at Facility.**
  - a. Seating.
    - (1) Seating arrangements.
    - (2) Electrical outlets (if they plan to work from set).
    - (3) Telephone(s).
  - b. Working press room, if necessary.
    - (1) Equipment.
    - (2) General office supplies.
    - (3) Computerized statistics program.
  - c. Hospitality (probably same room used by VIPS).
    - (1) Room/hours.
    - (2) Refreshments.

Media Checklist

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- (3) Staffing.
- d. Interview room.
  - (1) Microphone.
  - (2) Podium.
  - (3) Chairs.
- e. Results/statistics compilation areas.
  - (1) Equipment.
  - (2) Paper.
  - (3) Backup services.
- 6. **Interviews.**
  - a. Press conferences.
    - (1) Pre-Championship.
    - (2) Post Championship.
  - b. Locker room policy.
  - c. Quotes.
  - d. Features procedure.
- 7. **Personnel.**
  - a. Statistics person.
  - b. Runners.
  - c. Copy machine operators.
  - d. Records keeper.
  - e. Press workroom staff, if necessary.
  - f. Photo monitors.
  - g. Security.
  - h. Press conference moderator.
  - i. Press conference runners (get student-athletes/coaches).
- 8. **Meetings.**
  - a. Games committee chair.
  - b. Team SIDs.
- 9. **Publications.**
  - a. Programs (LEARFIELD is responsible for all program production).
  - b. Team media guides/up-to-date statistics and reports.

## Media Checklist

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- c. Press packers.
  - d. Seat assignment cards.
10. **Reporting of Scores.** You, or your designee, are responsible for reporting each session's scores to Alyssa Rice ([arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office. Please email the results to [ncaa-content@turner.com](mailto:ncaa-content@turner.com), [arice@ncaa.org](mailto:arice@ncaa.org) and [nmeoller@ncaa.org](mailto:nmeoller@ncaa.org).
11. **Announcers.**
- a. Meet with NCAA committee member.
  - b. All announcements approved by NCAA committee.
  - c. Review awards script and procedure with NCAA committee.
12. **Miscellaneous.**
- Championships photographer, if possible.

## Appendix D • Items for Tournament Packets

### ITEMS FOR TOURNAMENT PACKETS

- \_\_\_ 1. Telephone numbers and addresses of hotels where teams are staying.
- \_\_\_ 2. Restaurant guide, giving addresses and types of food.
- \_\_\_ 3. Maps of community and campus.
- \_\_\_ 4. Diagram of playing field area.
  - a. Field;
  - b. Team parking area;
  - c. Warm-up area;
  - d. Gate(s) for teams entrance;
  - e. Restrooms;
  - f. Training area;
  - g. Student-athlete's and/or coaches' hospitality areas, if applicable;
  - h. Scorer's table and location of NCAA representative during competition;
  - i. Press interview area; and
  - j. Filming area.
- \_\_\_ 5. Specific tournament information.
  - a. Practice schedule;
  - b. Game schedule;
  - c. Meeting schedule (coaches and SID);
  - d. Medical/training information and lightning policy;
  - e. Ticket information;
  - f. Press conference, if applicable;
  - g. Banquet/social (National Championship Final Site only);
  - h. Local transportation; and
- \_\_\_ 6. Misconduct statement. *Reference: "Misconduct Statement" section in Pre-Champs Manual.*
- \_\_\_ 7. Crowd control statement. *Reference: "Crowd Control" [Appendix O].*
- \_\_\_ 8. Tobacco statement. *Reference: "Tobacco Ban" "Crowd Control" [Appendix O].*

Items for Tournament Packets  
Page No. 2

\_\_\_\_ 9. Awards form.

\_\_\_\_ 10. Web site information.

## Appendix E • Bat Testing Information

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

purple font-general info; green font-team rep; red font-site rep; black font-host site responsibility

The tournament host is responsible for providing the NCAA site representative with a secure location to bat test, their bat testing fixture, and the envelope shipped to them from the NCAA containing the appropriate stickers and an administrative bat log for each team.

Coaches, or a team representative, must bring their team's bats and their current, annotated NCAA Approved Softball Bat List (referred to hereafter as the "Bat List") for BCT to the designated location at the designated time on each game day.

Once the coach has their bats lined up in the order in which they appear on the Bat List, the bat testing manager shall match the model number of each bat with the models highlighted on the team's Bat List and verify the correct number of each is listed in the appropriate column.

The bat testing manager shall barrel compression test each bat, per the protocol, until there are two passes or two failures (whichever comes first), using 1550psi as the standard minimum OR the specific, lower exception number listed for backstop style bats (as listed on the Bat List).

Bats that pass will be stickered and, when necessary, the team's Bat List will be amended to account for failures. Bats that fail must be marked with the team's name, secured from the team's possession by the tournament host and will be shipped for further analysis at the conclusion of the postseason tier.

The bat testing manager must complete the information in the summary box on page one of the team's Bat List for use on the field of play by the umpires and coaches.

On the first testing day, the administrative bat log (provided in the sticker envelope from the host tournament director) must be completed by the bat testing manager or team representative to reflect all bat models presented and their respective pass/fail status. Note-each model should be listed on one line and then the total number of bats of that model are noted in each day's column.

After the initial testing day, the bat testing manager may use either the administrative bat log or the team's Bat List to perform the subsequent day testing but must copy the results from the testing document to the other document at the end of the daily testing.

At the conclusion of testing for each tier, the completed administrative bat logs, unused stickers and the bat testing fixture must be returned to the host tournament director.

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

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

#### General Information

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

#### Testing Protocol

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

### Post-competition Bat Compliance Testing

#### General Information

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

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

Materials provided by

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

### BCT PROCESS FOR BAT TESTING MANAGERS

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

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

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

Contact info for Dee Abrahamson: Cell: 815-751-2648; Email: abrahamson@niu.edu;  
Shipping Address: 498 Quinlan Ave., DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

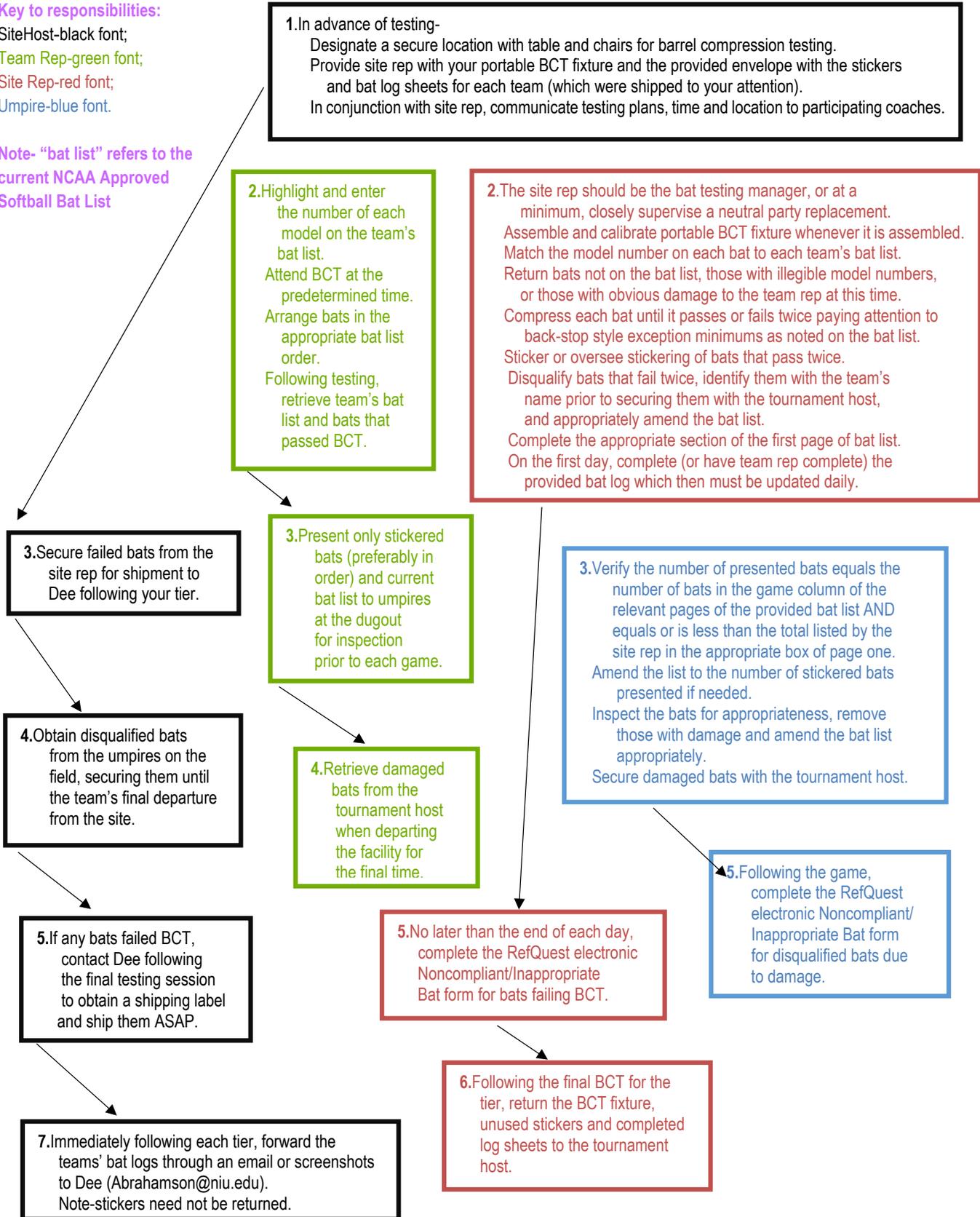
Backup contact regarding BCT fixture or testing: Donna Martin: Cell: 815-761-8626; Email: dmartin1@niu.edu.

NCAA Softball On-Site Portable Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)-Post Season

Key to responsibilities:

- SiteHost-black font;
- Team Rep-green font;
- Site Rep-red font;
- Umpire-blue font.

Note- "bat list" refers to the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List



## Appendix F • Timing Sheets

### Non-Television Timing Sheet (with National Anthem)

	<b>Prior to Game Time</b>
Team enter Dugouts/Grounds crew field prep	30:00
-Teams may share outfield area	
Line drills (shared)	22:00
Umpires/Coaches at home plate	12:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Team introductions	6:00
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest home first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol>	
National anthem	3:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Game begins	0:00
**No batting practice once the teams arrive at the game field**	

### Non-Television Timing Sheet (Without National Anthem)

	<b>Prior to Game Time</b>
Team enter Dugouts/Grounds crew field prep	30:00
-Teams may share outfield area	
Line drills (shared)	22:00
Umpires/Coaches at home plate	12:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Team introductions	6:00
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest home first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol>	
Game begins	0:00
**No batting practice once the teams arrive at the game field**	

**Television Timing Sheet (with National Anthem)****Prior to Game Time**

Team enter Dugouts/Grounds crew field prep	30:00
-Teams may share outfield area	
Line drills (shared)	22:00
Umpires/Coaches at home plate	12:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Team introductions	6:00
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest home first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol>	
National anthem	2:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Game begins	0:00
**No batting practice once the teams arrive at the game field**	

**Television Timing Sheet (without National Anthem)****Prior to Game Time**

Team enter Dugouts/Grounds crew field prep	30:00
-Teams may share outfield area	
Line drills (shared)	22:00
Umpires/Coaches at home plate	12:00
(Teams clear the field and return to dugout area)	
Team introductions	6:00
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visiting team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest home first base).</li> <li>2. Home team (lines up on baseline in front of dugout, facing dugout; first player lines up nearest home plate, with last person named lining up nearest third base).</li> <li>3. Introduction of umpires (stand behind home plate).</li> </ol>	
Game begins	0:00
**No batting practice once the teams arrive at the game field**	

### Pregame Protocol

2:00	Prior to Game Time:	Field Open/Home Team Bat Testing
1:45	Prior to Game Time:	Visiting Team Bat Testing
1:30	Prior to Game Time:	Home Team will be in the batting cages
1:00	Prior to Game Time:	Visiting Team in batting cages
:30	Prior to Game Time:	Teams may enter dugouts & share outfield (no fungo allowed)
:22	Prior to Game Time:	Shared lines (infield/outfield)
:12	Prior to Game Time:	Teams Clear/Field Maintenance/Meeting with Umpires
:06	Prior to Game Time:	Player Introductions* and National Anthem

PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS\*: Both teams should be on their respective foul lines when this occurs. They should be in order that they will be announced. The first person announced should be nearest home plate, with the person that is announced last, nearest their respective base (first or third). Teams should face the flag (if the National Anthem is played).

ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENT: Visitors: Nonstarters in numerical order, Starters- in the batting order. Assistant Coaches, and Head Coach.

## Appendix G • Trainer Responsibilities

### HEAD TRAINER'S MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Contact participating teams to determine any special training needs.
2. Arrange for a physician to be on-call for all games and practices. The head trainer should be able to explain the medical procedures at the coaches meeting, noting also training room hours and services. Be sure to include telephone numbers for off-hours assistance (e.g., local emergency care clinic, nearest hospital, etc.).
3. Plan for a trainer to be at every practice and game.
4. Arrange for medical supplies, towels, water and ice for all practices and games.
5. Drug-testing information.
6. Be able to explain the lightning policy and procedures for exiting the field, including the safest locations for teams until the threat passes.

## Appendix H • Volunteer Waiver

### ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Event: \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Event”)

Participant’s Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Participant”)

Participant’s Age: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration for permitting Participant to participate as a volunteer in the Event as directed by the relevant staff, the undersigned, for themselves, and for their respective heirs, personal representatives and assigns, agree as follows:

**Assumption of Risk:** The undersigned hereby acknowledge and agree that they understand the nature of the Event; that Participant is qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate therein; that there are certain inherent risks and dangers associated with the Event; and that, except as expressly set forth herein, they, knowingly and voluntarily, accept, and assume responsibility for, each of these risks and dangers, and all other risks and dangers that could arise out of, or occur during, Participant’s participation in the Event.

**Release and Waiver:** The undersigned hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the National Collegiate Athletic Association and its member institutions, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ or any subdivision thereof, and each of them, their officers and employees, (collectively, the “Releasees”), from and for any liability resulting from any personal injury, accident or illness (including death), and/or property loss, however caused, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant’s participation in the Event, except for those caused by the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

**Indemnification and Hold Harmless:** The undersigned also hereby agree to INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD the Releasees HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities including, but not limited to, attorney’s fees, arising from, or in any way related to, Participant’s participation in the Event, except for those arising out of the willful misconduct, gross negligence or intentional torts of the above parties, as applicable.

**Permission to Use Likeness/Name:** The undersigned further agree to allow, without compensation, Participant’s likeness and/or name to appear, and to otherwise be used, in material, regardless of media form, promoting the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and/or its championships, events and activities, including those of its representatives and licensees.

**Severability:** The undersigned expressly agree that the foregoing assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

**Acknowledgment of Understanding:** The undersigned have read this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, and have had the opportunity to ask questions about the same. The undersigned fully understand this assumption of risk, release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, that the undersigned are giving up substantial rights in connection therewith, and that its terms are contractual, and not a mere recital. The undersigned acknowledge that they are signing this agreement freely and voluntarily.

---

Signature of Participant Date

---

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor Date  
(if Participant is under the age of 18)

---

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Minor Date  
(if Participant is under the age of 18)

## Appendix I • Weather Delay Policies

### NCAA SOFTBALL GENERAL POLICIES FOR WEATHER DELAYS

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

If inclement weather occurs and play is suspended:

1. All teams are expected to remain at the competition facility unless instructed otherwise by the NCAA representative.
2. If play may be resumed within 30 minutes of the time of the suspended game; each team will have a 10-minute warm-up period prior to resuming play.
3. If all teams have remained at the field; however, play has been suspended for 45 minutes, each team will be provided 20 minutes to warm-up prior to resuming play.
4. If play has been suspended for one hour or more and teams have remained on site, the game may start with a 15-minute notification to warm up time and each team will be provided a 30-minute warm-up period prior to resuming play.
5. If play has been suspended for one hour or more and teams have left the competition facility; teams should be provided a 30-minute notification to warm-up time and permitted 15 minutes each in the batting cages prior to the 30-minute warmup on the field and resuming play.
6. NCAA Site Representative will be final decision maker. Note: Starting game times earlier during inclement weather may occur upon agreement of both team head coaches and with final approval by the NCAA Site Representative.

*Note: Notification time may be extended due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. travel from the hotel, etc.). However, no less than 30-minute notification time shall be given prior to starting warm-ups and resuming play.*

*Note: Teams are permitted to continue warming up and using equipment during delay in space is available for both teams. In case of lightning delay, teams should not be outside.*

## Appendix J • Guide to Live Stats

**WARNERMEDIA**



### 2025-26 Host Site Stats Document

#### NCAA LiveStats

NCAA.com is now fully integrated with NCAA LiveStats. Hosts that utilize NCAA LiveStats, a representative from WarnerMedia will contact you to confirm your scoring software. You should not have to do anything differently for these sports.

#### Hosts not Utilizing NCAA LiveStats

WarnerMedia and StatBroadcast will be collaborating this academic year to transmit live stats to NCAA.com for championship events. As an NCAA championship host, your assistance is greatly appreciated in making this a success. Transmitting stats to NCAA.com is **REQUIRED** for your hosted event.

#### Downloading NCAA Broadcastr

StatBroadcast's latest version of the Broadcastr software is required for setup. If you have a lower version previously installed, you will need to update in order to continue.

Please visit <http://www.statbroadcast.com/ncaa/setup/> for all information on downloading, setting up, and testing StatBroadcast on your scoring computer.

**Note: You may need Administrator access to your computer to install this software.** If you are receiving errors overwriting files, you may need your Campus IT staff to temporarily unlock your computer.

#### For Hosts Utilizing StatCrew

All hosts using Statcrew will need to have the latest version of Statcrew software for their sport installed on their scoring computer prior to the championship being hosted.

If you are using Presto Stats, please contact Jason Venson ([Jason.venson@wbd.com](mailto:Jason.venson@wbd.com)), for alternate instructions.

*Please note: StatBroadcast is not affiliated with any other software.*

## Appendix K • Crowd Control

### CROWD CONTROL

The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of athletics or designated representative of the host institution. Host institutions should provide a copy of their evacuation plan as well as other crowd control measures for review by the sports committee. The directors of athletics of the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their student-athletes and other fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship.

Host institutions must provide adequate security and ushers, preferably in uniform, for effective crowd management. Attention should be given to seating arrangements that will alleviate crowd control problems. In addition, evacuation and emergency plans should be in place and should be reviewed with the games committee.

The tournament manager, or a designated representative shall be prepared to use the public-address system at the first sign of unsportsmanlike crowd behavior and request cooperation in maintaining proper playing conditions. However, the following announcement should be made prior to the start of the event:

*"The NCAA promotes good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Also, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited."*

**Artificial Noisemakers.** Artificial noisemakers, air horns and electronic amplifiers shall not be permitted, and such instruments shall be removed from the playing and spectator areas. Band, or any component thereof, shall not play while the game is in progress. The tournament manager shall be responsible for enforcing these provisions.

**Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages.** Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products shall not be sold or otherwise made available for public consumption at any championship event sponsored by or administered by the Association, nor shall any beverages or products be brought to the site during the championship (i.e., during the period from the time access to the site is available to spectators until all patrons have left the facility or area used for competition).

**Flash Photography.** Flash photography shall only be permitted between innings.

**Softballs Hit in Stands.** All softballs hit outside the field of play shall be returned to a member of the softball committee.

## Appendix L • Host Marketing Plan

### HOST MARKETING PLAN

#### Host Information:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Host Institution/Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Host Marketing Team:

Host Institution, Venue and Other (Sports Commission, CVB, etc.) Marketing Team Members (names, titles and contact information for all key contributors to your marketing efforts, including internal and external).

Name	Title	Role	Contact Information

#### Championship Information:

Division: I \_\_\_ II \_\_\_ III \_\_\_ National Collegiate: \_\_\_

Gender: Men's \_\_\_ Women's \_\_\_ Mixed \_\_\_ Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Championship Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Venue Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Ticket Sales Information:

List all ticket package options – adult, youth, student, senior, group, family, etc. - and pricing including all-session, and single session, etc.

Ticket Type	All-Session Price	Single-Session Price	Other Price
Adult			
Youth			
Student			
Senior Citizen			
Group			
Family			
Other			

**Point of Sale Opportunities.** Please describe all ways fans can purchase tickets, e.g., online, telephone, box office.

**Target Markets.** Define your target market based on the dates and times of the championship games you are hosting. Your target market should be specific to your site and identified demographic target. Additionally, you should identify other target markets. Please list in priority order.

General demographics of your target market:

- 1.
- 2.

Specific target markets:

- 1.
- 2.

**Marketing Plan Objectives.** Outline your goals and objectives for the championship. Specifically, how do you plan to meet the ticket sales goal and key dates to meet those objectives?

**Host/LOC Resources:**

Resources	Host	LOC	Community (CVB, Chamber of Commerce, Sports Commission, etc.)	Venue	Other
<i>Database Name &amp; Size:</i>					
<i>Website Address:</i>					

<b>Video/LED Board:</b>					
<b>Print Publications:</b>					
<b>Facebook Fans:</b>					
<b>Twitter Followers:</b>					
<b>Local Event Calendar Listings:</b>					
<b>Other:</b>					

**Marketing Plan:**

Please outline your specific marketing strategies, including all traditional and non- traditional marketing efforts focusing on local, regional and national (if applicable) efforts.

	<b>Details (describe activation)</b>	<b>Timeline/Dates</b>
<b>Grassroots Efforts:</b>		
<b>Email Blasts:</b>		
<b>Social Media:</b>		
<b>Cross Promotions During Events:</b>		
<b>Group Sales:</b>		
<b>Online:</b>		
<b>Radio:</b>		
<b>Print Publications:</b>		
<b>Outdoor:</b>		
<b>TV:</b>		
<b>Other:</b>		

**Marketing Budget:**

Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs:      \$

NCAA Online Marketing Website Budget:      \$

Total Marketing Budget:                              \$

Indicate specific dollar amounts and how funds will be spent below.

<b>Host Marketing Budget from Bid Specs Allocation:</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual Cost</b>

**DIVISION II SOFTBALL**

<b>Online Marketing Website Budget:</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual Cost</b>
<b>Trade (List all trade and value below)</b>		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Host Marketing Timeline:**

Please identify specific marketing activations, key milestones and target dates below.

Month	Marketing Activation	Milestone/Goal	Target Date
	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		

## Appendix M • Roster Form

### TEAM DUGOUT ROSTER

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

REGIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ SUPER REGIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ FINALS \_\_\_\_\_

List below the 24 student-athletes who will be eligible to be part of a game’s 20-person active roster noted on the lineup card. **No changes are allowed to the team dugout roster form after the Tuesday prior to the start of competition in each round.**

Please email a copy of this form to your site’s tournament director, site representative and Ariona Johnson ([ajohnson@ncaa.org](mailto:ajohnson@ncaa.org)) by the Tuesday prior to the start of competition. **Please note the reimbursable travel party for Division II Softball is 26 people.**

**Team lineup cards with the 20-person roster noted are still required to be submitted 20- to the site rep/press box a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the start of each game.**

Please list in the name and uniform number of each player in numerical order, based on uniform number.

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

A minimum of six (6) bench credentials are **required** to be held for team personnel (not student-athletes) such as coaches, athletic trainer, manager, etc.

1	_____	4	_____
2	_____	5	_____
3	_____	6	_____

If traveling with a team doctor (not an athletic trainer) an additional credential may be provided.