



**SITE
REPRESENTATIVE
2025-26 MANUAL**

Division III Softball

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Section 1 • Introduction

Section 1•1 Overview

Thank you for serving as an NCAA site representative at one of the preliminary-round sites of the 2026 NCAA Division III Softball Championship.

During the preliminary round(s) of championship competition, NCAA site representatives serve as the primary ambassadors of both the NCAA and the NCAA Division III Softball Committee. As such, NCAA site representatives are expected to conduct preliminary-round championship competition according to the policies and procedures outlined in this manual, the prechampionship manual and the host operations manual. NCAA site representatives also are responsible for conducting the administrative meeting, games committee meeting and officials meeting prior to the start of preliminary-round competition.

Preliminary Calls

- **Thursday, April 30, at 11 a.m. Eastern time** – potential regional, super regional host, and potential site representative videoconference will be conducted with all site representatives and NCAA staff to review duties and responsibilities.
 - Microsoft Teams link to be distributed by NCAA Staff.
- **Monday, May 11, at 1 p.m. Eastern time** – a videoconference will be conducted with all regional hosts and site representatives.
 - Microsoft Teams link to be distributed by NCAA Staff.

Regionals

- **Tuesday, May 12, at 10 a.m. Eastern time** – participating team videoconference with four (or two) participating team head coaches, site representative and tournament director.
 - Microsoft Teams link to be distributed by site representative or tournament director.
- **Wednesday, May 13, at 4 p.m. local time** – administrative meeting on-site for the four participating teams, lead umpire, site representative and host staff. A hybrid option should be provided, if needed.

Super Regionals

- **Monday, May 18, at 11 a.m. Eastern time** – a videoconference will be conducted with all super regional hosts and site representatives.
 - Microsoft Teams link to be distributed by NCAA Staff.
- **Monday, May 18, at 1 p.m. Eastern time** – super regional participant videoconference with participating team head coaches, site representatives and tournament director.
 - Microsoft Teams Link to be distributed by site representative or tournament director.
- **Wednesday, May 20, at TBD Eastern time** – administrative meeting on-site for the participating teams, lead umpire, site representative and host staff. A hybrid option should be provided, if needed.

In preparation for your role, please review and have on hand the following documents, which are posted on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org):

- [Prechampionship manual](#)
- [Host operations manual](#)

These documents, as well as the information found in this manual, are comprehensive resources for you and should be your first reference when questions arise.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NCAA championship manager (Corey Bray; 317-917-6076; cbray@ncaa.org) or the Division III Softball Committee chair.

On behalf of the NCAA and the Division III Softball Committee, thank you for your time and efforts.

Section 1•2 Responsibilities of Site Representatives

The following is a general overview of the site representative's responsibilities:

- To serve as a representative of the NCAA during championship preliminary-round competition;
- To conduct championship competition according to the policies and procedures outlined in the prechampionship manual and the host operations manual;
- To conduct the administrative meeting in conjunction with the championship;
- To conduct a prechampionship videoconference with teams, administrators and host institution personnel;
- To serve as a resource for participating teams and the tournament director;
- To complete an evaluation of the tournament site; and
- To communicate in a timely fashion to the NCAA championships staff any issues that occur at the site.

Section 2 • Contact Information

Section 2•1 NCAA Staff and National Committee

NCAA STAFF

Corey Bray

Associate Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6076
Cell: 463-302-2048
Email: cbray@ncaa.org

CJ Sowards

Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6001
Email: csowards@ncaa.org

DIVISION III SOFTBALL COMMITTEE

REGION I**Casie Runksmeier, chair**

Associate Athletic Director/SWA
Colby College
Phone: 207-859-4941
Cell: 207-409-6123
Email: crunksme@colby.edu

Term expires: August 2026

REGION II**Dani Bishop**

Head Softball Coach
Brandeis University
Phone: 781-736-3649
Cell: 909-856-3333
Email: dbishop@brandeis.edu

Term expires: August 2029

REGION III**Sara Curran-Headly**

Head Softball Coach
State University of New York at Oneonta
Phone: 607-436-3590
Cell: 814-490-9959
Email: sara.headley@oneonta.edu

Term expires: August 2029

REGION IV**Terry Small**

Commissioner
New Jersey Athletic Conference
Phone: 856-582-3679
Cell: 609-221-1342
Email: tsmall@njacsports.com

Term expires: August 2027

REGION V**Jackie Klahold**

Assistant AD for Game Operations/SWA/
Head Softball Coach
Wilkes University
Phone: 570-408-4031
Cell: 570-855-3497
Email: jacqueline.klahold@wilkes.edu

Term expires: August 2029

REGION VI**Hannah Qualls**

Head Softball Coach
University of Mary Washington
Phone: 540-654-1885
Cell: 334-649-9088
Email: hqualls@umw.edu

Term expires: August 2028

REGION VII

Van Zanic

Director of Athletics & Head Softball Coach
 Geneva College
 Phone: 724-847-6886
 Cell: 724-622-7308
 Email: vgzanic@geneva.edu

Term expires: August 2026

REGION VIII

Kim Camara-Harvey

Director of Athletics
 Blackburn College
 Phone: 217-854-5719
 Cell: 845-527-3726
 Email: brad.duckworth@uwsp.edu

Term expires: August 2028

REGION IX

Jamie L. Mueller

Head Softball Coach
 Wartburg College
 Phone: 319-352-8663
 Cell: 630-263-4012
 Email: jamie.mueller@wartburg.edu

Term expires: August 2027

REGION X

Traci Barrett

Head Softball Coach
 Pacific Lutheran University
 Phone: 253-535-7419
 Cell: 253-208-7787
 Email: barrettj@plu.edu

Term expires: August 2029

Section 3 • Selection and Overview

Section 3•1 Selection Process and Notification

All individuals employed at NCAA member institutions and/or conferences are eligible to serve as site representatives. Individuals who have a perceived conflict of interest in serving as a site representative at a particular institution or for a specific sport should note this when contacted. (See Conflict of Interest policy below.)

Site representatives will be notified after selections if they are needed to serve.

Section 3•2 Conflict of Interest

The NCAA is a voluntary Association comprised of colleges, universities, conferences and other organizations, and governed through a membership-led committee structure. Within the governance structure, committee members must carefully balance their responsibilities to their respective institutions and/or conferences with the obligation to advance the interests of the Association, the division, or the sport, and ultimately enhance the student-athlete experience. While the fiduciary obligations of committee members to their own institution, their conference, and to the Association ordinarily are not in conflict, it is recognized that as a representative membership organization, committee members' fiduciary obligations are first to their institution, second to their conference, and third to the Association. NCAA committee service involves important ethical and moral obligations. Committee integrity is critical to the decision-making process and includes trust, confidentiality and honesty in all issues and aspects of service and representation. NCAA committee members shall disclose any conflict or potential conflict between their respective personal, professional, institutional, conference, or business interests and the interests of the Association that may affect or otherwise threaten such integrity, in any and all actions taken by them on behalf of the Association, for committee evaluation under this Statement.

In addition to any fiduciary obligation to their institution and conference, committee members also have a fiduciary duty to the Association not to use knowledge or information obtained solely due to service on that committee to the disadvantage of the Association during the term of committee service. Further, a committee member shall not participate in the committee's discussion or vote on any action that might bring direct or indirect personal financial benefit to the member or any organization (other than the member's institution or conference) in which the member is financially interested. A committee member also should not participate in a discussion or vote for which the member's institution or conference is to be accorded a special benefit beyond benefits shared with other institutions or conferences or is to receive a penalty or disqualification. A violation of either of the above rules by a member of the committee shall not invalidate the action taken by the committee if, following disclosure of the conflict of interest, the committee authorizes, ratifies or approves the action by a vote sufficient for the purpose, without counting the vote of the committee member with the conflict of interest, and the appropriate oversight body approves the action.

A committee member is responsible for advising the chair of any actual or potential conflicts of interest or obligations that he/she may have hereunder, and should recuse him/herself from participating in proceedings, as may be warranted by this policy. Abuse of one's position as a member of a committee may result in dismissal from that position. When such abuse appears evident, a committee member will be notified by the committee chair and will have the opportunity to present a rebuttal or details of the situation.

Section 3•3 Neutrality

Site representatives are representing the NCAA and should be neutral in this role. Site representatives should dress professionally and refrain from wearing any clothing that denotes institutional and/or conference affiliation.

Section 4 • Important Dates

DIVISION III SOFTBALL IMPORTANT DATES

Site Representatives Notified of Assignments	Upon confirmation of bracket, May 11
Potential Regional, Super Regional Host and Potential Site Representative videoconference	11 a.m. Eastern time, April 30
Videoconference with Regional Tournament Directors and Site Representatives	1 p.m. Eastern time, May 11
Participant Videoconferences for Regional Sites	10 a.m. Eastern time, May 12
Site Representative Arrival Date at Regional Site	Before practices, May 13
Videoconference with Super Regional Tournament Directors and Site Representatives	11 a.m. Eastern time, May 18
Participant Videoconferences for Super Regional Sites	1 p.m. Eastern time, May 18
Site Representative Arrival Date at Super Regional Site	Before practices, May 19

Section 5 • Responsibilities

Section 5•1 Team Championships

BEFORE LEAVING FOR COMPETITION

- Contact the tournament director to introduce yourself, review the schedule of events for the regional/super regional tournament, review the agenda for the participant teleconference and provide your travel plans. Confirm a time for the facility walk-through. The tournament director will confirm your hotel reservation.
- Review the materials in preliminary round host collaboration zone.
- Print or download resource documents.
 - Site representative manual.
 - Host operations manual.
 - Prechampionship manual.
 - Documents in the preliminary round host collaboration zone.
 - Contact information for teams, host and officials.
 - Participant manual when you receive it from the tournament director.
- Download a copy of the current softball rules book or confirm that you have a hard copy of the rules book.
- On the Monday before the Tuesday participant videoconference, confirm that the tournament director emailed the following information to the participating teams' directors of athletics, head coaches and sports information directors (and copies the site representative):
 - Congratulations and welcome.
 - Participant manual (should be complete except for assigned practiced times).
 - Participant videoconference agenda with virtual meeting link.
 - Team hotel assignments.
 - Team information sheet to obtain contact information for each team's head coach, administrator traveling to the regional/super regional, SID and athletic trainer.
- Review practice times on the practice day and the first day of competition. The mileage for each team to your regional site will be provided to you by the NCAA staff, if needed. Prepare to assign practice times on the practice day based on travel distance (i.e., the team farthest from the site has first choice of available practice times, the team the next-farthest distance from the site has second choice of available practice times). The host team should have last choice of practice times. Teams that travel to the site the day before the practice day will be considered local and will have second-to-last choice of practice times (select immediately before host).

BEFORE TRAVELING TO REGIONAL/SUPER REGIONAL SITE

- Remind the tournament director of the importance of neutrality and that the regional/super regional tournament is not a home tournament.
- Remind the tournament director that the host will be responsible for providing appropriate music between innings.
- Remind the host institution sports information director to produce individual name placards for the head coaches and all student-athletes on each team, with their respective institutional logos, for press conferences.
- Contact the umpire crew chief before the tournament to review the umpire meeting agenda and the assignment of umpires for the first day of games. The national coordinator of umpires is responsible for assignments on all competition dates. If there is a recommended change to the prescribed umpire rotation, the site representative should contact the NCAA championship manager and the umpire crew chief on site should contact the national coordinator of umpires before approval is granted. Also, remind the crew chief to attend the administrative meeting to review any NCAA rules modifications.

- Check with the tournament director regarding the following shipments using the shipment checklist:
 - NCAA signs.
 - Softballs from Rawlings.
 - Merchandise from Event 1.
 - Awards from MTM.
 - Umpire patches from the NCAA and umpire hats from Smittys.
 - Student-athlete patches, helmet stickers, and congratulatory cards from the NCAA.
 - Bat testing equipment (logs and stickers from the NCAA; hosts provides the machines).
- Review drug-testing policies and procedures if your site is selected for drug testing.
- Check with tournament director and umpire crew chief to see if they have any questions.
- Check with participating teams' administrators to see if there are any issues with travel. Remind them of the administrative meeting time and location. Head coaches must attend the meeting in person (i.e., may not participate via videoconference).
- Confirm uniform colors for the first day of games.

BAT TESTING

- Postseason barrel compression testing (BCT) is mandatory and will be conducted each day of competition on all bats for all teams at all regional and super regional sites and at the finals site. ALL bats to be used during competition MUST be tested.
- Hosts should review the bat testing location and schedule for each team on Thursday and corresponding days based on game times.
- Hosts should review who is doing bat testing (site representative/participating coaches/host institution staff).
 - Site representative must always be present during bat testing no matter who is doing the testing.
- Bat testing information can be found in Section 8.

FACILITY WALK-THROUGH

When conducting the facility walk-through, check the following areas:

- Game and practice fields. The facility should be game ready (e.g., all signs in place, corporate signs covered, fields prepped and properly marked, dugouts prepped) before the first practice. Review the plan to ensure practices are closed.
- Review the bat testing location and ensure that the testing machine and corresponding testing equipment has arrived.
- Locker rooms. Ensure locker rooms, if available, are clean and at minimum have equal spaces for the two competing teams. If locker rooms are not available, ensure that a private changing area and restroom is provided for each team.
- Press conference area. Ensure the host is prepared to host press conferences, provide name placards with student-athlete and head coach names and with the respective institutional logo. A press conference moderator should be prepared to ask questions.
- Athletic training area. Confirm that an athletic trainer will be available for all practices and games.
- Umpire locker room/meeting room and entrance/exit. Confirm that event staff or security will escort umpires to/from their locker room(s).
- Hospitality areas. The host should provide separate hospitality areas for teams/coaches, media and umpires, if possible.
- Ticket sales and operations.
- Merchandise and concessions areas.
- Player entrance/exit.
- Signs. No signs with alcohol/tobacco advertising or corporate entities with brands that compete with NCAA corporate champions or partners (e.g., Pepsi) are permitted.

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- Assignment of dugouts. The championship policy should be followed. As a reminder, the home dugout will be the host institution's regular season home dugout.
- Videorecording area.
- Towels, water bottles, cooler and other soft drinks. Sideline product is Coca-Cola brands only. Teams may drink other products Coca-Cola brands cups (e.g., BODYARMOR), generic cups or generic water bottles. Teams are not permitted to use Gatorade water bottles, even with tape over Gatorade logos.
- Confirm the SID is prepared to distribute stats between innings and report results at the conclusion of competition.
- Confirm the host has a tarp pulling plan that complies with the national committee's requirements.

PRACTICE DAY

- Arrive at the host site a minimum of 90 minutes before the first practice.
- Make sure the facility is closed for practices. Host institution personnel should not be present during practices of other teams. Also, ask the tournament director about other events occurring on campus that may affect usage of the competition facility or parking.
- The site representative must be present for the entirety of each team's practice.
- Ask coaches whether there are any issues with their travel arrangements, hotel, etc.
- Greet teams, give general instructions and show them to their locker room if needed.
- Notify coaches of dugout and locker room assignments if host has not done so.
- Confirm availability of softballs, water, towels, music, etc. Teams may provide their own music for practices and warmups. Teams should only provide clean music and confirm with the host prior to departure if they will need to provide the device or simply the playlist. Ensure that the host has personnel available to play music.
- Ensure all uniforms comply with logo legislation.
- Review pregame timing with the host and ensure no deviations occur without prior approval from the NCAA.
- Ensure the same equipment provided by the host is available for all teams (i.e., equipment provided by the host institution for the host team should also be provided for each visiting team).
- Lead administrative meeting.
 - Review NCAA administrative policies.
 - Ensure that the awards form is completed and submitted by each team.

DAY OF COMPETITION

Arrive at the site a minimum of two hours before the start of the first game. Remain available to monitor and supervise all aspects of the championship as indicated in the site representative and host operations manuals.

- Supervise or facilitate bat testing. Site representative must be present for all bat testing even if the site representative is not conducting the testing. Ensure that testing is happening and that it is neutral.
- Conduct an umpire meeting before the first game. Ensure all umpires provide their contact information.
- Greet the umpires and the visiting team(s) as they arrive.
- Receive the list of student-athletes eligible player list for each game in uniform (maximum of 20).
- Remind coaches of the postgame protocol (awards announcements, cooldown period, press conferences, etc.).
- Remind coaches to submit their starting lineup card to the official scorer 20 minutes before the start of each game.

DURING GAME

- Observe team dugouts and monitor crowd behavior. Ask host institution security personnel to address crowd control issues and remove inappropriate noisemakers or banners/signs with inappropriate content.
- Enforce flash photography/video camera/tripod policies.
- Oversee scoreboard, music and press box personnel.

BEFORE THE END OF GAME

- Be sure everyone is prepared for end-of-game security and media needs.
- Ensure the awards form is completed from each team and turned in at the administrative meeting.
- Ensure that the host has 20 medallions available to provide to each team after it is eliminated from the tournament.
- Ensure that the PA announcer has a copy of the awards recipient form for each team.

END OF GAME

- Ask teams to line up on first and third base lines after they shake hands.
- The PA announcer will read the list of names from the awards recipient form (provided by the team) for the eliminated team. Medallions will NOT be distributed to student-athletes in uniform at this time at regionals or super regionals. Coaches may add the names of any student-athlete, staff, or team personnel, as they can be announced as well. Following the final game at each regional site, the PA announcer should announce the all-tournament team first, and then the nonadvancing team and then the regional champion. After the super regional championship game, the PA announcer should announce the Most Outstanding Player and Most Outstanding Pitcher first, then the nonadvancing team and then the super regional champion. The site representative should present the super regional champion team trophy and ticket punched sign to the advancing team.
- Give each head coach an umpire evaluation form link after each game.
- Lead teams to their designated cooldown area. Ensure 10-minute cooling-off period occurs.
- Ensure that the event staff or security personnel escorts the umpires to the umpire locker room(s).
- Notify the head coach which student-athletes were requested for the press conference (winning team first except for final game at the site). All student-athletes must be made available for press conferences.
- Escort the head coaches and selected student-athletes to the press conference area.
- Confirm the designated practice time with the coach of the advancing team and ask if the team will use the practice time.
- Obtain game statistics to identify candidates for the all-tournament team.
- Text game scores to the NCAA championship manager as soon as possible after each game.
- If a misconduct occurs, contact the NCAA championship manager as soon as possible to review the situation.
- Attend press conferences and monitor comments of coaches and student-athletes (e.g., criticism of officials).
- Check in with the drug-testing staff to see if there are any issues (if applicable).
- Stop by the locker room of the nonadvancing team and congratulate head coach on the team's season.

AFTER FINAL GAME OF THE DAY

- Meet with the crew chief to discuss any concerns, review umpire evaluation forms and then debrief with all of the umpires.
- Meet with the tournament director to discuss any concerns.
- Inform the facility director and tournament director which teams will practice the next day and review the practice schedule.

BEFORE FINAL GAME AT EACH SITE

- Confirm that the super regional host hired a videographer that is prepared to record and upload the video of the advancing team to the NCAA FTP site for the championship banquet video.
- Confirm which team members are designated to accept the championship trophy via the awards form.
- Meet with the athletics communications staff to discuss candidates for the all-tournament team (regionals) or most outstanding player/pitcher (super regionals). Have the CSC/tournament director print certificates (preferably on card stock) for all likely candidates. (Discard certificates for student-athletes who are not named to the all-tournament team.)
- Finalize the all-tournament team/most outstanding player and pitcher and ensure a certificate is printed for each student-athlete.

AFTER CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

- Ensure that the PA announcer announces the all-tournament team (regionals) or most outstanding player and pitcher (super regionals) before the team awards. Present certificates to the all-tournament team members/ most outstanding player and pitcher, and then announce the players from the nonadvancing team. Finally, announce the players from the regional championship winning team. At super regionals, announce the players from the nonadvancing team first, and then the super regional winning team. Present the team trophy last (super regionals only).
- Following the super regional championship game, ensure that the host CSC uploads video footage of the advancing team to the NCAA FTP site for the championship banquet video.

BEFORE LEAVING SITE

- Ensure that you have copies of all regional/super regional tournament documentation (listed below).
- Check with the tournament director to see if there are any issues to resolve and thank him/her for hosting.

AFTER REGIONAL/SUPER REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

- Complete evaluations of the regional/super regional championship. (NCAA staff will email site representatives the link to an online evaluation form.)
- Submit travel expenses online through the [Travel Expense System](#). (NCAA staff will email site representatives the link for reimbursement.)
- Send the following information to the NCAA office:
 - Attendance sheet from administrative meeting.
 - Any documentation relating to misconduct or a failure to adhere to policies and procedures.
 - Note that site representatives do not need to send umpire evaluation forms but are welcomed to complete, if desired.

Section 6 • Travel, Lodging and Expense Reimbursement

Section 6•1 Travel

All site representatives will be selected based on proximity to the host site. The NCAA will reimburse site representatives for mileage for up to 500 miles one-way to the host site.

Section 6•2 Lodging

The host institution will be responsible for providing hotel accommodations as needed. It is the responsibility of the site representative to inform the tournament director if a hotel room will be needed. Room and tax, as well as hotel parking charges, if applicable, will be billed to the host institution. All other incidentals will be the responsibility of the site representative.

Section 6•3 Expense Reimbursement

Site representatives will receive a \$75 per diem for each day of travel and competition. All miscellaneous expenses (e.g., tolls, airport parking fees) are covered by the per diem. All questions about the policy should be directed to NCAA staff.

Following the competition, NCAA staff will email the link to the NCAA Travel Expense System (TES) to each site representative to submit their travel expenses online. Instructions for using the online system are included in [Appendix B](#).

Section 6•4 Team Transportation Contact Numbers

SHORT'S TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Phone Number	866-655-9215
Email	ncaaalo@shortstravel.com

NCAA TRAVEL GROUP

Phone Number	317-917-6757
Email	travel@ncaa.org
Website	ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information

Section 7 • NCAA Administrative Guidelines

All policies listed in this section MUST be reviewed during the administrative meeting.

Section 7•1 Logo Policy

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

An institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, headbands, T-shirts, wristbands, visors or hats, and towels) that are worn by student-athletes in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities may bear a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal trademark, not to exceed 2¼ square inches, including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram).

Section 7•2 Misconduct Statement

[Reference: Bylaws 31.02.3 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law occurring incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition in which he or she is participating at the time of the incident. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day's competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament) when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other acts of misconduct should be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sports committee.

Section 7•3 Use of Tobacco Products

[Reference: Bylaws 11.1.5 and 17.1.6.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The use of tobacco products by a student-athlete is prohibited during practice and competition. A student-athlete who uses tobacco products during a practice or competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that practice or competition. The use of tobacco products is also prohibited by all game personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers and game officials) in all sports during practice and competition.

Section 7•4 Drug-Testing Statement

NOTE: This statement MUST be read at every administrative meeting.

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR COACHES

Please review this section for questions that may arise regarding drug testing.

Q. Where is the drug-testing facility for this championship?

- A. Check with the tournament director, drug-testing site coordinator or the NCAA championship staff member for the specific location.

Q. How long does drug testing take?

- A. The length of the collection process depends on the student-athlete's ability to provide an adequate urine specimen. If the student-athlete provides an adequate urine specimen immediately on arrival at the drug-testing facility, the entire process usually is completed in approximately 20 minutes.

Q. What is an institutional representative?

- A. **For Team Championships (e.g., baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, softball):** An institutional representative is an individual from the participating institution (designated by that institution) to assist with drug testing in the event drug testing occurs at the championship. Each team must designate an institutional representative during the administrative meeting.

Q. When is the institution notified of drug testing?

- A. **For Team Championships:** An institutional representative from each team will be notified not sooner than two hours prior to the start of its game when drug testing is taking place. Institutional representatives will be notified by an NCAA drug-testing crew member by phone or in person at the locker room or near the playing field.

Q. When are student-athletes notified of their selection for drug testing?

- A. **For Team Championships:** Immediately after the game, an NCAA drug-testing crew member will provide the institutional representative with a list of student-athletes who have been selected for drug testing.
- A. **For All Cases:** At the time of notification, the student-athlete will be instructed to read and sign a drug-testing notification form.

Q. When do student-athletes need to report to drug testing?

- A. **For Team Championships:** Within one hour after the student-athlete has been notified.
- A. **For All Cases:**
 - Before checking into the drug-testing site, all student-athletes must inform an institutional representative of their selection for drug testing.
 - Before checking into the drug-testing site, student-athletes must complete all award and media obligations, if any.
 - Before leaving the championship venue, coaches should check with all student-athletes to make sure they have completed their drug-testing obligations.

Q. What if a student-athlete has trouble providing an adequate urine specimen? Can the student-athlete leave and come back later? What if the team has to leave and a student-athlete is still in drug testing?

- A. A student-athlete cannot be released from the drug-testing site until an adequate specimen is provided, no matter how long it takes.
 - If the rest of the team must depart the championship site prior to a student-athlete completing drug testing, an institutional representative must stay with the student-athlete.
 - A coach should check with the drug-testing site coordinator for information regarding transportation back to the student-athlete's hotel.
 - If the student-athlete and/or institution incur additional expenses because of the delay in drug testing (e.g., hotel, transportation back to campus), the institution may request reimbursement from the NCAA.

- Q. Will the student-athlete or the institution be reminded of their drug-testing obligation if they defer testing until later that session or day?**
- A.** No. Once the student-athlete and the institutional representative have signed the drug-testing notification form, it is their obligation to arrive at the drug-testing site at the appropriate time.
- Q. What if we play a late night game (10 p.m. or later start, local time)?**
- A.** The NCAA's late-night drug-testing policy only pertains to team championships.
- An institution may defer drug testing until the next morning if its game begins at 10 p.m. or later local time.
 - The decision to defer drug testing applies to the entire team and must be determined by the institution immediately after the game and the deferred test must start before 10 a.m. local time, the next day.
 - An institutional representative must be present at the collection facility the next morning to identify selected student-athletes.
- Q. Must a coach or other institutional representative accompany each student-athlete to the drug-testing site?**
- A. For Team Championships:** Yes. An institutional representative must be at the collection station to certify the identity of each student-athlete. The institutional representative must remain in the collection station until all student-athletes have completed their drug test.

Section 7•5 Inclement Weather

If weather conditions could alter the approved schedule, the site representative must contact the NCAA championship manager before any decisions to change the schedule are finalized and communicated to participants. Be prepared to summarize the weather situation and have a recommendation for an alternate schedule. The inclement weather policy, if needed, is found in the host operations manual and in the preliminary round host collaboration zone, but will only be used if needed and communicated via the NCAA staff and sport committee chair.

LIGHTNING AND WEATHER DETECTION SERVICE

The NCAA made arrangements through DTN to provide a lightning detection and weather monitoring system for all rounds of competition for outdoor championships. This system will assist the event management staff and the NCAA site representatives in case of inclement weather during the championship. This service is provided so that all sites will have the resources available to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, spectators and event management staff.

Site representatives should request that tournament directors provide their email and/or cell phone number to the WeatherSentry system so they can receive the weather updates.

For detailed lightning and weather guidelines, refer to [Appendix C](#).

Section 8 • Bat Testing

Section 8•1 NCAA Softball Postseason On-site Portable Barrel Compression Testing (BCT)

OVERVIEW

Key for responsibilities: black font - general info; green font - team rep; purple font - site rep; blue font - host site

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 1550 psi 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.

Section 8•2 Details for Coaches

1. Precompetition 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. 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.

Section 8•3 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.

Section 8•4 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.

Section 8•5 Details for Site Representatives and Tournament Director

Materials provided by:

- Tournament 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.

Section 8•6 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 500 psi 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 1550 psi 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.
 - a. **STICKERS ARE SPECIFIC TO EACH DAY, FRAGILE AND CANNOT BE REAPPLIED.**
 - b. **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.

DIVISION III SOFTBALL

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 NCAA SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT CONSULTANT, DEE ABRAHAMSON at 815-751-2648 or abrahamson@niu.edu.

Shipping Address: 498 Quinlan Ave., DeKalb, Illinois 60115

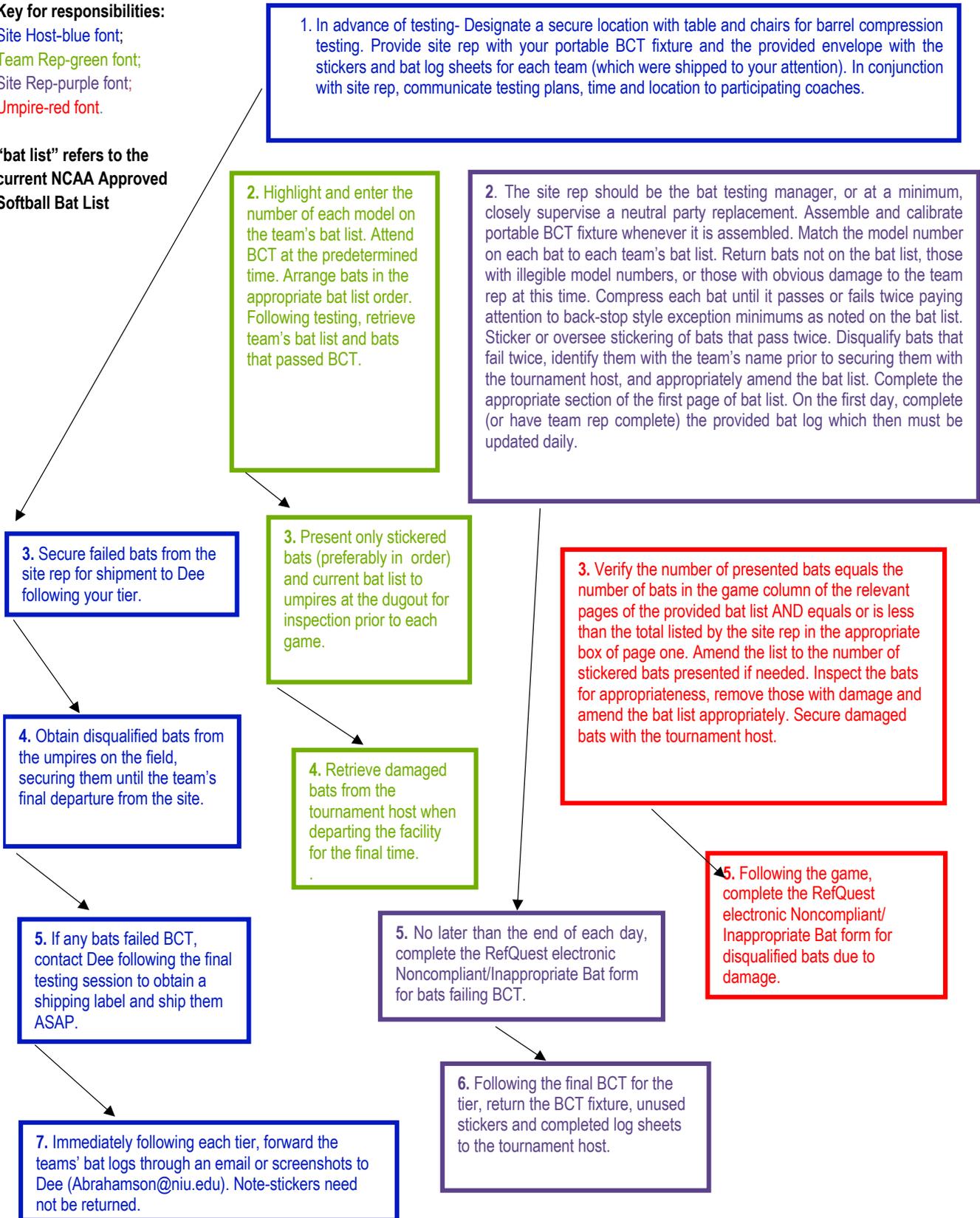
Backup contact regarding BCT fixture or testing is Donna Martin at 815-761-8626 or dmartin1@niu.edu.

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

Key for responsibilities:

- Site Host-blue font;
- Team Rep-green font;
- Site Rep-purple font;
- Umpire-red font.

“bat list” refers to the current NCAA Approved Softball Bat List



Appendixes

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Appendix A • FAQ

FAQ

Q. Umpires have asked me how they will receive their payment and when they should expect it.

A. All umpires are paid directly by the NCAA through a program called RQ+. The goal is to pay all umpires within two weeks of the conclusion of competition. If umpires do not register for RQ+ and provide updated contact information in the system, payment may be delayed. Specific inquiries should be directed to the championship manager.

Q. A fight broke out in the stands between the fans of the home and visiting teams. What responsibility do I have to take care of this?

A. You should first notify the tournament director that they need to direct security to the section where the fight has broken out. After the fight, please gather as much information as possible from the tournament director and security including what happened, whether anyone was removed from the competition site and resolution. All these facts should be written down and sent to the championship manager via email. If the situation is severe, please immediately call the championship manager to inform her of what has occurred.

Q. A team has arrived late for its practice due to its bus breaking down. What should I do?

A. Work with the host to try and get the team its full allotment of practice time if at all possible without adversely affecting other teams.

Q. I received an alert on my phone that lightning is within 30 miles and we are going to begin the game in 10 minutes. What steps should I be taking?

A. Immediately find the tournament director and begin to discuss the distance of the lightning. Remember to consult the lightning guidelines. Altering a game time should involve the games committee (consult the host operations manual on who serves on this committee). If it is determined that the game should be delayed, you should notify the NCAA championship manager of the situation. You should be prepared to give the championship manager the games committee's recommendations as to further delays or moving the contest. Before any decisions are finalized or communicated to participants, you must receive approval by the NCAA championship manager.

Appendix B • Travel Expense System – Traveler User Guide

TRAVEL EXPENSE SYSTEM – TRAVELER USER GUIDE

1. On the last day of your meeting or trip, your staff liaison will authorize you to file an expense report. Once authorized, you will receive an email advising you to file your expense report and giving you the link to the system and login instructions.
2. The new system has been redesigned to offer the following conveniences:
 - a. One username and password for all trips.
 - b. View the status of all expense reports, as well as payment information, in one place.
 - c. Simplify the system and improve usability.
3. Once you have received your email, follow the instructions to access the system and log in. On the home screen, you will see a list of all expense reports you are authorized for, as well as those already filed. Click on the column headers to sort the list as you prefer or use the Search box to locate a particular trip.
4. To begin a new expense report, click on the Create link.

The screenshot displays the NCAA Travel Expense system interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NCAA logo and 'NCAA Travel Expense' text. A welcome message for 'Juanita Sheely' is visible, along with links for 'Change Password', 'Contact Us', and 'Logout'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Trips' and 'Profile'. The main content area is titled 'Trips' and includes a search box and a 'Show / hide columns' button. A table lists several trips with columns for Travel group, Meeting dates, Meeting location, Meeting name, Travel type, Primary Expense Report, and Secondary Expense Report. A red arrow points to the 'Create' link in the Primary Expense Report column for the first row (Committee, 02/04/2015-02/06/2015, San Diego, CA, Site Visit, Per Diem). Another red arrow points to the search box.

Travel group	Meeting dates	Meeting location	Meeting name	Travel type	Primary Expense Report	Secondary Expense Report
Committee	02/04/2015-02/06/2015	San Diego, CA	Site Visit	Per Diem	Create	
Officials	01/12/2015-01/15/2015	Washington, DC	DII Men's Basketball Second Round	Per Diem	Create	
Program	01/15/2015-01/18/2015	Washington, DC	Leadership development	Actuals	Approved Payment Pending	
Committee	01/13/2015-01/17/2015	Washington, DC	NCAA Convention	Per Diem	Approved	
Transient	01/14/2015-01/15/2015	Washington, DC	Officials Observation	Per Diem	Approved	

5. First enter your travel dates. You can type the dates in or use the calendar icons to select them.
6. If you are eligible for per diem, your reimbursable amount will automatically populate based on your travel dates and the dates authorized by your staff liaison.

Approvals > Approving Expense Report

Expense Report

Event dates: 02/11/2015 - 02/11/2015
 Purpose of trip: Site visit
 Location: San Diego, CA
 Travel dates: 02/10/2015 - 02/11/2015

Expenses

Expense	Unit	Amount	Receipt	Notes
Per Diem 2 day(s) * 75		150.00		

(Select To Add Expense)

- If you have other expenses to claim, click the Select to Add Expense drop-down menu, and choose the expense type from the drop down menu. Note, if per diem is paid, the NCAA does not reimburse items such as meals, parking, lodging, ground transportation, tolls, etc., except in extraordinary circumstances. Per diem travelers will most often claim mileage and baggage fees.

For each expense, enter the amount being claimed. If you are claiming an expense not ordinarily reimbursed, use the notes section to provide your reason for the request.

Trips > Editing Expense Report

Expense Report

Committee/program:
 Meeting dates: 02/04/2015 - 02/06/2015
 Meeting name: Site Visit
 Location: San Diego, CA
 Travel dates: 02/03/2015 - 02/06/2015

Expenses

Expense	Unit	Amount	Receipt	Notes
Per Diem 4 day(s) * 75		300		

Meals
 Lodging
 Mileage @ 0.53
 Ground Transportation
 Airfare
 Other
 Baggage
 Select Pay To

- Some expenses will require you to submit receipts. When required, the Receipt field will be populated. To submit, simply click the Browse button and attach the appropriate file from your computer. The system can only accept pdf files.

Trips > Editing Expense Report

Expense Report

Committee/program: _____
 Meeting dates: 02/04/2015 - 02/06/2015
 Meeting name: Site Visit
 Location: San Diego, CA
 Travel dates: 02/03/2015 ... 02/06/2015 ...

Expenses

Expense	Unit	Amount	Receipt	Notes
Per Diem 4 day(s) * 75		300		
Mileage @ 0.53	400	212		<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Remove"/>
Lodging		102.35	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/> No file selected.	stuck in connecting city overnight <input type="button" value="Remove"/>

- Once all expenses are entered, choose who payment should be made to. You can choose yourself, or your institution, conference or business.

To choose yourself, select Self from the drop-down menu. If the system does not have a record of paying you previously, you will need to add your address by clicking the Add Address button.

Pay To

Self

Mailing Address

No tax address is configured

Please add your mailing address. This is the address we will send all 1099 forms to, if applicable.

- On the address screen, enter your Social Security Number and current mailing address in the fields provided. When complete, click Create Address change to be taken back to the expense entry screen.

If the system indicates you have been paid by the NCAA previously, the address we currently have on file for you will be shown. Please be sure that address is correct or enter any changes by clicking Modify Address.

	Current Address	Unapproved Update
Address 1	123 Main St	
City	Anytown	
State	IN	
Postal code	46204	
Country	USA	

11. Finally, if the payment is being made to you, we will need your bank information in order to pay you by electronic funds transfer, or direct deposit. As with your address, if the system does not have your information on file, you will need to click Add Bank and complete the required fields. Once complete, click Update Bank Info.

State	IN
Postal code	46204
Country	USA

[Modify Address](#)

Please verify your mailing address. This is the address we will send all 1099 forms to, if applicable.

Payment information

Bank is not configured

[Add Bank](#)

Please enter your bank information to receive funds via direct deposit.

Bank Info ▶

Bank Info

Bank name

Account type Select Account Type ▾

Routing number

Account number

[Update Bank Info](#)

If the system indicates you have been paid by the NCAA previously, the bank information we currently have on file for you will be shown. Please be sure that information is correct or enter any changes by clicking [Modify Bank](#).

Payment Information

	Current Bank	Unapproved Update
Bank name	PNC	
Account type	Savings	
Routing number	071923456	
Account number	123852	

[Modify Bank](#)

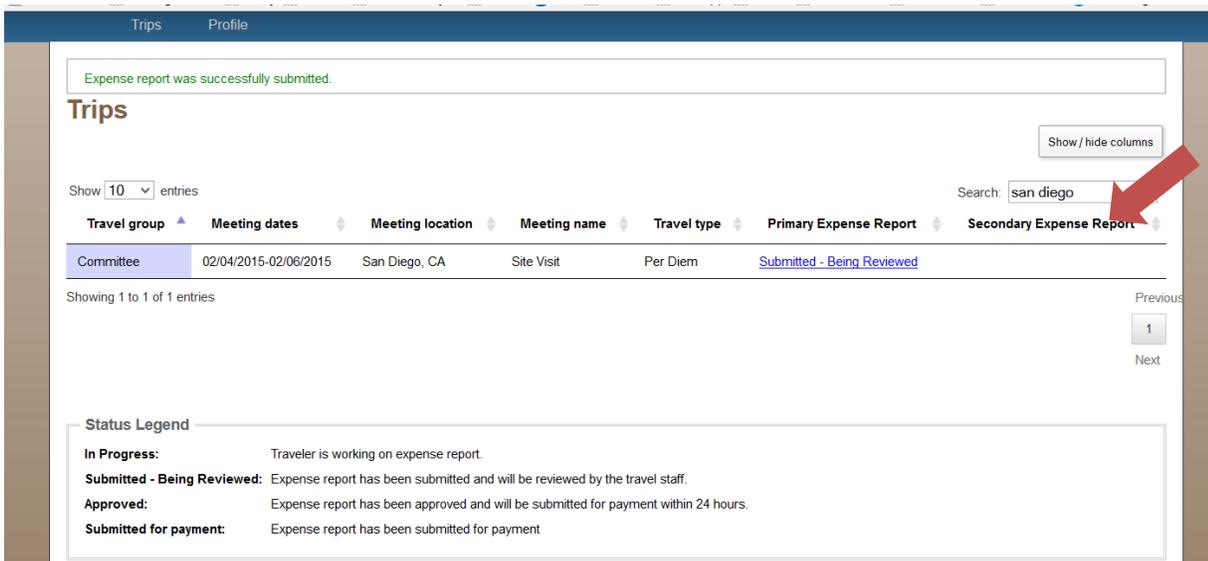
12. Once all expense, address and bank information is complete, click [Submit](#) to file your expense report. You will receive an email confirmation that the report was submitted. You can also follow the status on your home page.

13. If the expense report should be paid to your institution, business or conference, choose [Organization](#) from the drop-down menu. Then begin typing the name in the [Select Organization](#) field, and choose the correct one from the list. Payments made to an organization do not need to provide address or bank information.



14. Did you forget an expense? If you find you've forgotten to claim an expense after you have clicked submit, you can still request reimbursement. Simply log back into the system. Any report eligible to have a forgotten expense claimed, will have a Create link available in the Secondary Expense Report column. This option will only be available after the primary expense report has been approved and submitted for payment.

If the Secondary Expense Report option is not available, contact the travel department and an adjustment to the report can be made.



If you have trouble using the system, please contact the travel department at travel@ncaa.org or 317-917-6757.

Appendix C • Lightning and Weather Guidelines

GUIDELINE 1E

LIGHTNING SAFETY

July 1997 • Revised July 2013, June 2014

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect intercollegiate athletics. Within the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates that 40 fatalities and about 10 times that many injuries occur from lightning strikes every year. NOAA estimates that as many as 62 percent of lightning strike fatalities occur during outdoor organized sport activities. While the probability of being struck by lightning is low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and proper safety precautions are not followed.

Education and prevention are the keys to lightning safety. The references associated with this guideline are an excellent educational resource. Prevention should begin long before any intercollegiate athletics event or practice occurs by being proactive and having a lightning safety plan in place. The following steps are recommended to mitigate the lightning hazard:

1. Develop a lightning safety plan for each outdoor venue. At a minimum, that plan should include the following:
 - a. The use of lightning safety slogans to simplify and summarize essential information and knowledge. For example, the following slogan from the National Lightning Safety Institute is an effective guide: “If you see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it.” This slogan reflects the fact that upon the first sound of thunder, lightning is likely within eight to 10 miles and capable of striking your location. No punishment or retribution should be applied to someone who chooses to evacuate if perceiving that his or her life is in danger due to severe weather.
 - b. Designation of a person to monitor threatening weather and to notify the chain of command who can make the decision to remove a team, game personnel, television crews, and spectators from an athletics site or event. That person must have recognized and unchallengeable authority to suspect activity.
 - c. Planned instructions/announcements for participants and spectators, designation of warning and all clear signals, proper signage, and designation of safer places from the lightning hazard.
 - d. Daily monitoring of local weather reports before any practice or event, and a reliable and accurate source of information about severe weather that may form during scheduled intercollegiate athletics events or practices. Of special note should be National Weather Service-issued

DANGEROUS LOCATIONS

Outside locations increase the risk of being struck by lightning when thunderstorms are in the area. Typically, anything referred to as a “shelter” is not safe from lightning. Dugouts, refreshment stands, open press boxes, rain shelters, golf shelters and picnic shelters, even if they are properly grounded for structural safety, are unsafe and may actually increase the risk of lightning injury. Other dangerous locations include high ground, bodies of water (pools, ponds, lakes) and areas connected to, or near, light poles, towers and fences that can carry a nearby strike to people.

- thunderstorm “watches” or “warnings,” and the warning signs of developing thunderstorms in the area, such as high winds or darkening skies. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take the proper precautions. It should be noted that neither watches nor warnings are issued for lightning. An NOAA weather radio is particularly helpful in providing this information.
- e. Identification of, and a mechanism for ensuring access to, the closest safer buildings, vehicles, and locations to the field or playing area, and an estimate of how long it takes to evacuate to that location for all personnel at the event. A safer building or location is defined as:
 - Any fully enclosed building normally occupied or frequently used by people, with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using the shower, plumbing facilities, and electrical appliances, and stay away from open windows and doorways during a thunderstorm.
 - In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (neither a convertible nor a golf cart) with the windows shut provides a measure of safety. The hard metal frame and roof, not the rubber tires, are what protects occupants by dissipating lightning current around the vehicle and not through the occupants. It is important not to touch the metal frame-

work of the vehicle. Some athletics events rent school buses as safer locations to place around open courses or fields.

seeing the lightning channel itself to decide on re-setting the 30-minute “return-to-play” clock before resuming outdoor athletics activities.

2. For large-scale events, continuous monitoring of the weather should occur from the time pre-event activities begin throughout the event.
3. Venue-specific activity-suspension, venue evacuation, and activity-resumption plans:
 - a. Upon the first sound of thunder, lightning is likely within eight to 10 miles and capable of striking your location. Please note that thunder may be hard to hear if there is an athletics event going on, particularly in stadia with large crowds. Lightning can strike from blue sky and in the absence of rain. At least 10 percent of lightning occurs when there is no rainfall and when blue sky is often visible somewhere in the sky, especially with summer thunderstorms. Lightning can, and does, strike 10 (or more) miles away from the rain shaft. Be aware of local weather patterns and review local weather forecasts prior to an outdoor practice or event.
 - b. Ensure a safe and orderly evacuation from the venue with announcements, signage, safety information in programs, and entrances that can also serve as mass exits. Planning should account for the time it takes to move a team and crowd to their designated safer locations. Individuals should not be allowed to enter the outdoor venue and should be directed to the safer location.
 - c. Avoid using landline telephones except in emergency situations. People have been killed while using a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Cellular or cordless phones are safe alternatives to a landline phone, particularly if the person and the antenna are located within a safer structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.
 - d. To resume athletics activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning. A useful slogan is “half an hour since thunder roars, now it’s safe to go outdoors.” At night, be aware that lightning can be visible at a much greater distance than during the day as clouds are being lit from the inside by lightning. This greater distance may mean that the lightning is no longer a significant threat. At night, use both the sound of thunder and

4. Emergency care protocols: People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need prompt emergency help. If you are in a 911 community, call for help. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strike. Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are a safe and effective means of reviving persons in cardiac arrest. Planned access to early defibrillation should be part of your emergency plan. However, CPR should never be delayed while searching for an AED.

Note: Weather watchers, real-time weather forecasts and commercial weather-warning and lightning monitoring devices or services are all tools that can be used to aid in the monitoring, notification, and decision-making regarding stoppage of play, evacuation and return to play.

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