



2021 DIVISION III
SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2020-21 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6222
ncaa.org
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Section 1 • Introduction

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

Sections one through eight apply to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Concussion Management

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

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

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

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

For further details, please refer to the NCAA [Sport Science Institute website](#) for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 4•2 Drug Testing

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

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I), 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division II) and 18.4.1.5 and 31.2.3 (Division III), and may be determined to be ineligible as a result thereof. Only student-athletes who have consented in writing to such testing are initially eligible for these championships; and thereafter, student-athletes who are tested shall remain eligible only if they test negative.

Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

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

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

Section 6 • Fan Travel

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

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

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

1. Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and
2. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warmups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a

single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

Section 8 • Research

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

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

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

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

Section 9 • Division III

Section 9.1 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams possible while minimizing missed class time; to emphasize regional competition in regular-season scheduling; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences, independent institutions and a limited number of at-large teams, realizing that this may be done at the expense of leaving out some championship-caliber teams.

Section 9.2 Commencement Conflicts

If an institution's commencement conflicts with participation in the championship, it shall inform the NCAA championship manager in writing one week before the selection date for the governing sport committee to consider an accommodation and a change to the championship schedule.

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

- Applies to team sports only.
- The governing sport committee, in consultation with participating institutions, may reschedule the game on the nearest possible date.
- Does not apply to predetermined finals sites.
- The governing sport committee shall make a good-faith effort to accommodate participating institutions in non-predetermined preliminary-round contests with multiple teams participating at the same site.

Section 9•3 Gameday the DIII Way

Division III promotes and atmosphere that is a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics, for everyone through Gameday the DIII Way. Gameday the DIII Way establishes an expectation for championship hosts, coaches, student-athletes and spectators to focus on the common standards of safety, responsiveness, dignity and experience while participating or attending a championship event. We ask that each participant and attendee be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Gameday the DIII Way.

Section 9•4 Religious Conflicts

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before May 1 of the preceding academic year to be excused from competing on that day. The notification shall be valid for a period of two years. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team or an individual competitor to compete before the time originally scheduled.

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

Division III Softball

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

JoAnn Nester
Championships Manager
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
239-707-0135 / jnester@ncaa.org

Paige Newman
Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6660 / pnewman@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

ATLANTIC REGION

TBD

CENTRAL REGION

Denny Griffin
Head Softball Coach
Alma College

EAST REGION

Rachel Turoscy
Head Softball Coach
DeSales University

GREAT LAKES REGION

Brad Duckworth
Director of Athletics
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

MIDWEST REGION

Rilee Dawson
Head Softball Coach
The College of St. Scholastica

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Diana Pepin
Head Softball Coach
Eastern Connecticut State University

NORTHEAST REGION

Marie Curran-Headley
Director of Athletics
State University of New York at Cobleskill

WEST REGION

Janae Shirley
Head Softball Coach/Senior Woman Administrator
East Texas Baptist University

For additional information about the Division III Softball Championship, contact:

Marie Curran-Headley, committee chair
Director of Athletics
State University of New York at Cobleskill
518-255-5128 / curranmc@cobleskill.edu

Craig Hyde
National Coordinator of Softball Officials
205-821-6049 / hyde5570@att.net

Ashlee Follis
NCAA Playing Rules
317-917-6145 / afollis@ncaa.org

Vickie Van Kleeck
NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor
540-819-4655 / ncaasbsre@gmail.com

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

[Reference: Bylaw 21.4.1.4 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

An advisory committee in each of the eight sport regions shall assist the Division III Softball Committee in the evaluation of teams throughout the season. Conference commissioners shall appoint conference representatives on the regional advisory committees.

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC REGION		
Renee Hellert, chair	Moravian College	Landmark
Shawn Carty	Franklin & Marshall College	Centennial
Dee Conway	University of Mary Washington	Coast-to-Coast
Tommy Forrester	Emory & Henry College	ODAC
Kim Scavone	Meredith College	USA South
Kathy Staib	Elizabethtown College	Landmark
Merritt Yackey	University of the South	SAA
CENTRAL REGION		
Denny Griffin, chair	Alma College	MIAA
Shawn Hendrickson	Transylvania University	Heartland
Becky Hilgert	Calvin University	MIAA
Erin O'Neill	Kenyon College	North Coast
Tina Phillips	University of Pittsburgh, Bradford	Allegheny Mountain
Deanna Tritinger	Chatham University	Presidents'
Kari Winters	Muskingum University	OAC
EAST REGION		
Rachel Turoscy, chair	DeSales University	MAC Freedom
Mavreen Hering	Stockton University	NJAC
Brett Cline	Wilson College	Colonial States
Wes Landrum	Alvernia University	MAC Commonwealth
Lindsay McCarthy	Misericordia University	MAC Freedom
Laura Patton	Cabrini University	Atlantic East
Michael Sporton	CUNYAC	CUNYAC
GREAT LAKES REGION		
Brad Duckworth, chair	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	WIAC
Amber Dohman	University of Wisconsin-River Falls	WIAC
Cristina Lukas	Dominican University	Northern Athletics
Whitney Sowers	Millikin University	CCIW
Kim Zarling	Beloit College	Midwest
MIDWEST REGION		
Rilee Dawson, chair	The College of St. Scholastica	UMAC
Casey Cromwell	Fontbonne University	SLIAC
Alicia du'Monceaux	Northwestern-St. Paul	UMAC
Mandi Nocita	Buena Vista University	American Rivers
Colleen Powers	St. Catherine University	MIAC
Michelle Venturella	Washington University (St. Louis)	UAA

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
NEW ENGLAND REGION		
Diana Pepin, chair	Eastern Connecticut State University	Little East
Olivia Berry	Emmanuel College	GNAC
Kelly Bevere	Middlebury College	NESCAC
Lindsay Couturier	Bridgewater State University	MASCAC
Whitney Goldstein	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	NEWMAC
Jannelle Iaquinto	Salve Regina University	Commonwealth Coast
Kat McKay	University of Maine at Farmington	North Atlantic
Heather Stone	Western Connecticut State	Little East
Heather Ross	Lesley University	NECC
NORTHEAST REGION		
Marie Curran-Headley, chair	State University of New York at Cobleskill	North Atlantic
Mandi Baer	Penn State Harrisburg	NEAC
Megan Cross	SUNYAC	SUNYAC
Melody Cope	St. Joseph's (Long Island)	Skyline
Erica Li	Russell Sage College	Empire 8
Kristen McGaughey	Clarkson University	Liberty League
WEST REGION		
Janae Shirley, chair	East Texas Baptist University	American Southwest
Jose Ortega	Redlands	SCIAC
Jessica Hollen	George Fox University	Northwest
Mark Suire	Centenary College	SCAC
Stan Wells	LeTourneau University	American Southwest

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 26	Deadline for institutions to submit their complete schedules online.
Monday, March 29	Bid information for selection of regional sites available online at ncaa.org .
Monday, April 12, 5 p.m. Eastern time	Deadline for submitting bid materials to serve as a host institution for a 2021 regional tournament.
Thursdays, April 29, May 6, May 13 and Monday, May 17	Published rankings.
Sunday, May 16	Selection of teams.
Monday, May 17, 1 p.m. Eastern time	Online selection show to announce teams and regional sites selected for the championship.
Tuesday, May 18, 11 a.m. Eastern time	Regional teleconferences with respective regional host and participating teams.
Friday-Sunday, May 21-23	Regionals. (Note: Regionals that include a team with a no-Sunday play policy will be conducted Thursday-Saturday, May 20-22.)
Monday, May 24, 11 a.m. Eastern time	Teleconference with eight teams advancing to the finals.
Thursday-Tuesday, May 27-June 1	Championship at Moyer Park, Salem, Virginia; hosts — Old Dominion Athletic Conference and the City of Salem.
Monday-Wednesday, June 21-23	Committee annual meeting (virtual).

CHAMPIONSHIP DATE FORMULA

Regionals (8 sites):	May 20-23
Finals:	May 27-June 1

FUTURE DATES

Year	Regionals	Super Regionals	Championship / Site
2022	May 13-15	May 20-21	May 26-31 / Salem, Virginia
2023	May 12-14	May 19-20	May 25-30 / Marshall, Texas
2024	May 10-12	May 17-18	May 23-28 / Salem, Virginia
2025	May 9-10	May 16-17	May 22-27 / Bloomington, Illinois
2026	May 8-9	May 15-16	May 21-26 / Salem, Virginia

Sites for regionals and super regionals are determined by the Division III Softball Committee. Finals sites are recommended by the Division III Softball Committee, with final approval from the Division III Championships Committee. (See [Appendix A](#) for brackets.)

Section 1•5 Division III Commencement Conflict Policy

If an institution's commencement conflicts with participation in the championship, it shall inform the NCAA championship manager in writing one week before the selection date for the governing sports committee to accommodate a request to alter the championship schedule.

The following guidelines apply to commencement requests:

- Applies to team sports only.
- The governing sports committee, in consultation with participating institutions, would reschedule the game on the nearest possible date if a participating school has a conflict.
- Does not apply to predetermined finals sites.

The governing sports committee shall make a good-faith effort to accommodate participating institutions in non-predetermined preliminary-round contests with multiple teams participating at the same site.

Section 1•6 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams possible while minimizing missed class time; to emphasize regional competition in regular-season scheduling; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences, independent institutions and a limited number of at-large teams, realizing that this may be done at the expense of leaving out some championship-caliber teams.

Section 1•7 Equipment

BALLS

The Rawlings NC12L is the official softball for the championship. Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, Inc. will supply softballs for all championship rounds; no other softball shall be used.

BATS

Bats used in competition MUST appear on the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List, which is posted on www.sup.arbitersports.com. The bat list will be updated the second Monday of January, March, April and July. Additional lists will be posted when a manufacturer withdraws a bat model or the results of bat testing dictate assessing strikes against and/or removing a model. When reviewing the bat list, please note that a bat on the list with a strike(s) may be used in competition. Also, a summary of changes to the listing appears in a separate document. DEL means that model was deleted from the list.

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

BAT TESTING

Bat testing will be conducted daily before competition at all Division III regionals and at the finals.

Section 1•8 Rules

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

The NCAA softball rules shall be followed, including the rules and changes/modifications below:

1. The complex must be enclosed so that admission can be charged.
2. It is highly recommended that a facility have a skinned infield and a natural grass outfield. However, the softball committee will consider facilities with artificial surfaces when selecting sites.
3. The backstop must be at least 25 feet (maximum 30 feet) from home plate. When the backstop is wood, cement or brick, padding is required from dugout to dugout beginning not higher than 1 foot off the ground and extending to the top of the wood, cement or brick or 6 feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.
4. It is highly recommended that the playing field be enclosed completely by sideline fences and a permanent home-run fence in a smooth arc of not more than 235 feet from home plate.

Institutional fields with a 6-foot or taller fence shall be a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields and 220 feet in center field. Institutional fields with a 4-foot fence shall be a minimum of 210 feet in left and right fields and 230 feet in center field. It is highly recommended that municipal fields meet these same requirements.

For all new construction, it is required that the fence be six feet or higher and be a minimum of 190 feet in left and right fields and 220 feet in center field.

If a temporary home-run fence is used, it must be secured so as not to collapse on and displace the foul pole and to prevent balls from rolling under.

5. The international tiebreaker will not be used in championship play.

Section 1•9 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Each competing team selected for the NCAA championship must bring two sets of uniforms of different colors. The home team shall select its desired uniform color, and the visiting team must wear a contrasting color jersey from the home team. Determination of uniform jersey colors must be approved by the NCAA site representative. As a reminder, when teams play back-to-back games, they must be prepared to change uniforms, if necessary. Noncompliance with this policy may result in misconduct as outlined in this manual. On the field, including the practice areas and the bench and dugout, each team is limited to eligible players in uniform and coaches, athletic trainers and managers, all of whom shall be in appropriate team colors and within the allotted bench size.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The field for the 2021 championship will include 48 teams. For 2021 only, there will be no super regional round. Six teams will compete at eight regional sites in a double-elimination tournament.

The eight teams advancing from super regionals will compete at the finals site in a double-elimination tournament. The final two teams will compete in a best-of-three series to determine the national champion.

Regionals. The procedures outlined below shall be used in the conduct of all regional tournaments.

Regionals will begin Friday, May 21. (Competition will begin Thursday at regional sites with a team that has a no-Sunday play policy and the inclement weather formula will be adjusted accordingly.) Every attempt should be made to complete regional competition by the Sunday before the NCAA Division III Softball Championship. Competition may be scheduled one additional day if: (1) weather or unforeseen circumstances prevent the completion of competition on the originally scheduled final day of competition; or (2) completing competition would require a team to play three games in one day. (Note: A team may be required to complete a halted game and play up to two additional games in the same day.) A team may be required to play three games in one day on the rain date (Monday) to complete competition. If exceptions (e.g., weather) preclude the completion of competition by Monday, the advancing team will be determined based on the inclement weather formula in this section.

Six-Team Regionals. Games 1-4 will be played on the first day; Games 5-8 will be played on the second day; and Games 9 and 10 (and Game 11, if necessary) will be played on the third day. (If Game 11 would be the third game of the day for a team, Game 11 should be played on the fourth day.) The procedure below will be observed. Games follow in chronological order. No exceptions to game order will be permitted.

Day 1: Game 1	No. 1 seed vs. No. 6 seed
Game 2	No. 2 seed vs. No. 5 seed
Game 3	No. 3 seed vs. No. 4 seed
Game 4	Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2
Day 2: Game 5	Winner Game 1 vs. Loser Game 3
Game 6	Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3
Game 7	See scenarios
Game 8	See scenarios
Day 3: Game 9	See scenarios
Game 10	See scenarios
Game 11 (if necessary)	See scenarios

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Regionals	Friday-Sunday, May 21-23, 2021. (Regional competition will be conducted Thursday-Saturday for those regionals with a team that has a policy prohibiting competition on Sunday policy. The host must be prepared to host Thursday, if necessary).
Championship	Thursday-Tuesday, May 27-June 1, 2021

STARTING TIMES

Recommended starting times for regional games are included on the brackets in [Appendix A](#). Prospective host institutions may request alternate starting times for regional games in their bid materials for approval by the NCAA Division III Softball Committee. Games times should be scheduled a minimum of two hours apart and must follow the championship format below.

Regional start times:

- Games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday shall be scheduled between noon and 8:30 p.m.
- Games on Sunday shall be scheduled between noon and 8:30 p.m.

The committee shall determine game times for the finals.

LENGTH AND SCHEDULE OF GAMES

All games shall be seven innings, except that a five-inning, eight-run rule will be used in all rounds of the championship. If play is stopped before a seven-inning game is completed and the eight-run rule is not in effect, the game shall resume from the point of interruption. Every attempt should be made to complete regional competition by Sunday. Competition may be scheduled one additional day if:

- (1) weather or unforeseen circumstances prevent the completion of competition on the originally scheduled final day of competition;
- (2) in order to complete competition, it would be necessary to begin a game after 11 p.m.; or
- (3) completing competition would require a team to play three games in one day. (Note: A team may be required to complete a halted game and play up to two additional games in the same day. On the rain date, a team may be required to play three games in one day.)

If competition has to be extended to the additional day, it must be completed without starting a game after 11 p.m. that day. (If the regional final begins before 11 p.m. that day and an "if necessary" game becomes necessary to determine the champion, that game will immediately follow.)

If play is suspended before the regional championship game and competition at that round ceases, see the inclement weather advancement formula outlined below.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The committee reserves the right to revise the game schedule because of inclement weather or unforeseen consequences.

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

- If less than three games are completed, the highest seed advances.
- If three games are completed, the highest undefeated seed advances.
- If at least four games are completed but less than six games are completed, the highest remaining seed advances.
- If six games are completed, the highest remaining undefeated seed advances.
- If the tournament is unable to be completed after Game 6, the highest remaining undefeated seed advances. If no remaining teams are undefeated, the highest remaining seed advances.

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0 games played	Highest seed
1 game played	Highest seed
2 games played	Highest seed
3 games played	Highest undefeated seed
4 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
5 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
6 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
7 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
8 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
9 games played	Highest remaining undefeated seed
10 games played	Winner of Game 10 unless each team has one loss (i.e., the teams are tied), then: 1) Head-to-head competition 2) Highest remaining seed

SQUAD SIZE

Each team is limited to 20 eligible players in uniform and an official travel party of 25. In addition, each team may request a maximum of seven bench passes (two of which may be utilized by medical personnel only). Bench passes provide free admission to the competition venue and access to the dugout. Each team will submit a credential list and may request a maximum of 25 participant credentials and a maximum of seven bench passes. Any individuals not included on the credential list must purchase a ticket for admission to the venue. A participating institution's sports information director will receive a separate media credential and is not included in the allotment of participant credentials or bench passes.

Teams will submit a roster for each game. Coaches may include different individuals on the roster from game to game within a round of competition (e.g., regionals, finals site). Note: This is a new policy, effective 2020-21.

The number of people allowed in the dugout shall not exceed 30. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it automatically shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the contest to allow a competing institution to conform to the rule.

There will be no exceptions regarding this section.

TRAVEL PARTY

[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division III General Section.]

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 25 persons.

Section 2•2 Results

REGIONAL RANKINGS

Each regional advisory committee shall conduct a teleconference each Wednesday beginning April 7 to rank the designated number of teams in the respective sport region and submit its recommendation to the Division III Softball Committee for review and final determination of rank order.

Regional rankings will be published on ncaa.com the last three weeks of the regular season (April 29, May 6 and May 13) and in conjunction with selections (May 17). The primary criteria for each institution, listed alphabetically by region, will be included as part of the published rankings via links for each region included at the bottom of the rankings page. Note that score-reporting deadlines will begin several weeks before the published rankings.

SCORE REPORTING

Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login), and this information will be transferred to the score-reporting system for use by the Softball Committee. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to sports information directors in a preseason memorandum distributed by the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the score-reporting process, please contact Michelle Watsky (mwatsky@ncaa.org or 317-917-6775).

Section 2•3 Selections Information

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

As required by the selection principles, the following berths have been allocated for the 2021 championship: Pool A — 42, Pool B — 1, Pool C — 5. (Note: The number of pools may be adjusted based on sponsorship numbers at the time of selections.)

Pool A includes the conferences that have been awarded automatic qualification. Pool B includes independent institutions and institutions from conferences that do not meet the automatic qualifying criteria. Pool C includes those Pool A institutions that do not receive their conference's automatic bid and the remaining teams in Pool B. There will be no predetermined regional allocations for Pool B or Pool C and no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region. A regional summary of the institutions in each pool is included in [Appendix B](#).

The Division III Softball Committee will select teams from Pools B and C on a national basis using primary and secondary selection criteria. The committee will select teams in Pools B and C based on the criteria listed in this section.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Conferences that have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2021 championship are:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference	New England Collegiate Conference
American Rivers Conference	New England Small College Athletic Conference
American Southwest Conference	New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Centennial Conference	New Jersey Athletic Conference
City University of New York Athletic Conference	North Atlantic Conference
Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference	North Coast Athletic Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	North Eastern Athletic Conference
Colonial States Athletic Conference	Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
Commonwealth Coast Conference	Northwest Conference
Empire 8	Ohio Athletic Conference
Great Northeast Athletic Conference	Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference	Presidents' Athletic Conference
Landmark Conference	Skyline Conference
Liberty League	Southern Athletic Association
Little East Conference	Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference	Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference
Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association	St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth	State University of New York Athletic Conference
Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom	Upper Midwest Athletic Conference
Midwest Conference	USA South Athletic Conference
Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

COUNTABLE COMPETITION

For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see NCAA Constitution 3.2.4.4) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

To be considered during the selection process either as an automatic berth (Pool A) or at-large (Pools B and C) selection, an institution must play at least 70% of its scheduled competition against Division III in-region opponents, unless a waiver has been approved by the Division III Championships Committee.

In-region competition is defined as follows:

1. Contests against Division III opponents within an institution's defined sport region.
2. Contests against Division III opponents within an institution's geographical region. (Constitution 4.13.1.1)
3. Contests against Division III institutions within a 500-mile radius. The NCAA Travel Expense System (TES) (web1.ncaa.org/TES/exec/TES/exec/miles) will be utilized to confirm the distance from campus to campus.
4. Contests against conference opponents.
5. Contests against institutions in any year of the provisional or reclassifying process into Division III (within the same geographical region).

Bylaw 31.3.2.3 Exception. For sports with a spring NCAA championship, an institution may exempt out-of-region contests conducted during one institutional vacation period (e.g., spring break). (Adopted:4/15/14, effective 8/1/14.)

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

[Reference: Bylaw 31.3.4.2 – Selection Criteria.]

PRIMARY CRITERIA

The primary criteria emphasize Division III competition (all contests leading up to the NCAA championships). All criteria listed will be evaluated (not listed in priority order).

- Won-lost percentage against Division III opponents.
- Division III head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common Division III opponents.
- Results versus ranked Division III teams as established by the final ranking and the ranking preceding the final ranking.
 - Conference postseason contests are included.
 - Contests versus provisional and reclassifying members in their third and fourth years shall count in the primary criteria. Provisional and reclassifying members shall remain ineligible for rankings and selections.
- Division III strength of schedule.
 - Opponents' Average Winning Percentage (OWP).
 - Opponents' Opponents' Average Winning Percentage (OOWP).
 - See [Appendix C](#) for explanation of OWP and OOWP calculations. Strength of schedule is weighted at 2/3 OWP and 1/3 OOWP.
 - Results versus teams above .750 (2021 only).

SECONDARY CRITERIA

If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the secondary criteria will be reviewed. All the criteria listed will be evaluated (not listed in priority order). The secondary criteria introduce results against out-of-region Division III and all other opponents, including those contests versus opponents from other classifications (i.e., NAIA, NCAA Divisions I and II).

- Non-Division III won-lost percentage.
- Results versus common non-Division III opponents.
- Division III nonconference strength of schedule.
- Results versus teams above .500 (2021 only).

Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used by the Softball Committee for selection purposes.

PAIRINGS

[Reference: Bylaw 31.3.5.1 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Once automatic qualifiers are identified and the teams from Pools B and C are selected, teams will be grouped in clusters according to natural geographic proximity and assigned to a regional site. A team may be moved to numerically balance the bracket if geographic proximity is maintained (within 500 miles). Flights shall be minimized. Teams from the same conference will not be paired to play one another in the first game of regionals as long as geographic proximity is maintained.

The final eight teams shall be seeded after the conclusion of preliminary-round competition and paired according to traditional bracketing principles (i.e., #1 vs. #8, #2 vs. #7, etc.).

Section 2•5 Site Selection

PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

Any institution interested in hosting a regional of the 2021 NCAA Division III Softball Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions (if applicable) and ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile System. Please note that in order to submit a bid, you must first locate the desired championship in the "Championships Available for Bidding" section and select "Start Bid." The highest-ranked teams will be given consideration as regional sites, assuming they meet the requirements of Bylaw 31.1.3.2.1.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND PROFILE SYSTEM

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for hosting a regional round for this championship is 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday, April 12.

In addition to projected ticket sales and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Lodging for committee members and site representatives.
- Lodging for umpires.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Per diem, mileage and baggage fees for committee members and site representatives will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Umpires will be reimbursed via the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and baggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2021 NCAA Division III Softball Championship must add (or ensure accuracy of) facility information for the applicable competition venue. This information is located at championships.ncaa.org. Supporting information (e.g., facility diagram or pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in their deliberations regarding prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

Institutions interested in hosting a preliminary round of the 2021 NCAA Division III Softball Championship must submit a key contacts form via the Championships Bid and Profile System by 5 p.m. Eastern time Monday, April 12.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Based on a review of current and future championships competition venues, discussions with safety and security experts, and its own expertise and knowledge, the NCAA has established a Safety and Security Advisory Group (SSAG) to develop a compilation of Best Practices for NCAA championships. We urge each competition venue to take these Best Practices into account when developing its safety and security program. As part of your bid, please submit a safety and security plan for your venue, in addition to the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, which is located in Appendix A of the [Best Practices document](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact JoAnn Nester (jnester@ncaa.org; 239-707-0135) or email championshipbid@ncaa.org.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the “budget” tab not later than 60 days of the conclusion of competition.

Appendixes

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Round 1

Game 1
Friday, May 21, 10 a.m.

Game 2
Friday, May 21, Noon

Game 5
Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m.

Game 4
Friday, May 21, 4 p.m.

Game 6
Saturday, May 22, Noon

Game 3
Friday, May 21, 2 p.m.

Region 1
DETERR

Loser Game 1

Loser Game 2

Loser Game 3

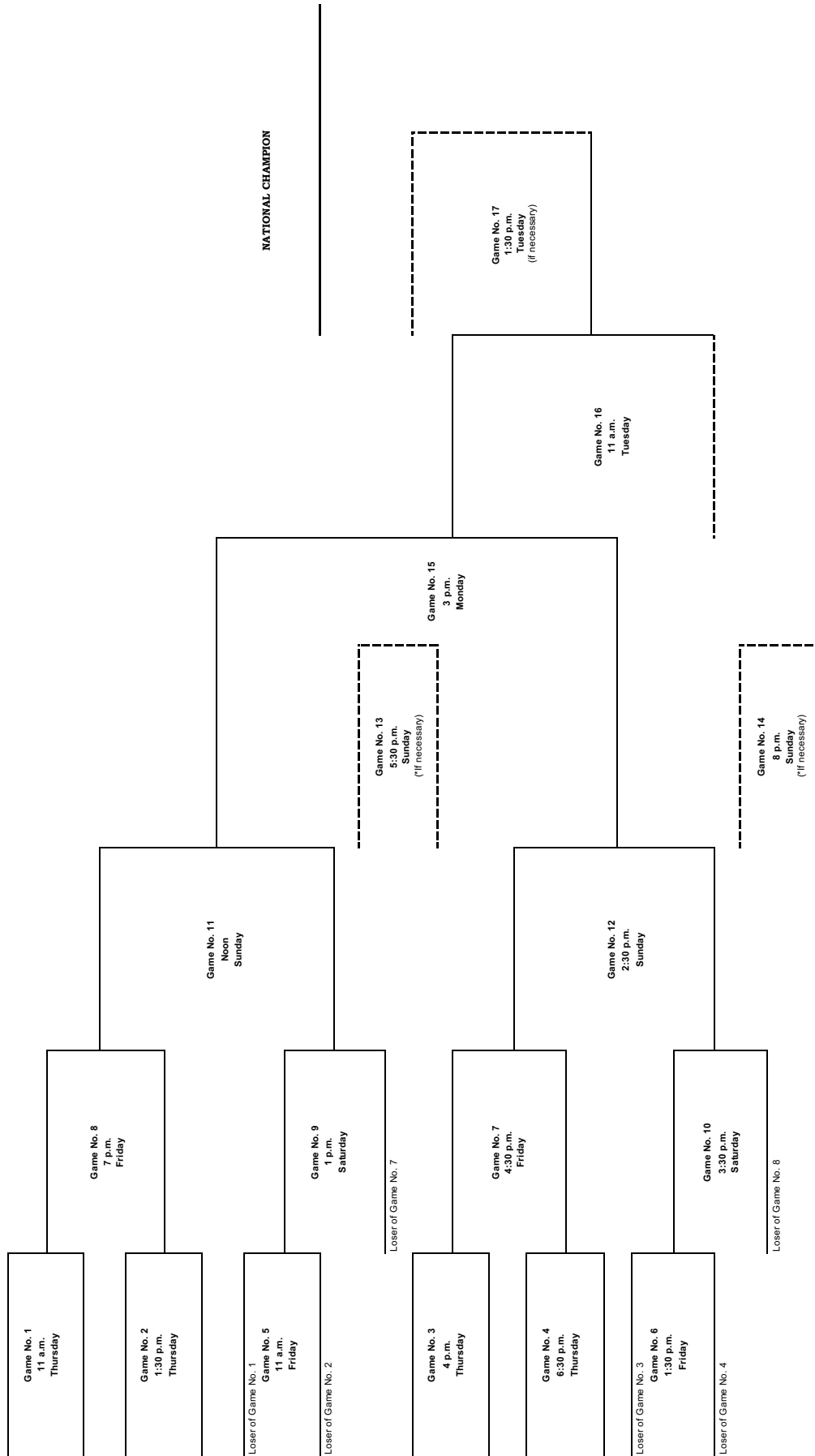
Game #1	#6 vs. #1
Game #2	#5 vs. #2
Game #3	#4 vs. #3
Game #4	LG1 vs. LG2
Game #5	WG1 vs. LG3
Game #6	WG2 vs. WG3
If four teams remain after Game #6:	
Game #7	WG4 vs. LG6
Game #8	WG5 vs. WG6
Game #9	WG7 vs. LG8
Game #10	WG8 vs. WG9
Game #11	Same teams as G10
If five teams remain after Game #6:	
Game #7	WG4 vs. WG5
Game #8	LG5 vs. LG6
Game #9	WG6 vs. WG7
If two teams remain after Game #9:	
Game #10	WG8 vs. WG9
Game #11	Same teams as G10
If three teams remain after Game #9:	
Game #10	WG8 vs. LG9
Game #11	WG9 vs. WG10

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2021 NCAA Division III Softball Championship
Salem, Virginia
May 27 - June 1



* If only one "If necessary" game is needed, it will be played 45 minutes following Game No. 12.
All times are local time.
Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

ATLANTIC REGION

Centennial Conference (9)

Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
McDaniel College

Muhlenberg College
Swarthmore College
Ursinus College
Washington College (Maryland)

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (6)

Christopher Newport University
Finlandia University
University of Mary Washington

Mount Mary University
Salisbury University
Southern Virginia University

Landmark Conference (7)

Catholic University
Drew University
Elizabethtown College
Juniata College

Moravian College
University of Scranton
Susquehanna University

Old Dominion Athletic Conference (11)

Bridgewater College (Virginia)
Eastern Mennonite University
Emory & Henry College
Ferrum College
Guilford College
University of Lynchburg

Randolph College
Randolph-Macon College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Virginia Wesleyan University

Southern Athletic Conference (7)

Berry College
Birmingham-Southern College
Centre College
Hendrix College

Millsaps College
Rhodes College
University of the South

USA South Athletic Conference (18)

Agnes Scott College
Averett University
Berea College
Brevard College
Covenant College
Greensboro College
Huntingdon College
LaGrange College
Mary Baldwin University

Maryville College (Tennessee)
Meredith College
Methodist University
North Carolina Wesleyan College
Pfeiffer University
Piedmont College
Salem College (North Carolina)
Wesleyan College (Georgia)
William Peace University

Pool B (3)

Emory University (UAA)
Mississippi University for Women (active 2023-24)

Trinity Washington University

CENTRAL REGION**Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (9)**

Alfred State College
 Hilbert College
 La Roche College
 Medaille College
 Mount Aloysius College

Penn State University, Altoona
 Penn State University Erie, the Behrend College
 University of Pittsburgh, Bradford
 University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Anderson University (Indiana)
 Bluffton University
 Defiance College
 Franklin College
 Hanover College

Manchester University
 Mount St. Joseph University
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Transylvania University

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (9)

Adrian College
 Albion College
 Alma College
 Calvin University
 Hope College

Kalamazoo College
 Olivet College
 Saint Mary's College (Indiana)
 Trine University

North Coast Athletic Conference (9)

Allegheny College
 Denison University
 DePauw University
 Hiram College
 Kenyon College

Oberlin College
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Wittenberg University
 The College of Wooster

Ohio Athletic Conference (10)

Baldwin Wallace University
 Capital University
 Heidelberg University
 John Carroll University
 Marietta College

University of Mount Union
 Muskingum University
 Ohio Northern University
 Otterbein University
 Wilmington College (Ohio)

Presidents' Athletic Conference (10)

Bethany College (West Virginia)
 Chatham University
 Franciscan University of Steubenville
 Geneva College
 Grove City College

Saint Vincent College
 Thiel College
 Washington and Jefferson College
 Waynesburg University
 Westminster College (Pennsylvania)

Pool B (2)

Carnegie Mellon University (UAA)

Case Western Reserve University (UAA)

EAST REGION

City University of New York Athletic Conference (6)

Baruch College
Brooklyn College
Hunter College

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Lehman College
York College (New York)

Colonial States Athletic Conference (10)

Cairn University
Cedar Crest College
Centenary College (New Jersey)
Clarks Summit University
Keystone College

Notre Dame of Maryland University
Rosemont College
Saint Elizabeth University
University of Valley Forge
Wilson College

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (9)

Albright College
Alvernia University
Eastern University
Hood College
Lebanon Valley College

Messiah University
Stevenson University
Widener University
York College (Pennsylvania)

Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (9)

Acadia University
Delaware Valley University
DeSales University
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham
King's College (Pennsylvania)

Lycoming College
Misericordia University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Wilkes University

New Jersey Athletic Conference (10)

Kean University
Montclair State University
New Jersey City University
The College of New Jersey
Ramapo College

Rowan University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark
Stockton University
William Paterson University of New Jersey

Pool B (6)

Cabrini University (AEC)
Gwynedd Mercy University (AEC)
Immaculata University (AEC)

Marywood University (AEC)
Neumann University (AEC)
Wesley College (AEC)

GREAT LAKES REGION**College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (9)**

Augustana College (Illinois)
 Carroll University (Wisconsin)
 Carthage College
 Elmhurst University
 Illinois Wesleyan University

Millikin University
 North Central College
 North Park University
 Wheaton College (Illinois)

Midwest Conference (10)

Beloit College
 Cornell College
 Grinnell College
 Illinois College
 Knox College

Lake Forest College
 Lawrence University
 Monmouth College (Illinois)
 Ripon College
 St. Norbert College

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (12)

Alverno College
 Aurora University
 Benedictine University (Illinois)
 Concordia University Chicago
 Concordia University Wisconsin
 Dominican University (Illinois)

Edgewood College
 Lakeland University
 Marian University (Wisconsin)
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Rockford University
 Wisconsin Lutheran College

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (8)

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
 University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
 University of Wisconsin-Platteville

University of Wisconsin-River Falls
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
 University of Wisconsin-Stout
 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Pool B (2)

University of Chicago

Maranatha Baptist University

MIDWEST REGION

American Rivers Conference (9)

Buena Vista University
Central College (Iowa)
Coe College
University of Dubuque
Loras College

Luther College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Simpson College
Wartburg College

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (12)

Augsburg University
Bethel University (Minnesota)
Carleton College
Concordia College, Moorhead
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University

Macalester College
College of St. Benedict
St. Catherine University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
University of St. Thomas (Minnesota)

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Blackburn College
Eureka College
Fontbonne University
Greenville University
Iowa Wesleyan University

Principia College
Spalding University
Webster University
Westminster College (Missouri)

Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (9)

Bethany Lutheran College
Crown College (Minnesota)
Martin Luther College
University of Minnesota, Morris
North Central University

Northland College
University of Northwestern-St. Paul
The College of St. Scholastica
University of Wisconsin-Superior

Pool B (1)

Washington University in St. Louis (UAA)

NEW ENGLAND REGION**Commonwealth Coast Conference (10)**

Curry College
 Endicott College
 Gordon College
 University of New England
 Nichols College

Roger Williams University
 Salve Regina University
 Suffolk University
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Western New England University

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (12)

Albertus Magnus College
 Anna Maria College
 Dean College
 Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)
 Johnson & Wales University (Providence)
 Lasell University

Norwich University
 Regis College (Massachusetts)
 Rivier University
 University of St. Joseph (Connecticut)
 Saint Joseph's College (Maine)
 Simmons College

Little East Conference (9)

Castleton University
 Eastern Connecticut State University
 Keene State College
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Plymouth State University
 Rhode Island College
 University of Southern Maine
 Western Connecticut State University

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (8)

Bridgewater State University
 Fitchburg State University
 Framingham State University
 Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Massachusetts Maritime Academy
 Salem State University
 Westfield State University
 Worcester State University

New England Collegiate Conference (7)

Bay Path University
 Becker College
 Eastern Nazarene College
 Elms College

Lesley University
 Mitchell College
 New England College

New England Small College Athletic Conference (10)

Amherst College
 Bates College
 Bowdoin College
 Colby College
 Hamilton College

Middlebury College
 Trinity College (Connecticut)
 Tufts University
 Wesleyan University (Connecticut)
 Williams College

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (10)

Babson College
 Clark University (Massachusetts)
 Emerson College
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Smith College

Springfield College
 U.S. Coast Guard Academy
 Wellesley College
 Wheaton College (Massachusetts)
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

DIVISION III SOFTBALL

North Atlantic Conference (10)

Cazenovia College
Husson University
University of Maine, Farmington
University of Maine at Presque Isle
State University of New York at Canton
State University of New York at Cobleskill

*State University of New York at Delphi (active 2022-23)
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
Northern Vermont University-Johnson
Northern Vermont University-Lyndon
Thomas College

Pool B (1)

Brandeis University (UAA)

*Provisional - not eligible for NCAA championship competition.

NORTHEAST REGION

Empire 8 (8)

Alfred University
Elmira College
Houghton College
Keuka College

Nazareth College
Russell Sage College
St. John Fisher College
Utica College

Liberty League (8)

Clarkson University
Ithaca College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
University of Rochester (Liberty/UAA)

Rochester Institute of Technology
St. Lawrence University
Skidmore College
Union College (New York)

North Eastern Athletic Conference (8)

Gallaudet University
Lancaster Bible College
Morrisville State College
Penn State Berks College

Penn State Harrisburg
Penn State University, Abington
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Wells College

Skyline Conference (10)

Farmingdale State College
Manhattanville College
Mount Saint Mary College (New York)
College of Mount Saint Vincent
State University College at Old Westbury

Purchase College, State University of New York
St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn)
St. Joseph's College (Long Island)
Sarah Lawrence College
Yeshiva University

State University of New York Athletic Conference (10)

State University of New York at Brockport
Buffalo State, State University of New York
State University of New York at Cortland
State University of New York at Fredonia
State University of New York at Geneseo

State University of New York at New Paltz
State University of New York at Oneonta
State University of New York at Oswego
Plattsburgh State University of New York
State University of New York at Potsdam

Pool B (1)

New York University (UAA)

WEST REGION**American Southwest Conference (12)**

Belhaven University
 Concordia University Texas
 East Texas Baptist University
 Hardin-Simmons University
 Howard Payne University
 LeTourneau University

Louisiana College
 University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
 McMurry University
 Sul Ross State University
 University of the Ozarks (Arkansas)
 University of Texas at Dallas

Northwest Conference (8)

George Fox University
 Lewis & Clark College
 Linfield University
 Pacific Lutheran University

Pacific University (Oregon)
 University of Puget Sound
 Whitworth University
 Willamette University

Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (8)

California Lutheran University
 Chapman University
 Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges
 University of La Verne

Occidental College
 Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
 University of Redlands
 Whittier College

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (7)

Austin College
 Centenary College (Louisiana)
 University of Dallas
 Schreiner University

Southwestern University (Texas)
 *University of St. Thomas (Texas)
 Texas Lutheran University
 Trinity University (Texas)

Pool B (0)

*Provisional - not eligible for NCAA championship competition.

Appendix C • Strength of Schedule Calculation

STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE CALCULATION

The strength of schedule is made up of two factors: the opponents' winning percentage (OWP) and the opponents' opponents' winning percentage (OOWP).

Opponents' Winning Percentage. Take each opponent's won-lost record against other Division III teams (excluding the results against the team in question); add all wins and all losses to get the cumulative won-lost record that is used to determine the opponents' winning percentage.

To Calculate. Team A's schedule is as follows:

Opponent	Record	vs. Team A	Wins	Losses
Team B	21-7	1-0	20	7
Team C	14-11	0-1	14	10
Team D	9-14	0-1	9	13
Team E	8-17	0-1	8	16
Team F	19-8	1-0	18	8
Totals:			69	54

$69 \div (69 + 54) = .561 \text{ (OWP)}$

Opponents' Opponents' Winning Percentage (OOWP). The strength of each opponent's schedule is measured by taking all of their opponents' won-lost records and finding the winning percentage based on the total opponents' opponents' won-lost record. This recognizes the fact that two opponents with similar won-lost records may have played far different schedules (in terms of strength of opponents).

To Calculate. Using the total opponents' won-lost record for Teams B, C, D, E and F (Team A's opponents), perform the same calculation as the OWP.

	Opponents' Wins	Opponents' Losses
Team B	35	75
Team C	63	40
Team D	55	55
Team E	75	37
Team F	44	60
Totals:	272	267

$272 \div (272 + 267) = .505 \text{ (OOWP)}$

It is important to note that the OOWP will support the OWP (i.e., if Teams A and C have the same OWP of .561; Team A has an OOWP of .505 and Team C has an OOWP of .456; it would indicate Team A has the stronger strength of schedule).

Strength of Schedule Calculation. To calculate the strength of schedule, add two-thirds of the OWP to one-third of the OOWP. Team A's strength of schedule calculation is as follows:

	Value	Weight	SOS Value
OWP	.561	.667	.374
OOWP	.505	.333	.168
Strength of Schedule			.542