2021 WOMEN'S
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2020-21 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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Section 1 • Introduction

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

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

Section 1•1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

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

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

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

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Concussion Management

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

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

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

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

For further details, please refer to the NCAA Sport Science Institute website for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

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

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

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

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

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

Section 4•2 Drug Testing

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

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

Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

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

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

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

STUDENT-ATHLETES

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

POSTSEASON

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

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

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

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

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

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

Section 6 • Fan Travel

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

Section 7 • Logo Policy

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

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

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

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

Section 8 • Research

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

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

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

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

Section 9 • Division I

Section 9•1 Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division I 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 on or before September 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13)

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

National Collegiate Women's Water Polo

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

Taylor Dodson
Head Women's Water Polo Coach
Indiana University, Bloomington

Julie Snodgrass
Head Women's Water Polo Coach
Azusa Pacific University

Katherine Zedonis, chair
Associate Athletics Director, Compliance and ICA Services
University of California, Davis

Adam Pack
Faculty Athletics Representative
Utica College

Christopher Vidale
Head Women's Water Polo Coach
Marist College

For additional information about the National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship, contact:

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Katherine Zedonis chair
Associate Athletics Director, Compliance and ICA Services
University of California, Davis
530-752-7146 / kzedonis@ucdavid.edu

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Friday, Jan. 15	All institutions must enter their full schedules into the NCAA online score-reporting system (web1.ncaa.org/champsel_new/exec/login).
Sunday, March 7	Beginning this day and every Sunday until the conclusion of the water polo season, institutions must report scores to the NCAA online score-reporting system by 10 p.m. local time.
Friday, April 9	Initial nominations of officials from the conference commissioners are due to the NCAA championship administrator.
Friday, April 23	Institutions must notify the national office if any student-athletes are ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championship competition.
Sunday, May 2	Final evaluations/rankings of officials by conference commissioners are due to the NCAA championship administrator and officials coordinator.
Monday, May 3	Selection call, 4 p.m. Eastern time.
Tuesday, May 4	Teleconference with the national committee, participating teams and the host institution at 2 p.m. Eastern time.

Wednesday, May 12	Opening-round games at University of California, Los Angeles.
Thursday, May 13	Administrative meeting, 8 p.m. local time.
Friday, May 14	Officials meeting, 10 a.m. local time.
Friday-Sunday, May 14-16	Championship; University of California, Los Angeles, host.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2021 Finals, May 14-16	Spieker Aquatics Center, Los Angeles University of California, Los Angeles, host.

DATE FORMULA

The National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship will be conducted the second weekend in May (Friday-Sunday).

FUTURE DATES

2022 Finals, May 13-15	Canham Natatorium, Ann Arbor, Michigan University of Michigan, host.
2023 Finals, May 5-7	Chris Kjeldsen Pool, Stockton, California University of the Pacific and Visit Stockton, hosts.

Section 1•4 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships

[Reference: Bylaw 20.8 in the NCAA Manual.]

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution normally is required to meet only the institutional individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

Section 1•5 Equipment

The Kap7 ball is the official ball of the 2021 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship. One ball will be given to each participating team at the finals site. Remaining balls become the property of the host institution.

Section 1•6 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 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 not played in accordance with the NCAA rules books.

The official NCAA Water Polo Rules shall be followed. Questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be addressed to the secretary-rules editor.

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The officiating coordinator for men's and women's water polo will work closely with the secretary-rules editor, rules and sport committees, and the officiating and coaching membership. This individual will assist the sport committees in official assignments for the championship, assist conference assignors in leading clinics throughout the regular seasons, conduct evaluations of officials throughout the year and assist in the creation of a rules test and supplemental educational materials for officials and coaches on the current rules and areas of emphasis for the year.

Amber Drury
National Coordinator of Officials

Section 1•7 Uniforms

Each team shall supply light and dark water polo caps, complete with protective ear guards as specified in the NCAA Water Polo Rules. The higher-seeded team in the bracket will wear dark caps. If teams do not want the option to flip a coin for ends, dark caps will sit on the right end of the pool (as determined if you were sitting at the desk facing the benches). If teams would like the option of ends, a coin toss will be conducted at the officials/captains meeting. If requested by one coach, the teams must change ends and benches after each period.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The 2021 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship will be an eight-team, single-elimination tournament. Automatic qualifiers will be awarded to seven conferences and three teams will be selected at large without geographical restrictions.

Teams shall be selected by the Women's Water Polo Committee on May 3. The teams selected to participate will be posted online at ncaa.com.

Seven teams will qualify directly to the championship; the remaining could be revised to two (2) teams will compete for the last championship berths via an opening-round game, with the winner earning the remaining berth in the eight-team championship bracket. The opening-round matchup(s) will be determined by the NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee during the selection process.

OPENING-ROUND GAMES

The following parameters will be applied for the opening-round games:

- Based on rankings, geographic proximity and missed class time, the committee will determine the pairing(s) of the teams that will participate in the opening-round game(s).
- The opening-round game(s) will be contested Wednesday, May 12 at UCLA.
- A 90-minute closed practice time will be reserved for each team the day before competition.
- Host institution(s) will receive reimbursement, including, but not limited to, score-table personnel fees, security, ticketing operations and venue staffing costs.
- Visiting team(s) will receive per diem for the travel/practice day before the opening-round game, the day of the opening-round game and the travel day after the opening-round game. The NCAA will pay for travel expenses as long as arrangements are made through the official NCAA travel provider, Short's Travel Management. The host should assist the visiting team in procuring hotel rooms.
- A site representative will be appointed by the NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee to oversee the conduct of each opening-round game. The site representative will meet with the coach, administrator and athletic trainer of both teams the day before competition.
- Officials for the opening-round game(s) will be recommended by the national coordinator of officials and approved by the Women's Water Polo Committee. Teams will be notified of the game officials by 8 p.m. Eastern time the day before competition.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 12

	Opening-round games.
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Teams that have satisfied quarantine and testing requirements shall be allotted one hour of open practice in the auxiliary pool and should contact the host to set up a time slot.

Thursday, May 13

Practice Times (Closed practices, each team allotted one hour, teams to be determined)

8 – 9 a.m.	Game 1 Team A
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Game 1 Team B (#1 seed)
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Game 2 Team C
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Game 3 Team D (#4 seed)
1 – 2 p.m.	Game 3 Team E

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	Game 3 Team F (#2 seed)
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Game 4 Team G
4:45 – 5:45 p.m.	Game 4 Team H (#3 seed)
8 p.m.	Administrative meeting

Friday, May 14

Practice Times (Open practices, 30 minutes shared time; teams to be determined)

8 – 8:30 a.m.	
8:45 – 9:15 a.m.	
9:30 – 10 a.m.	
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	

Game Times (Pool available at 11:27 a.m. for warmup; teams to be determined)

Noon	Game 1
2:00 p.m.	Game 2
4:00 p.m.	Game 3
6:00 p.m.	Game 4

Saturday, May 15

Practice Times (Open practices). Please note the committee may push back practice times by one hour.

9 – 9:30 a.m.	Winning team from Game 1
9:45 – 10:15 a.m.	Winning team from Game 2
10:30 – 11 a.m.	Winning team from Game 3
11:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Winning team from Game 4

Game Times (Pool available at 2:27 p.m. for warmup)

3 p.m.	Game 5: Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
5 p.m.	Game 6: Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Sunday, May 16

Practice Times (Open practices). Please note the committee may push back practice times by one hour.

10 – 10:30 a.m.	Winner Game 5
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Winner Game 6

Game Time (Pool available at 2:15 p.m. for warmup)

3 p.m.	Championship Game: Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6

Practice times subject to change per the games committee.

Times are according to local time zone.

TRAVEL PARTY

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 20 persons. Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 16 players in uniform. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it automatically shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow an institution to conform to the rule. The 16 players must be designated at the administrative meeting Thursday night by submitting the official roster form. Each team is also required to designate an individual as the "Team Health Officer," responsible for ensuring that all travel party members adhere to all testing and safety protocols. Player changes can be made up to 60 minutes before the start of the first game of the tournament. After that time, the roster cannot be changed for any reason during the duration of the championship. The roster must have the correct cap number and spelling of the names.

All individuals in the official travel party will be considered Tier 1 and must have a continued cadence of testing three times weekly on non-consecutive days (antigen or PCR, confirmed negative), with a negative PCR within two days of arrival. Tier 1 must also test upon arrival and quarantine until two consecutive tests are confirmed negative, then daily testing while participating on site. More COVID-19 related information can be found at ncaa.org.

Section 2•2 Results

SCORE-REPORTING INFORMATION

All sponsoring institutions must report results via the online score-reporting system (web1.ncaa.org/champsel_new/exec/login). Complete initial schedules are due Friday, Jan. 15. Thereafter, reporting deadlines are every Sunday by 10 p.m. (local time), beginning Sunday, March 7 through May 2. Weekly scores will be due on the following dates: March 7, 14, 21 and 28, April 4, 11, 18 and 25, and May 2. Results submitted via the score-reporting system will be used to generate the Rating Percentage Index.

Failure to comply with this request may jeopardize an institution's chances of being selected for the 2021 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

COUNTABLE COMPETITION

For NCAA team championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Bylaw 3.2.4.5) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges, B teams, junior varsity teams and club teams shall be excluded.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

[Reference: Bylaws 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Currently, the following seven conferences were granted automatic qualification to the 2021 championship:

Big West Conference	Mountain Pacific Sports Federation
Collegiate Water Polo Association	Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Golden Coast Conference	Western Water Polo Association
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference	

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Three teams will be selected at large without geographical restrictions using the established selection criteria.

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/championships-travel-information.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by the governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]:

- Won-lost record;
- Strength of schedule; and
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships.

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee defines the following primary criteria (not in priority order):

PRIMARY CRITERIA

- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Rating Percentage Index (RPI).

If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the following secondary criteria will be reviewed:

SECONDARY CRITERIA

- Late-season performance — defined as the last 10 games including conference championship tournaments (strength and results).

As listed above, the Women's Water Polo Committee will use the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) as a primary criteria during the selection process. An institution's RPI ranking consists of three factors that are weighted as follows:

Factor I – Winning Percentage – 25%
Factor II – Opponents' average winning percentage – 50%
Factor III – Opponents' opponents' average winning percentage – 25%

Once the teams are selected, the NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee will seed the top four teams using the criteria listed above. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used as a criterion by the Women's Water Polo Committee for selection purposes.

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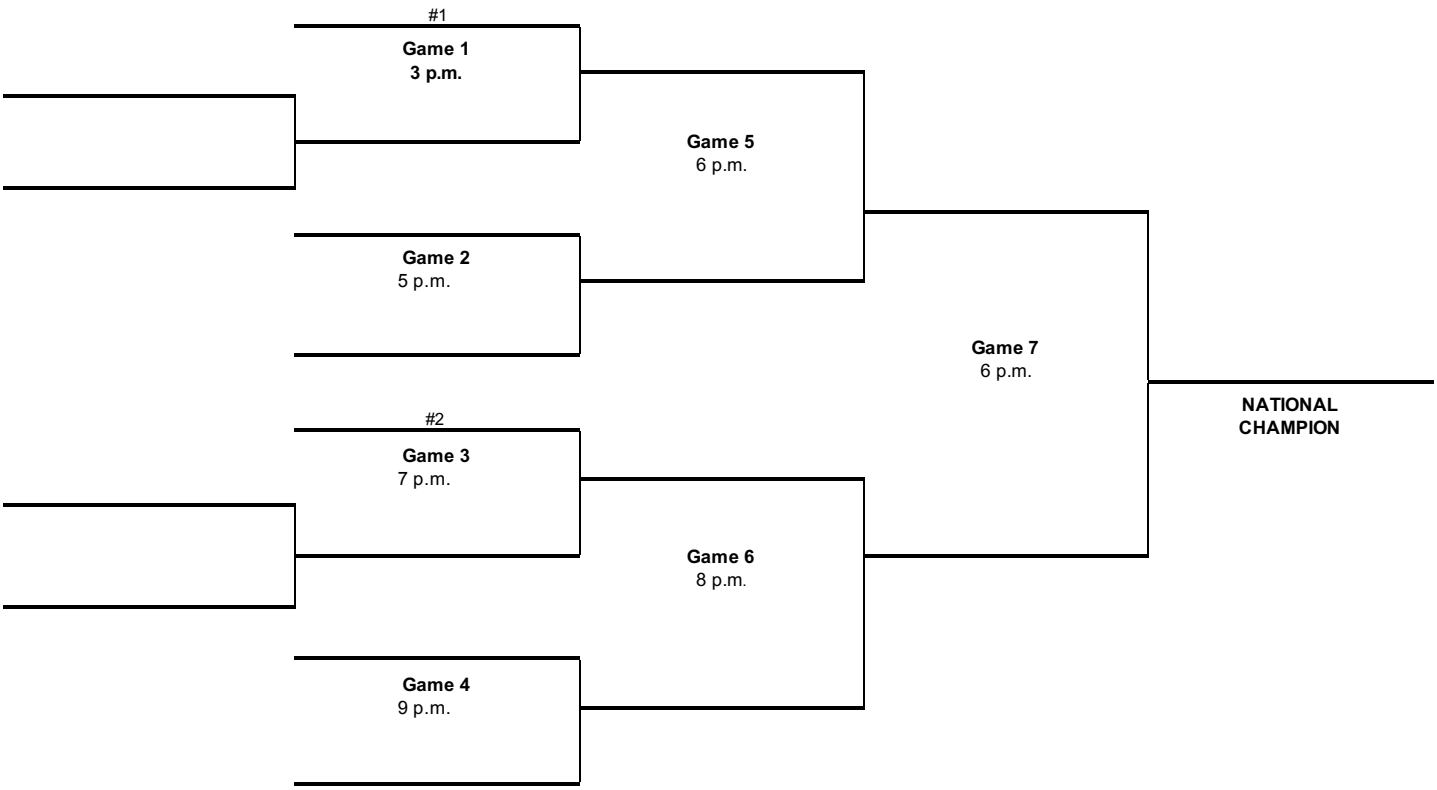
Appendix A • Bracket

2021 National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship

Spieker Aquatics Center
Los Angeles, California
Hosted By University of California, Los Angeles

All games May 14-16 streamed live on NCAA.com



All times are Eastern Time

*Opening round game host institution.
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.

Don't Bet On It.

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

Big West Conference (7)

California State University, Northridge
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Hawaii, Manoa
Long Beach State University

AQ – Conference Championship

Collegiate Water Polo Association (17)

Austin College
Brown University
Bucknell University
Carthage College
Connecticut College
George Washington University
Grove City College
Harvard University
Macalester College
University of Michigan
Monmouth College (Illinois)
Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College
Princeton University
Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
Utica College
Washington and Jefferson College
Wittenberg University

AQ – Conference Championship

Golden Coast Conference (8)

Azusa Pacific University
California Baptist University
California State University, Fresno
Concordia University Irvine
Loyola Marymount University
University of the Pacific
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University

AQ – Conference Championship

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (9)

Iona College
La Salle University
Long Island University
Marist College
Siena College
St. Francis College Brooklyn
Villanova University
Virginia Military Institute
Wagner College

AQ – Conference Championship

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (7)

Arizona State University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
Indiana University, Bloomington
San Jose State University
University of Southern California
Stanford University

AQ – Conference 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 – Regular-Season Champion

Western Water Polo Association (8)

California State University, East Bay
California State University, Monterey Bay
Fresno Pacific University
Gannon University
McKendree University
Mercyhurst University
Salem University (WV)
Sonoma State University

AQ – Conference Championship