



## MEMORANDUM

Aug. 27, 2026

### VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Division III Head Men's and/or Women's Swimming and Diving Coaches, Head Diving Coaches, Directors of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrators.

FROM: Corey Bray  
Associate Director, Championships and Alliances.

SUBJECT: Diving Qualification and Entry Procedures.

Beginning with the 2027 championships, the cap on the number of male participants will increase by three (3) divers. The total number of male divers will be 27. The number of female divers will not change.

Please review the following information regarding the diving qualification and entry procedures for the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships. **Please ensure that the diving coach at your institution receives this memorandum.**

Divers will qualify for the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championships through one of four NCAA diving regionals. Even though the gender that swims each event first alternates each year, the order of diving events at the 2027 regional sites and finals site will remain the same as the order in 2026 so that the totality of the length of the schedule each day at the finals site will remain similar across each day of the championships.

1. Qualifying Score. To qualify for participation in the regional diving meets, a diver must achieve the qualifying standard at least twice on the same board during the qualification period. More specifically, the two qualifying scores on the same board (i.e., 1-meter or 3-meter) must be achieved on two different dates of competition (one of which may be a conference championship) during the qualification period.
2. Results Submission. Once a diver achieves two qualifying scores on the same board, the signed dive sheets, along with the [Division III Men's and Women's Regional Diving Information Form](#) must be submitted by the diver's coach by 8 p.m. Eastern time Monday, Feb. 22. **Beginning with the 2027 championships, the regional diving information form is now an online form that will be active by Nov. 1 at the link above.** A link to the online form will also be on the [sport landing page](#). **The signed dive sheets must be uploaded via the new online form.** The diving coach is no longer required to e-mail the form and signed dive sheets to Lewis Fellinger. A list of all qualified divers will be posted on [ncaa.org](#).
3. Regional Entry. For a diver to be entered into a regional meet, the diver must have met the qualifying criteria outlined above in sections 1 and 2 and must submit a dive list via

[divemeets.com](http://divemeets.com) for the appropriate regional meet. The deadline to submit the dive list is 8 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, Feb. 23. Failure to submit the required information by the deadline will result in the omission of the diver from the regional meet. Additionally, financial penalties may be imposed on any institution whose student-athlete fails to compete after submission of the regional diving form.

4. Regional Judges. Each participating institution is required to supply one qualified judge (e.g., diving coach) for each event in which the institution has a diver entered at the regional diving meet. Judging panels will be selected at the coaches meeting, along with the selection of an assistant referee for each panel. Diving regional meet hosts will hire an independent head diving judge but not a full judging panel.
5. Selection of Divers to the NCAA Championships. Each regional diving meet will be given a fixed number of NCAA championship qualifiers to ensure equitable access opportunities. This number will be determined by the number of divers officially entered and eligible to compete in each region who have submitted all necessary information to compete. At the end of the qualification period, all divers eligible to compete in a regional meet will be assigned to a geographic region. The number of eligible divers competing at each region will be divided by the total number of competing divers at all regions then multiplied by 27 for the men and 29 for the women to determine the ratio for assigned qualification spots. Regardless of ratios, no region will have less than two qualifiers. The regional qualification allocation shall be posted on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org) by 2 p.m. Eastern time, Wednesday, Feb. 24.

When all results are final, ties between two or more divers will be broken in advance of selections using the tiebreaker procedure below. **Selection of divers for the national championships is not official until approved by the committee after regional competition concludes.** Coaches with a diver(s) who is approved by the committee for national championships participation will be notified via email by the championship manager.

- a. First place finishers from each board will be selected, using two of the allocated spots. If the same diver finishes first on both boards, only one spot will be used for that diver.
- b. Next, second place finishers from each board will be selected, using two of the allocated spots. If the same diver finishes second on both boards, or one/both divers were already selected, only one or no allocations will be used.
- c. This will continue with each finishing spot (i.e., third, fourth, fifth, etc.) until all the allocated spots are assigned for each region.
- d. If there is one allocation left and two divers who have not been selected eligible for qualification, finishing in the same ranking on each board, the committee will use the diver's combined score made up of their one meter and three meter scores. The competitor with the highest score will be invited to the meet, earning the final allocation.

6. Diving Regional Host Sites. Hosts for the 2027 diving regionals are:
  - a. Central Region: University of Chicago, Gerald Ratner Athletic Center, Chicago, Illinois.
  - b. Midwest/South/West: Centre College, Champions Hall, Danville, Kentucky.
  - c. Northeast-North: to be determined.
  - d. Northeast-South: Ithaca College, Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium, Ithaca, New York.
7. Competition Requirements. Dive lists for those divers qualifying for the championships will be rolled over and changes can be made on [divemeets.com](http://divemeets.com). Review the Diving Entry Procedure section in the 2026-27 Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Prechampionships Manual for detailed instructions located [here](#).
8. Diving Regional Order of Events. The order of events at diving regionals will match the order of events at the national championships. Therefore, the order of events at the four diving regional sites will be men's three meter and women's one meter on day one, with men's one meter and women's three meter occurring on day two.
9. Simultaneous Events at Regional Championships. The committee will allow simultaneous events at regional diving meets in a facility that can run simultaneous events (requirements listed below). **Upon approval from the committee, the diving regional host will determine if the event will be run using the simultaneous format or traditional format.** Participating coaches will no longer vote for or against the diving regional being conducted as a simultaneous event. The competition format, schedule, and all details will be provided to the participating institutions prior to the regional meet starting on Friday. A host running events simultaneously must have two diving recording tables running simultaneously with two judging panels and two referees. This will require a total of six table workers, and a minimum of 12 judges.
10. Last Chance Diving Events. The committee does not accept diving qualification scores achieved at last chance meets for entry into the regional qualification meets. While the host of a last chance meet may still offer these diving events to serve other purposes, scores achieved will not be included in the qualification process. All qualification performances must be achieved during the traditional season or conference championships.
11. Conference Championships. The committee does not see value in an exception for a single qualification performance at a conference meet to enter the selection process. As was stated above in section 1, every diver will need to achieve a qualification score, at two different meets (one of which may be a conference championship) on the same board (i.e., one meter or three meter), for entry into the regional meet.

12. Diving Regional Coaches Meetings. Diving regional coaches meetings will no longer be held in person the morning of the first day of competition. **Instead, the coaches meetings for each diving regional will be conducted virtually the day before the competition begins.** Diving regional hosts will provide the virtual coaches meeting link to the participating coaches and determine the virtual meeting time.
13. Diving Regional Practice Day. **At the diving regional host's discretion, practice may be offered to participants the day before competition begins.** If practice is offered, the diving regional host will determine the practice times and communicate that information to the participating coaches.
14. Diving Performance Notification. Over the last few years, the committee noted several instances where a diver's performance at the regional diving championships fell significantly short of the diver's qualifying scores. While there may be many legitimate reasons for that in individual cases, the committee remains concerned about diving score inflation resulting in qualification for a diving regional. This is also a concern because institutions pay for the expenses related to participation in diving regionals. Therefore, beginning with the 2027 championships, the committee may notify the athletics director at schools with a diver(s) whose regional scores were significantly lower than the diver's qualifying scores.
15. Diving Regional Location Request. Institutions geographically closer to a diving regional site other than their assigned region may request to compete at the diving regional site that is closer to their campus. Requests must be submitted to Lewis Fellingner ([divencd@gmail.com](mailto:divencd@gmail.com)) by at 5 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, Feb. 21. The committee will review all requests and communicate its decisions. Region assignments are located [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

More information about the diving qualification and entry process, and the diving regional information form is located [here](#).

CB:cjs

cc: Lewis Fellinger

NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Committee