



PRECHAMPIONSHIP 2025-26 MANUAL

Division III Women's Volleyball

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1.1 NCAA Championships Staff Contact Information

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Section 1.2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are as follows:

REGION I

Josh Edmed
Associate Director of Athletics/Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Connecticut College

REGION II

Alesia Bennett
Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Brandeis University

REGION III

Kristin Maile
Director of Athletics
Sarah Lawrence College

REGION IV

Brian Granata
Associate VP of Athletics
Arcadia University

REGION V

Drew Hargrave, chair
Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Haverford College

REGION VI

Caitlyn Moriarty
Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Berry College

REGION VII

Leo Sayles
Associate Director of Athletics/Head Women's Volleyball Coach
Gardner-Webb University

REGION VIII

Melanee Wagener
Director of Athletics
Mount St. Joseph University

REGION IX

Matt Hill
Director of Athletics
University of Northwestern-St. Paul

REGION X

Joial Griffith
Director of Athletic Facilities and Sport Operations
Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps

For additional information about the Division III Women's Volleyball Championship, contact:

Drew Hargrave, committee chair
Haverford College
310-403-9903 / dhargrave@haverford.edu

Traci Belton
NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Coordinator
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Rachel Seewald
NCAA Championships and Alliances,
Playing Rules and Officiating
317-917-6141 / rseewald@ncaa.org

Julie Voeck
NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor
414-305-7454 / ncaavbrules@gmail.com

Section 1.3 Important Dates

Friday, Aug. 1 at 5 p.m. Eastern	Deadline for institutions to submit their complete schedules online.
Friday, Oct. 10	Bid materials and template for participant manual for regionals available on ncaa.org .
Mondays, Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3 & 10	Published rankings.
Monday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. Eastern	Videoconference with potential regional host tournament directors and site reps.
Friday, Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. Eastern	Deadline for submitting proposed budgets and bid materials for regional tournaments.
Sunday, Nov. 16	Selection of teams and regional sites.
Monday, Nov. 17 at 10 a.m. Eastern	Videoconference with confirmed regional host tournament directors and site representatives.
Monday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. Eastern	Online selection show to announce teams selected to the championship.
Monday, Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. Eastern	Final published ranking. Regional videoconferences with assigned teams.
Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 20-22	Regionals.
Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 3-6	Eight-team finals at Shirk Center in Bloomington, Illinois, hosted by Illinois Wesleyan.
Wednesday-Sunday, Dec. 17-21	AVCA Convention (Kansas City, Missouri).
Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 3-4	Annual committee meeting.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 20-22	Regionals.
Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 3-6	Championship at Shirk Center in Bloomington, Illinois, hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University.

DATE FORMULA

Regionals (8)	Two weeks before finals (Thursday-Saturday).
Finals	Weekend after Thanksgiving (First weekend of December) (Wednesday-Saturday).

FUTURE DATES

2026 Regionals (eight sites)	Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 19-21; on the campuses of competing institutions.
2026 Finals	Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 2-5; UMPC Cooper Field House in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Hosted by SportsPITTSBURGH and the Presidents Athletic Conference.
2027 Regionals (eight sites)	Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 18-20; on the campuses of competing institutions.
2027 Finals	Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 1-4; in Glen Allen, Virginia. Hosted by Henrico Sports & Entertainment and Randolph Macon College.

Sites for regionals are determined by the Division III Women's Volleyball Committee. Finals sites are recommended by the Division III Women's Volleyball Committee and are subject to approval by the Division III Championships Committee.

Section 1•4 Rules

[Reference Bylaws 17.30, 18.6 and 31.1.6 in the NCAA Division III Manual]

Per Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports in which the NCAA develops playing rules. The Division III Women's Volleyball Committee will not consider any results for rankings and selections that are not conducted in accordance with the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules and Interpretations. Contests against NAIA institutions using NAIA rules (e.g., unlimited substitutions) do not count toward selections or statistics but do count as dates of competition.

The 2025 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship will be conducted according to the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules and Interpretations. Questions regarding the interpretation of NCAA women's volleyball rules should be directed to NCAA secretary-rules editor Julie Voeck (414-305-7454; ncaavbrules@gmail.com).

EQUIPMENT

The Molten Super Touch IV58L-N is the official volleyball for the 2025 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship. Each participating team will receive two volleyballs after its final match at the regional championship and at the championship finals, if applicable.

Section 1•5 Uniforms

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

Playing uniforms must be of the same style for each member of a team. Participants in the championship shall wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition and during related ceremonies. This applies to warm-up shirts and uniforms, as well as to competitive uniforms.

Each team must bring two sets of jerseys of different colors to the championship site. It is suggested that institutions bring an extra uniform jersey to the competition site in the event that the blood rule is applied.

LOGOS

[Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.](#)

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2.1 Championship Format

The championship provides for a field of 64 teams. Eight sites will be selected to host regional tournaments. The winner of each regional tournament will advance to the championship site and compete in a single-elimination format according to the 2024 and 2025 NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules and Interpretations. (See [Appendix A](#) for the championship bracket.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Practice Day	55-minute practices.
Day 1	25-minute practices/four matches.
Day 2	55-minute practices/two matches.
Day 3	55-minute practices/one match.

START TIMES

Recommended match times for regionals are:

Thursday-Saturday format	
Day 1	11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Day 2	4:30/7 p.m. or 5:30/8 p.m.
Day 3	5 p.m.

There will be a minimum of 45 minutes between matches. Matches will not start before the scheduled time. Any match times different from the times listed above must be submitted to the Division III Women’s Volleyball Committee for approval. The Thursday-Saturday format will be followed at regionals only if a team with a no-play Sunday policy is participating at the site.

TRAVEL PARTY

The squad size for championship competition is 17. All student-athletes on the bench may be in uniform, not to exceed the bench size.

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for the official travel party of 22. Please refer to the [NCAA travel policies](#) that are available online for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses.

Section 2.2 Results

REGIONAL RANKINGS

Published rankings will be released on [ncaa.com](#) each of the last four weeks of the regular season (Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3 and Nov. 10) and in conjunction with selections (Nov. 16).

SCORE-REPORTING

Institutions submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site ([web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login](#)), and this information is transferred into the score-reporting system for use by the sport committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines are communicated to SIDs in a preseason memo distributed by the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Michelle Watsky ([mwatsky@ncaa.org](#) or 317-917-6775).

Section 2.3 Selections Information

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

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

As required by the selection principles, the following berths have been allocated for the 2025 championship: Pool A - 43 and at-large - 21. (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 B](#).

The Division III Women'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

[Reference: Bylaw 31.3.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The 43 conferences that have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2025 championship are:

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

REGIONAL COMPETITION

Per Bylaw 31.3.4.3, all members of a conference will be placed in the same region for evaluation purposes, unless the Championships Committee has granted an exception. For the exceptions, members of these conferences shall be placed in their natural geographic regions for evaluation purposes.

SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS

Institutions must play at least 70% of their scheduled competition against in-region, Division III institutions to be considered for selection to NCAA championships. Institutions unable to meet this requirement may request a waiver for selection consideration.

The Division III Championships Committee will review all waiver requests. Information required as part of the waiver process includes proposed schedules, schedules from the past two seasons, a summary of scheduling challenges the institution is facing and proposed solutions. In addition, an institution may include any other historical information illustrating difficulty in scheduling at least 70% of its contests against in-region Division III institutions.

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

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 not later than Sunday, Nov. 16.

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

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

The 64-team field will consist of two selection pools: AQs and at-large berths. AQ berths will be allocated to automatic qualifying conferences. The criteria for receiving automatic qualification are outlined in Bylaw 31.3.4 of the 2024-25 NCAA Division III Manual. At-large berths will be reserved for all remaining institutions not receiving an AQ.

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 eight 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

PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

Any institution interested in hosting regional competition of the 2025 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions (if applicable) and ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile System.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND PROFILE SYSTEM

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. In order to submit a bid, locate the desired championship in the "Championships Available for Bidding" section and select "Start Bid." The deadline to submit all bid materials for hosting preliminary rounds for this championship is 5 p.m. Eastern time Nov. 7.

In addition to projected ticket sales (if applicable) 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.

Per diem, mileage and baggage fees for committee members and site representatives will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Referees and line judges will be reimbursed via RefQuest for their game fees, per diem, mileage and baggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

Institutions interested in hosting regional competition of the Division III Women's Volleyball Championship 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 diagrams or pictures) may be uploaded and attached to that facility's profile. This information will be made available to the sport committee to aid in its deliberations regarding prospective host sites.

KEY CONTACTS

Each institution should list and then maintain its key contacts associated with each sport and the institution. Contact information can be updated via the Championships Bid and Profile System at championships.ncaa.org.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

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

The best practices for venue safety and security, along with the safety and security contact form, are located at: ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Best_Practices_for_Venue_Safety_and_Security.pdf

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please email Jonathan Youngblood (jyoungblood@ncaa.org) or championshipbid@ncaa.org.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

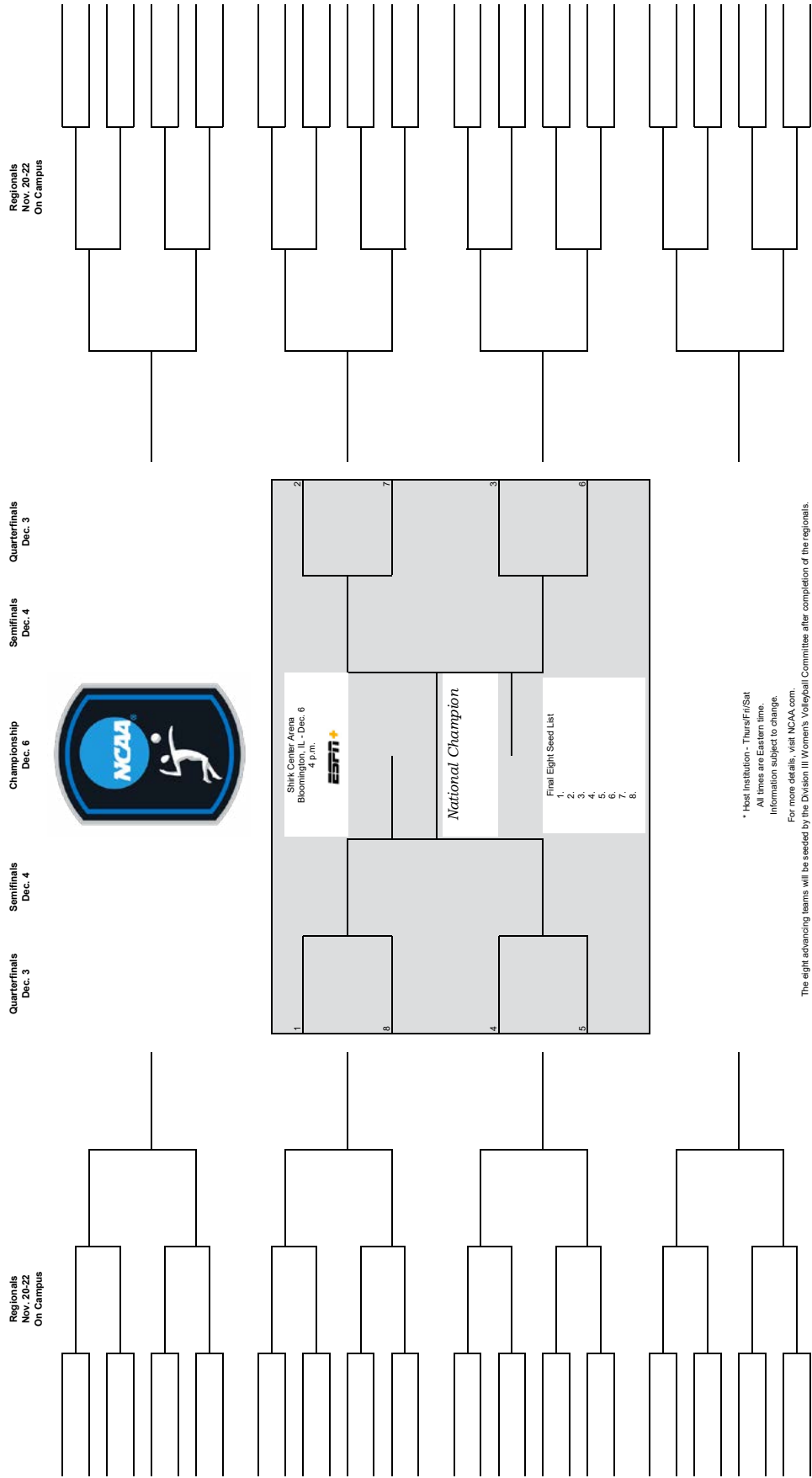
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Appendix A • Bracket

2025 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship



Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

REGION I

Great Northeast Athletic Conference (14)

Albertus Magnus College

Colby-Sawyer College

Dean College

Elms College

Emmanuel College (Massachusetts)

Lasell University

Mitchell College

New England College

Norwich University

Regis College (Massachusetts)

Rivier University

Simmons University

University of St. Joseph (Connecticut)

Saint Joseph's College (Maine)

AQ - Conference Championship

Little East Conference (9)

Vermont State University Castleton

Eastern Connecticut State University

Keene State College

University of Massachusetts Boston

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Plymouth State University

Rhode Island College

University of Southern Maine

Western Connecticut State University

AQ - Conference Championship

New England Small College Athletic Conference (11)

Amherst College

Bates College

Bowdoin College

Colby College

Connecticut College

Hamilton College

Middlebury College

Trinity College (Connecticut)

Tufts University

Wesleyan University (Connecticut)

Williams College

AQ - Conference Championship

North Atlantic Conference (9)

Husson University

Lesley University

Maine Maritime Academy

University of Maine at Presque Isle

State University of New York at Cobleskill

State University of New York at Delhi

Thomas College

Vermont State University-Johnson

Vermont State University-Lyndon

AQ - Conference Championship

REGION II

Conference of New England (10)

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

Nichols College
 Roger Williams University
 Suffolk University
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Western New England University

AQ - Conference Championship

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (9)

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

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

AQ - Conference Championship

New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (12)

Babson College
 Clark University (Massachusetts)
 Emerson College
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Mount Holyoke College
 Salve Regina University

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

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Brandeis University

AQ - Conference Championship

*Not eligible for NCAA championship competition.

REGION III

Empire 8 (12)

Alfred University
State University of New York at Brockport
Elmira College
State University of New York at Geneseo
Hartwick College
Houghton University

Keuka College
Nazareth College
State University of New York Polytechnic Institute
Russell Sage College
St. John Fisher University
Utica University

AQ - Conference Championship

Liberty League (9)

Bard College
Clarkson University
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Ithaca College
Rochester Institute of Technology

Skidmore College
St. Lawrence University
Union College (New York)
Vassar College

AQ - Conference Championship

Skyline Conference (12)

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

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

AQ - Conference Championship

State University of New York Athletic Conference (10)

Buffalo State, State University of New York
State University of New York at Canton
State University of New York at Cortland
The State University of New York at Fredonia
State University of New York Morrisville

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

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

University of Rochester

AQ - Conference Championship

REGION IV

City University of New York Athletic Conference (8)

Baruch College
 Brooklyn College
 The City College of New York
 Hunter College

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

AQ - Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom (8)

Arcadia University
 Delaware Valley University
 DeSales University
 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham

King's College (Pennsylvania)
 Lebanon Valley College
 Misericordia University
 Stevens Institute of Technology

AQ - Conference Championship

New Jersey Athletic Conference (9)

Kean University
 Montclair State University
 New Jersey City University
 Ramapo College
 Rowan University

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

AQ - Conference Championship

United East Conference (15)

Cairn University
 Cedar Crest College
 Gallaudet University
 Keystone College
 Lancaster Bible College
 Notre Dame of Maryland University
 Penn State Berks College
 Penn State Brandywine

Penn State Harrisburg
 Penn State University, Abington
 Pennsylvania College of Technology
 Rosemont College
 St. Mary's College of Maryland
 University of Valley Forge
 Wilson College

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

New York University

AQ - Conference Championship

REGION V

Atlantic East Conference (8)

Centenary University (New Jersey)
Gwynedd Mercy College
Immaculata University
Marymount University (Virginia)

Marywood University
Neumann University
Pratt Institute
Saint Elizabeth University

AQ - Conference Championship

Centennial Conference (11)

Bryn Mawr College
Dickinson College
Franklin & Marshall College
Gettysburg College
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University

McDaniel College
Muhlenberg College
Swarthmore College
Ursinus College
Washington College (Maryland)

AQ - Conference Championship

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (1)

Salisbury University

AQ - Conference Championship

Landmark Conference (10)

Catholic University
Drew University
Elizabethtown College
Goucher College
Juniata College

Lycoming College
Moravian College
University of Scranton
Susquehanna University
Wilkes University

AQ - Conference Championship

Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth (8)

Albright College
Alvernia University
Eastern University
Hood College

Messiah University
Stevenson University
Widener University
York College (Pennsylvania)

AQ - Conference Championship

At-Large (1)

Trinity Washington University

REGION VI

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (5)

Christopher Newport University
 Johnson & Wales University Charlotte
 University of Mary Washington
 Regent University

Warren Wilson College

AQ - Conference Championship

Collegiate Conference of the South (9)

Agnes Scott College
 Asbury University
 Belhaven University
 Covenant College
 Huntingdon College

LaGrange College
 Maryville College (Tennessee)
 Piedmont College
 Wesleyan College (Georgia)

AQ - Conference Championship

Old Dominion Athletic Conference (12)

Averett University
 Bridgewater College (Virginia)
 Eastern Mennonite University
 Guilford College
 Hollins University
 University of Lynchburg

Randolph College
 Randolph-Macon College
 Roanoke College
 Shenandoah University
 Virginia Wesleyan University
 Washington and Lee University

AQ - Conference Championship

Southern Athletic Association (8)

Berry College
 Centre College
 Millsaps College
 Oglethorpe University

Rhodes College
 University of the South
 Southwestern University (Texas)
 Trinity University (Texas)

AQ - Conference Championship

USA South Athletic Conference (10)

Brevard College
 Greensboro College
 Mary Baldwin University
 Meredith College
 Methodist University

North Carolina Wesleyan College
 Pfeiffer University
 Salem College (North Carolina)
 Southern Virginia University
 William Peace University

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (1)

Emory University

AQ - Conference Championship

REGION VII

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (9)

Alfred State College
 *Carlow University
 Hilbert College
 La Roche University
 Mount Aloysius College

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

AQ - Conference Championship

Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (9)

Adrian College
 Albion College
 Alma College
 Calvin University
 Hope College

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

AQ - Conference Championship

North Coast Athletic Conference (7)

Denison University
 DePauw University
 Kenyon College
 Oberlin College

Ohio Wesleyan University
 Wittenberg University
 The College of Wooster

AQ - Conference Championship

Ohio Athletic Conference (9)

Baldwin Wallace University
 Capital University
 Heidelberg University
 Marietta College
 University of Mount Union

Muskingum University
 Ohio Northern University
 Otterbein University
 Wilmington College (Ohio)

AQ - Conference Championship

Presidents' Athletic Conference (12)

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

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

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

AQ - Conference Championship

*Not eligible for NCAA championship competition.

REGION VIII

College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (9)

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

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

AQ - Conference Championship

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (10)

Anderson University (Indiana)
 Berea College
 Bluffton University
 Earlham College
 Franklin College

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

AQ - Conference Championship

Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (14)

Alverno College
 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 - Conference Championship

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

Blackburn College
 Eureka College
 Greenville University
 Lyon College
 Mississippi University for Women

Principia College
 Spalding University
 Webster University
 Westminster College (Missouri)

AQ - Conference Championship

University Athletic Association (2)

University of Chicago

Washington University in St. Louis

AQ - Conference Championship

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (8)

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

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

AQ - Conference Championship

At-Large (1)

Maranatha Baptist University

*Not eligible for NCAA championship competition.

REGION IX

American Rivers Conference (9)

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

Luther College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Simpson College
Wartburg College

AQ - Conference Championship

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (1)

Mount Mary University

AQ - Conference Championship

Midwest Conference (9)

Beloit College
Cornell College
Grinnell College
Illinois College
Knox College

Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Monmouth College (Illinois)
Ripon College

AQ - Conference Championship

Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (12)

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

Macalester College
College of Saint Benedict
St. Catherine University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Olaf College
The College of St. Scholastica

AQ - Conference Championship

Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (8)

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

North Central University
Northland College
University of Northwestern-St. Paul
University of Wisconsin-Superior

AQ - Conference Championship

REGION X

American Southwest Conference (4)

East Texas Baptist University
Hardin-Simmons University

Howard Payne University
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

AQ - Conference Championship (Grace period year 1 of 2)

Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference (1)

University of California Santa Cruz

AQ - Conference Championship

Northwest Conference (9)

George Fox University
Lewis & Clark College
Linfield University
Pacific Lutheran University
Pacific University (Oregon)

University of Puget Sound
Whitman College
Whitworth University
Willamette University

AQ - Regular Season Championship

Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (9)

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

Occidental College
Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
University of Redlands
Whittier College

AQ - Conference Championship

Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (12)

Austin College
Centenary College (Louisiana)
Colorado College
Concordia University Texas
University of Dallas
Hendrix College

LeTourneau University
McMurry University
University of the Ozarks (Arkansas)
Schreiner University
University of St. Thomas (Texas)
Texas Lutheran University

AQ - Conference Championship

Appendix C • NPI Weights



DIVISION III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

NCAA Power Index (NPI) Weights, FAQ and Guide

NPI WEIGHTS						
Sport	Win%/SOS	Home/Away Win/Loss	QWB	QWB Multiplier	Overtime	Minimum Wins
FALL SPORTS						
Field Hockey	20/80	1.1/0.9	52.5	.500	100/0	6.5
Football	40/60	1.1/0.9	54.0	.250	100/0	5.0
Men's Soccer	15/85	1.0/1.0	54.0	.750	100/0	10.0
Women's Soccer	20/80	1.0/1.0	54.0	.500	100/0	8.0
Women's Volleyball	20/80	1.0/1.0	55.5	.600	100/0	10.0
WINTER SPORTS						
Men's Basketball	25/75	1.2/0.8 (NC) 1.1/0.9 (CF)	53.0	.667	100/0	12.5
Women's Basketball	20/80	1.0/1.0	54.0	.667	100/0	15
Men's Ice Hockey	25/75	1.1/0.9	53.00	.500	67/33 (RS) 100/0 (PS)	9
Women's Ice Hockey	25/75	1.1/0.9	53.0	.500	67/33 (RS) 100/0 (PS)	9
SPRING SPORTS						
Baseball	25/75	1.0/1.0	53.5	.700	100/0	12
Men's Lacrosse	25/75	1.0/1.0	52	.500	100/0	7
Women's Lacrosse	25/75	1.0/1.0	57	.500	100/0	8.0
Softball	25/75	1.0/1.0	54	.500	100/0	12
Men's Volleyball	20/80	1.1/0.9	54	.500	100/0	13

**Click the linked sport for sport specific rationale for the established NPI weights.*

NC = non-conference; CF = conference; RS = regular season; PS = postseason

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the NPI?

A: The NPI is a 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 relevant).

The weight of winning percentage versus strength of schedule is often referred to as one of the "dials" that a sport committee can adjust, placing any subjectivity within the criteria themselves. For example, a sport committee could set the dials to 30/70; 25/75, etc. Other "dials" a sport committee can also choose to apply are home and away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB), and overtime win/loss weights.

Q: Why update the current championship selection process?

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A: The Championships Committee has been reviewing the current team at-large selection process to ensure that selection criteria is applied consistently to teams during selections. The change from the current championships selection process to the NPI will take the data analysis from a subjective application, varying by sport committee, to an objective computer data analysis based on the weights established by each sport committee.

Q: Does this mean our current selection criteria goes away?

A: Most of the current selection criteria will no longer be used. The following criteria will no longer be used: head-to-head competition; results versus common Division III opponents; results versus ranked Division III teams; and secondary criteria. However, winning percentage and strength of schedule will continue to be used.

Q: Will any new selection criteria be adopted?

A: The NPI will continue to use winning percentage and strength of schedule along with a home/away multiplier, quality win bonus (QWB) and overtime results (in applicable sports).

The home/away multiplier can be used to increase the weight of away wins and home losses while decreasing the weight of home wins and away losses. The QWB provides a bonus for wins against top-level teams, the degree of which is determined by the sport committee. Overtime win/loss weights may be applicable in some sports to reflect results that are less than full wins/losses. For example, in ice hockey a win that comes in 3-on-3 overtime is treated as two-thirds of a win and one-third of a loss, with the opponent receiving one-third of a win and two-thirds of a loss.

The criteria are explained in the NPI cheat sheet document included at the end of the FAQ.

Q: What are the benefits of the NPI?

A: One benefit of the NPI is that all data will be analyzed, and the criteria will be applied objectively to establish the championships field (the at-large berths remaining after AQs are awarded). Additionally, based on this objective analysis teams will know how they compare against other teams in their region and nationally.

Another benefit of the database is that teams are not penalized for winning a contest that it should win. For example, in the current system if a strong team plays a weaker team its strength-of-schedule will be negatively impacted even though it won the contest – as it should. In the selection criteria database, the team that wins a contest against a lesser opponent will not be statistically impacted by winning a contest it should win. This will greatly benefit stronger teams in weaker conferences.

Q: Will the formula/weights be consistent across all sports? If not, why would one sport committee weight one criterion differently than another sport committee?

A: Each sport will use the same NPI criteria framework (winning percentage, strength of schedule, home-away multiplier, quality win bonus, overtime) but each committee will have the ability to determine

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the weights/values for each. This allows each sport committee to develop the criteria that is appropriate for its sport. The first dial of winning percentage versus strength of schedule can be set at any two values equaling 100. Home-away multiplier and QWB values may differ from sport to sport if a sport committee elects to use those criteria. Sports with overtime can choose to weight an overtime victory or loss different than a regulation win or loss.

Factors affecting the appropriate values from sport to sport may include the degree of intra-conference vs inter-conference play, the observed home field/court/ice advantage, and playing rules which may dictate overtime play that is conducted in a manner that is different from regulation play.

Q: What will happen to regional advisory committees?

A: Regional Advisory Committees will still be called upon to ensure that results are populating correctly into the database. RACs will also be asked to spend some time during the season being trained as site representatives to serve during the preliminary rounds of the championship.

Q: Do regional rankings go away?

A: Regional rankings will still be published. The top teams from each region will be taken from the database and published by region based on the selection criteria database descending order list. For example, to establish Region I rankings, the Region I teams will be extracted from the list in the order they appear to fill the established number of ranked teams (i.e., maximum of seven per region).

Q: When in the governance cycle would committees adjust dials/weights?

A: Sport committees will use their annual meeting to review the championship rankings and selection. Any changes to the weights will be communicated to the membership via the annual meeting report, direct communication to the coaching body and posted on the sport committee's landing page on NCAA.org. Once the weights are established, they cannot be changed for a minimum of two seasons. Dials will not be changed weekly during the season.

Q: How has this been tested?

A: Sport committees have reviewed sport specific data for at least three championship seasons (2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24). Committees were able to see the selected championship field versus teams that would have been selected based on the NPI and saw only slight variances between the two fields, almost regardless of the dial settings which have not yet been reviewed by sport committees.

Q: What will the education for committees be on adjusting the dials/weights?

A: NCAA sport liaisons will incorporate a selection criteria training into the already established committee orientation to onboard each committee member.

Q: How long is the commitment from NCAA with the new NPI software?

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A: NPI will move forward as the established selection metric for team sports effective September 1, 2024. Any future changes would need to be brought forth from the sport committees through the governance structure.

Q: What is the process for adopting a new selection metric?

A: Changes to selection criteria can be accomplished through a legislative vote at convention or through an administrative regulation adopted through the governance structure (e.g., recommendation from the Championships Committee to Management and Presidents Council).

Q: If/when changes are made how is the membership going to be made aware of the changes?

A: Changes to the NPI weights/dials will be communicated to the membership through the sport committee's annual meeting report, published on its NCAA.org landing page, and through various membership communications including the Championships Newsletter, the Division III Monthly Update, a direct email communication etc. The established values (e.g., how the dials are set) will also be published in each sport's pre-championship manual annually.

Q: Will individual-team sports be included in the selection criteria database transition?

A: Currently, only team sports are being considered for the transition to the selection criteria database. Individual-team sports will continue to be vetted to bring them into the database if it makes sense to do so.

Q: Will the selection criteria database rankings be publicly available?

A: Yes, the rankings will be posted to each sports landing page on NCAA.com in the same way they are currently published.

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Winning Percentage/Strength of Schedule:

The two main "dials" are winning percentage and strength of schedule.

25/75 is the default starting value (win percentage / strength of schedule) and sport committees will discuss and set these dials.

- 1) Winning percentage: A team's number of wins divided by the number of that team's total contests.
- 2) Strength of Schedule: SOS is simply an average of a team's opponent's NPI.

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Example: Team A plays contests against teams with NPIs of 52, 58 and 70. SOS is calculated as $52 + 58 + 70 = 180$; $180 / 3 = 60$. SOS = 60.

Quality Win Bonus: A bonus applied to wins/partial wins (e.g., overtime victory) against “quality” teams.

1) **Quality Win Bonus – Base Value:**

- a. The sport committee determines the base NPI value at which a QWB is applied.
- b. The amount of bonus is determined by the difference between opponents NPI value and the QWB base value, multiplied by the QWB multiplier.

Example: Base value is set at 55.00. A bonus will be applied for all wins/partial wins against opponents with an NPI value of 55.00 or higher.

2) **Quality Win Bonus – Multiplier:**

- Set the multiplier/magnitude of bonus awarded for wins against teams with an NPI above the QWB base. Values can range from 0.00 to 1.00. Default setting is .500.

Example: QWB base is set at 52.00. Multiplier is set at .500.

- $\text{NPI} - \text{QWB Base} = X$; $X * .500 = \text{Bonus}$.
- Win over team with NPI of 56.00.
- $56.00 - 52.00 = 4.00$; $4.00 * .500 = 2.00$ (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)
- Win over team with NPI of 61.00.
- $61.00 - 52.00 = 9.00$; $9.00 * .500 = 4.50$ (4.50 is the Quality Win Bonus)

Example: QWB base is set at 51.00. Multiplier is set at .333.

- Win over team with NPI of 60.00.
- $60.00 - 51.00 = 9.00$; $9.00 * .333 = 3.00$ (3.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)
- Win over team with NPI of 57.00.
- $57.00 - 51.00 = 6.00$; $6.00 * .333 = 2.00$ (2.00 is the Quality Win Bonus)

Home/Away Multiplier:

- 1) Allows for additional emphasis/weights to be placed on away wins and home losses, with less emphasis on home wins and away losses.
- 2) Different weights can be applied to non-conference, conference, and [conference] post-season contests.
- 3) This is an optional adjustment and can be set a 1.0/1.0 to weigh all wins and losses, at home or away, as equal.

Example: Weights set at 1.2/0.8

- Away wins/home losses weigh as 1.2 wins/losses.
- Home wins/away losses weigh as 0.8 wins/losses.

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Overtime Win/Loss:

- 1) Allows for an overtime win/loss to count as less than a full win/loss.
- 2) An example is in ice hockey. Overtime is played 3-on-3 versus 5-on-5 in regulation. Since a win in overtime required extra time and was played differently an OT win can be weighted at .75 win/.25 loss. The losing team would bet .25 wins/.75 losses.
- 3) Regular season and post-season can be weighted differently.
- 4) This is an optional adjustment and can be set at 1.00/0.00 meaning a win is a win, or a loss is a loss regardless of regulation or overtime.

Minimum Wins: The committee can elect to require a minimum number of wins to be retained in the NPI adjustment.

To ask additional questions or to provide feedback, please contact Laura Peterson-Mlynski (lpeterson@ncaa.org) or JP Williams (jpwilliams@ncaa.org).