



***PRECHAMPIONSHIP
2025-26 MANUAL***

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2025-26 academic year, the Association will sponsor 92 national championships – 43 for men, 47 for women and two for both men and women. Of the men's championships, four are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, eight are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

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

Sections one through nine apply to policies applicable to all 92 championships, while the remaining sections are sport specific.

Section 1.1 Definitions

Prechampionship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Prechampionship 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).

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

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

Squad Size. In any championship in which a squad limit has been established by the governing sport committee or by the bylaws, the number of eligible student-athletes in competitive uniform eligible to participate at the start of competition.

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Conduct

Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20.2.4, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaws 7.3.1.5 and 18.2.1 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Division II Championships Committee Policy and Bylaws 31.2.1.5, 31.2.1.5.2, and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 3•2 Drug Testing

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

Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via QR code found on the back of NCAA-issued championship credentials.

We also understand that sometimes certain circumstances or conditions occurring during the events may require real-time consideration. When this is the case, student-athletes may reach out to their site representative or NCAA national office staff on-site.

Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award

The Elite Scholar-Athlete 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 competing at the finals site. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

Institutions that wish to nominate a student-athlete must do so through an online nomination process. For more information or to access the online form and submit a nomination, [click here](#).

Section 5 • Fan Travel

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

Section 6 • Health and Safety

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 17.1.10 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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

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

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Division III

Section 10•1 Division III Philosophy

The Division III championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams within a regular-season philosophy that emphasizes regional competition and minimizes missed class time; and to provide representation in NCAA championship competition by allocating berths to eligible conferences and at-large teams.

Section 10•2 Commencement Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.4.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

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 10•3 Gameday the DIII Way

Division III promotes an 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 10•4 Religious Conflicts

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

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before 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 Sunday if required by the schedule).

Division III Men's Volleyball

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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317-917-6965 / jyoungblood@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

The list of current committee members may be accessed [here](#).

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Early January	Deadline for coaches to submit their complete schedules online. Bid portal opens for preliminary rounds.
Late February	Deadline to report weekly results in the online score-reporting system.
Monday, March 16	First of four regional rankings released.
Monday, March 23	Second regional ranking released.
Monday, March 30	Third regional ranking released.
Monday, April 6	Deadline for submitting proposed budgets and bid materials to serve as host institution for the first- and quarterfinal-round matches. Fourth regional ranking released. Updated NPI refreshed daily through April 12.
Monday, April 13 (10 a.m. Eastern)	Online selection show to announce teams selected to the championship. Final regional ranking released.
Monday, April 13 (2 p.m. Eastern)	Conference call with selected first-round host.
Tuesday, April 14 (10 a.m. Eastern)	Conference call with first-round teams.
Monday, April 20 (10 a.m. Eastern)	Conference call with all four final teams.
Friday, May 1	Deadline to submit written proposals for the NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Committee to review at its annual meeting.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Thursday, April 16	Play-in round. (two play-in games site(s): 4 and 6:30 p.m., one play-in game site(s): 6 p.m.)
Friday, April 17	First round. (4 and 6:30 p.m.)
Saturday, April 18	Quarterfinals. (6 p.m.)
Friday-Sunday, April 24-26	Four-team finals at Blake Arena, Springfield, Massachusetts.

DATE FORMULA

Play-In Round	Thursday before finals.
First Round	Friday before finals.
Quarterfinals	Saturday before finals.
Finals	Fourth Friday-Sunday in April.

FUTURE DATES

Thursday-Saturday, April 15-17, 2027

First Round and Quarterfinals.

Friday-Sunday, April 23-25, 2027

Finals in Salisbury, Maryland; hosted by Wicomico Sports and Tourism.

Section 1•4 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•5 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•6 Equipment

The Molten V5M5000-3N is the official volleyball for the men's volleyball championship. Each team participating in the championship will receive two volleyballs after their final game.

Section 1•7 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 U.S. Volleyball rules as approved by USA Volleyball will be followed unless superseded by modifications adopted by the Men's Volleyball Committee. Modifications for the championship will be as follows:

1. Institutions must place a 3-meter restraining line on the surface, painted or with tape, five feet from the sideline on the bench side of the court. The line will begin at the end of the bench area. Student-athletes and bench personnel not seated at the bench are required to remain behind the restraining line during play. (DCR 1.4.5, Division III modification only)
2. Ball handing during timeouts shall be permitted in the free zone. (DCR 4.2.3.2)
3. Attacking between sets shall be permitted into own court. (DCR 4.2.4)
4. No visible jewelry permitted. (DCR 4.5.1)

5. The coin toss winner will choose to serve or receive. The home team will select the benches before the coin toss. (DCR 7.1)
6. The international pursuit rule will be used, provided the play does not extend into the spectator seating area. (DCR 10.1.2.1)
7. Teams will be given two timeouts. Timeouts will last 75 seconds, with a 15-second warning whistle. Play can resume early if both teams are ready. (DCR 10.1.2.1)
8. The centerline rule shall be observed as the stated, except that an unobtrusive pushoff completely across the centerline by the setter is to be ignored. (DCR 11.2)
9. Technical timeouts are only to be used as requested by the media. (DCR 15.1)
10. There will be a technical timeout when the first team reaches 15 points in sets one through four. In the fifth set, each team will receive two timeouts. There will be a technical timeout when the first team reaches eight points. The technical timeout will be canceled if either team calls a timeout before the automatic technical timeout. (DCR 15.4.2 and 15.4.3)
11. Twelve unlimited substitutions per set will be used. If a Division III institution plays a Division I or Division II institution, the number of substitutions per set will be limited to six. (DCR 15.6, Division III modification only)
12. Intermission between sets 2 and 3 shall be 3 to 10 minutes with prior notification to the visiting head coach. (DCR 18.1)
13. The libero must wear a uniform that has a different dominant color from the rest of the team. The uniform must clearly contrast with the rest of the team. The libero uniform must be numbered like the rest of the team. (DCR 19.2)
14. The libero will not be allowed to serve. No exception is permitted. (DCR 19.3.1.3)

The U.S. Volleyball rules are those of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) as adopted by USA Volleyball.

Section 1•8 Uniforms

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The 2026 championship provides for a field of 21 teams. Sites that are selected to host should be prepared to host a variation of the following: zero, one or two play-in match(es) on Thursday, April 16 (play-in matches will be subject to geographical considerations), two first-round matches Friday, April 17, and one quarterfinal match Saturday, April 18. The winners will advance to the championship site and compete in a four-team, single-elimination format. The finals will be held Friday-Sunday, April 24-26, in Springfield, Massachusetts, hosted by the Springfield College at Blake Arena.

(See [Appendix A](#) for the championship bracket.)

VIDEO EXCHANGE

To help with the timing associated with the HUDL video exchange, teams are permitted to set up a filming station for each of their matches. Teams are still expected to upload their match footage to the established HUDL exchange prior to their next competition. The following policies must be adhered to:

1. The filming station location will be determined by the host.
2. The camera must stay in the same location for the duration of the match.
3. Teams can only film their own matches.

START TIMES

See the bracket for start times. Note that the second match will start not earlier than 40 minutes after the conclusion of the first match.

If a host can and is willing to accommodate an auxiliary space for prematch warmups, the participating institutions are permitted to use volleyballs no more than two hours prior to their scheduled match time.

TRAVEL PARTY

Transportation and per diem expenses will be provided for an official traveling party of a maximum of 22. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies are located online at ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information.

TEAM BENCHES

Bench Assignments. The higher-seeded team is the home team and will wear light-colored uniforms. The lower-seeded team is the away/visiting team and will wear dark-colored uniforms. The home team/higher seed determines home bench area. If the host institution is competing, they shall determine the home bench. This policy is in effect even if the host traditionally uses the opposite bench as its home bench throughout the season. (See Appendix E for a diagram of the court setup.)

Permissible Number. The bench size is unlimited, including a maximum of 17 student-athletes in uniform and up to two medical staff. The host must provide 12 chairs for each team.

Preliminary Round. The host will provide bench chairs.

Finals. Spec Seats will provide 36 chairs with the championship logo. These will be sent to the tournament director approximately one week before the championship. The host is responsible for returning 21 of the chairs to Spec Seats (if they are not sold on site) and distributing the remaining 15 chairs as directed by the NCAA staff. The host should retain the cartons in which the chairs are shipped for shipping after the championship. The shipping expenses should be included on the financial report.

Team Doctor. It is permissible if an institution wishes to have its own team doctor in the bench area.

Section 2•2 Results

SCORE REPORTING

The score-reporting and statistics-reporting processes are combined for Division III men's volleyball. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login), and this information then will be transferred into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to sports information directors in a memo from the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Cassie Langdon (clangdon@ncaa.org).

STAT CREW

All host sites should use Stat Crew programs to submit statistics for the contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, a packed file from each contest must be sent to ncaastats@ncaa.org and Cassie Langdon (clangdon@ncaa.org) at the national office. These files should be sent immediately after each contest or day of competition.

Please contact Cassie Langdon with any questions.

Section 2•3 Selections Information

[Reference: Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3 in the NCAA Manual.]

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected no later than Sunday, April 12.

NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

As required by the selection principles, the following berths have been allocated for the 2026 championship: Pool A - 14 and At-Large - 7. (NOTE: The number of at-large berths may be adjusted based on sponsorship numbers at the time of selections.) Pool A includes the conferences that have been awarded automatic qualification. At-large includes independent institutions, institutions from conferences that do not meet the automatic qualification criteria and institutions that do not receive their conference's automatic bid. There will be no predetermined regional allocations for at-large berths and no maximum or minimum number of berths from one region. A regional summary of the institutions in each pool is included in Appendix E.

The Division III Men's Volleyball Committee will select at-large teams based on a national basis using regional selection criteria. The committee will select at-large teams based on the criteria listed in this section.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The 14 conferences that have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2026 championship are as follows:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference	New England Volleyball Conference
City University of New York Athletic Conference	Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference
College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	Old Dominion Athletic Conference
Continental Volleyball Conference	Presidents' Athletic Conference
Great Northeast Athletic Conference	Skyline Conference
Middle Atlantic Conferences	United East Conference
Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League	United Volleyball Conference

Please refer to [Appendix E](#) for the membership of these conferences and regional assignments.

IN-REGION COMPETITION

In-region competition is defined as:

1. All competition within an institution's defined region.
2. All competition within a 500-mile radius from one institution to another.
3. All competition within an institution's membership geographical region (Bylaw 4.13.1.1). The country is divided into four membership regions as listed below. For most institutions, this should result in a more expanded list of potential in-region opponents than in the past.

Region 1

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont

Region 2

New York, Pennsylvania

Region 3

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

Region 4

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

4. All conference games.
5. 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 period (e.g., spring break). (Adopted: 4/15/14 effective 8/1/14)

NOTE: The NCAA Travel Expense System mileage calculator will be used to confirm distances from campus to campus using the "shortest" distance option. This program can be accessed online at web1.ncaa.org/TES/exec/login.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies are located online at ncaa.org/championships/travel?division=d3.

Section 2•4 Selection Procedures

At-large teams will be selected using the NCAA Power Index (NPI), the system that houses the division's statistical data and objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on the sport committee's established weighted criteria. NPI is a combination of the following: winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when applicable). Teams will be selected no later than Sunday, April 12.

NPI will determine the at-large teams selected to the championship after the Automatic Qualifiers (AQ) have been designated. See Appendix B for the NPI weights and data procedures.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 21-team field will consist of two selection pools: AOs and at-large berths. AO berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2025-26 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AO.

DIVISION III SITE-SELECTION CRITERIA

The Division III Championships Committee has prioritized the site-selection criteria in the following order for Division III championships:

1. Protection of the top four ranked teams in the bracket.
2. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations.
3. Geographical location (including such factors as rotation of sites, weather conditions, accessibility and transportation costs).
4. Attendance history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the men's volleyball championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure 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."

All member institutions can regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting championships.ncaa.org. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact the respective manager.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL

The Championships Bid and Profile System is located at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all preliminary-round bid materials for this championship is Monday, April 6.

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

- Committee/site representative lodging;
- Game officials lodging;
- State and city taxes/fees; and
- Ticket and facility fees.

The NCAA will pay for committee/site representative's and game officials per diem, mileage and luggage fees directly. The host will not pay these expenses.

PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

The highest-seeded team that meets all selection criteria (and after a review of the submitted host materials) will be selected as the host institution, provided geographic proximity is maintained.

The following site-selection criteria for the men's volleyball championship have been approved:

1. Full completion of the bid package in order to be considered for hosting. This includes answering all questions on the facility evaluation form and submitting key contact forms, a copy of the hotel contract(s) outlining the number of rooms reserved and the rate, a proposed budget, a facility diagram and an insurance certificate.
2. Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations (including being ADA accessible).
3. Geographical locations (including such factors as rotation of sites, weather, accessibility and transportation costs).
4. Seeding.
5. Attendance history and revenue potential, which shall be considered necessary to assure fiscal responsibility.
6. The host institution is required to secure housing for each of the participating teams and NCAA representatives within 30 miles of the competition site unless approved by the Men's Volleyball Committee.

7. A maximum of 11 nonsmoking double rooms and one king room will be reserved for each of the participating teams; the housing may be in the same property or separate properties.
8. It is recommended that the host institution negotiate favorable room rates at each of these properties, with no more than a \$20 difference in rates.
9. The host institution must reserve four or five rooms for the game officials (depending on the location of the alternate official's home) and a room(s) for the NCAA representative(s) at a property separate from the team properties.
10. If hosting the event on campus, all practices must be on the competition floor. If hosting the competition off campus, the host institution must make available at least one practice session on the competition floor at some time before each team's final match.
11. A minimum of 100 tickets must be guaranteed for each participating team.
12. A working media area must be provided.
13. A separate postgame interview area must be provided at the competition site.
14. Separate locker-room areas (with restrooms within the locker rooms) should be provided for the participating teams within the facility.
15. A locker room separate from the team locker rooms must be provided for officials. This locker room should also include showers and restrooms.
16. Separate hospitality areas should be provided for participants and officials at the competition site.
17. All team practice sessions Thursday, Friday and Saturday must be closed practices.
18. An institution must have a facility that can seat a minimum of 500/1,000 spectators (Preliminary rounds/finals).
19. Priority will be given to sites with the ability to provide updated statistics after each set and webcasting.

FACILITY PROFILE

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

KEY CONTACTS

Each institution should list and then maintain its key contacts associated with each sport and the institution. Individuals can be added via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal at championships.ncaa.org.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting championships.ncaa.org.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "budget" tab not later than 60 days after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Jonathan Youngblood at 317-917-6965 or jyoungblood@ncaa.org, or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org, if you have any questions regarding the bid process.

Appendixes

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Appendix A • Bracket



-Play-In matches may be moved based on geography
 *Denotes host site
 ^Denotes home team

The semifinals and final held in Springfield, Massachusetts
 All times are Eastern Time.
 Information subject to change.
 For more details, visit NCAA.com.

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 The NCAA opposes all forms of sports wagering.

Appendix B • OWP and OOWP Calculation



NCAA POWER INDEX NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball

NPI WEIGHTS					
Win%/SOS	H/A Win/Loss	QWB	QWB Multiplier	Overtime	Minimum Wins
20/80	1.1/.9	54	.500	100/0	13

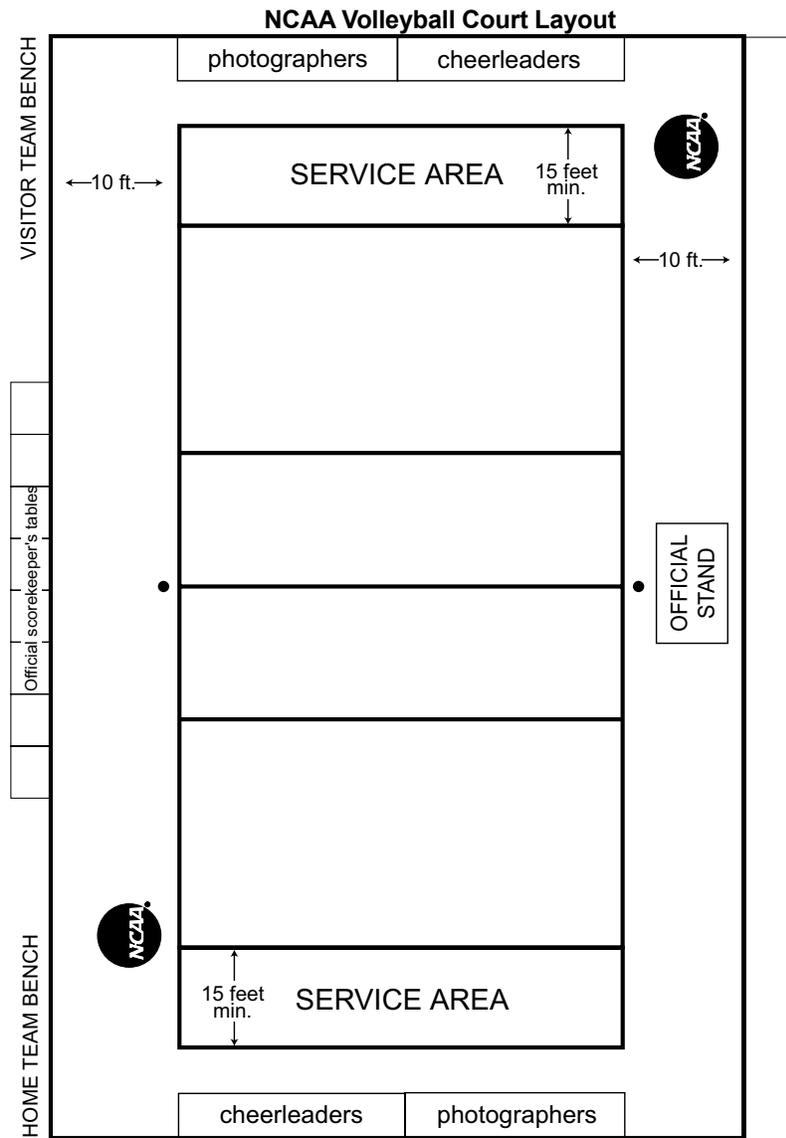
Rationale.

- **Winning Percentage/Strength of Schedule.** The committee utilized the past three years of data to determine the right combination of winning percentage and strength of schedule. The committee wanted to ensure that a high winning percentage was balanced with an appropriate strength of schedule. The committee landed on 20/80 using this information.
- **Home/Away – Win/Loss Weights.** The committee discussed concluded that there was a desire to reward the institutions that play a significant amount of their matches as the visiting team, while encouraging those that play more home matches to travel. Additionally, the past 3 years of data has shown that 55% of all matches are won by the home team, with that rate even higher in non-conference matches. Therefore, the committee elected to weigh this value at 1.1/0.9.
- **Quality Win Base.** The committee utilized the past three years of data for this information to ensure the average QWB was appropriate. The committee wanted to ensure the QWB was not too low or too high to appropriately reward teams based off an important win. The committee also wanted to ensure the QWB was spread out far enough that beating a someone around the QWB line had a smaller impact, while beating someone near the top had a much larger impact to reward that win.
- **Quality Win Base Multiplier.** The committee felt as if .500 provided the appropriate range of rewarding a quality win based off the QWB that was decided. The .500 multiplier gives appropriate reward for a quality win within the context of a team's overall resume. The committee recognized the value of rewarding a quality win, but not so much that a single result overwhelms the team's overall postseason resume.
- **Overtime Weight.** The committee discussed the five-set win/loss would not impact a team regardless of the result. Therefore, winning a match in five-sets will be evaluated evenly.
- **Minimum Wins.** The committee felt that 13 wins would be the best number of wins to evaluate a team's season. The committee is aware that most teams will keep more than 13 wins for consideration but felt a minimum of 13 wins was a good balance since. Even if a team limits itself to 22 matches (based on Men's Volleyball maximum number of competition dates), the committee felt it fair that a number slightly above half of that value was fair. Based upon the data that was reviewed, 13 wins was about half the wins the average qualifier had gained.

Resources.

- [NPI Frequently Asked Questions and Reference Guide.](#)

Appendix C • Court Layout



Appendix D • Match Protocol

Single-Match Protocol

Game Clock	Time Allotted	Protocol
60	20	Shared warm-up; no crossover
40	15	Split court; serve and pass with controlled hitting
30		Coin toss
25	5	Visiting team court
20	5	Home team court
15	5	Visiting team court
10	5	Home team court
5		Line-ups on end line; National Anthem
0		Start

Multiple Match Protocol

The completion court will be available 40 minutes prior to the schedule match time. If there is less than 40 minutes, the court will be available approximately 10 minutes after the previous match concludes.

Game Clock	Time Allotted	Protocol
40	15	Split court; serve and pass with controlled hitting
30		Coin toss
25	5	Visiting team court
20	5	Home team court
15	5	Visiting team court
10	5	Home team court
5		Line-ups on end line; National Anthem
0		Start

Appendix E • Sport Sponsorship

REGION I

City University of New York Athletic Conference (8)

Baruch College
Brooklyn College
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
The City College of New York
York College (New York)

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champion

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (9)

Colby-Sawyer College
Dean College
Elms College
Emerson College
Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)

Lasell University
Regis College (Massachusetts)
Rivier University
Wentworth Institute of Technology

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champion

New England Collegiate Conference (9)

Bard College
Eastern Nazarene College
Endicott College
Lesley University
Nichols College

Northern Vermont University-Johnson
Russell Sage College
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
State University of New York at Potsdam

Pool B – Year 2 of Waiting Period

Pool B Independents / Non-AQ (1)

Springfield College

REGION II

Skyline Conference (8)

College of Mount St. Vincent
 New Jersey City University
 Purchase College, State University of New York
 Ramapo College

Sarah Lawrence College
 St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn)
 St. Joseph's College (Long Island)
 Yeshiva University

AQ - Postseason Tournament Champion

United Volleyball Conference (8)

Elmira College
 Hobart College
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Nazareth College

New York University
 St. John Fisher College
 State University of New York at New Paltz
 Vassar College

AQ - Postseason Tournament Champion

United East (7)

Bryn Athyn College
 Cairn University
 Lancaster Bible College
 Pratt Institute

Saint Elizabeth University
 University of Valley Forge
 Wilson College

Pool B Independents / Non-AQ (8)

Buffalo State University
 Cabrini University
 Drew College
 Houghton College

Immaculata University
 Neumann University
 SUNY Old Westbury
 Wilkes University

REGION III

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (10)

Carlow University+
Geneva College
Hilbert College
Hiram College
Mount Aloysius

Penn State University, Altoona
Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College
Saint Vincent College
Thiel College
Wells College

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champion

Continental Volleyball Conference (9)

Eastern Mennonite University
Elizabethtown College
Juniata College
Kean University
Marymount University (Virginia)

Neumann University
Randolph-Macon College
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark
Southern Virginia University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champion

Middle Atlantic Conferences (9)

Arcadia University
Eastern University
Hood College
King's College (Pennsylvania)
Messiah University

Misericordia University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stevenson University
Widener University

AQ – Postseason Tournament Champion

Pool B Independents / Non-AQ (5)

Averett College
Bethany College
Chatham University

Virginia Wesleyan University
Warren Wilson College (North Carolina)

REGION IV

College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (6)

Augustana College (Illinois)
 Carthage College
 Illinois Wesleyan College

Loras College
 North Central College
 North Park University

AQ - Postseason Tournament Champion

Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (10)

Adrian College
 Calvin College
 Baldwin Wallace University
 Fontbonne University
 Mount St. Joseph University

University of Mount Union
 Olivet College
 Trine University
 Wabash College
 Wittenberg University

AQ - Postseason Tournament Champion

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (13)

Aurora University
 Benedictine University (Illinois)
 Concordia University, Chicago
 Concordia University Wisconsin
 Dominican University (Illinois)
 Edgewood College
 Illinois Institute of Technology

Lakeland University
 Marian University (Wisconsin)
 Milwaukee School of Engineering
 Rockford University
 St. Norbert College
 Wisconsin Lutheran College

AQ - Postseason Tournament Champion

Pool B Independents / Non-AQ (5)

California Lutheran University
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Maranatha Baptist University

Simpson College
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point