

PRECHAMPIONSHIPS 2026-27 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

Section 1 • Introduction 2
Section 1•1 Definitions 2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement 2
Section 3 • Conduct 3
Section 3•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability 3
Section 3•2 Drug Testing 3
Section 3•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship 3
Section 3•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies 4
Section 3•5 Sports Wagering Policy 4
Section 3•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey 4
Section 4 • Elite Scholar-Athlete™ Award 5
Section 5 • Fan Travel 5
Section 6 • Health and Safety 5
Section 7 • Logo Policy 5
Section 8 • Research 6
Section 9 • Travel Party 6
Section 10 • Religious Conflicts 6
Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy 6

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6222
ncaa.org
September 2026

NCAA, NCAA logo, National Collegiate Athletic Association and Elite Student-Athlete are registered marks of the Association and use in any manner is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the Association.

Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2026-27 academic year, the Association will sponsor 94 national championships — 43 for men, 49 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, 10 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 94 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.

Nonpredetermined 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: Bylaw 22.4.1 in the NCAA Division I Manual, 17.1.10 Bylaw in the NCAA Division II Manual and 12.5.3 Bylaw 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 pregame and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pregame or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met.

(a) 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

(b) The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) 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 four 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 • 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 Sept. 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).

Section 11 • Team Replacement Policy

Division I developed a team replacement policy considering the possibility of unforeseen circumstances impacting championship fields. The policy will be implemented in accordance with the terms set forth in the policy document available **here** when, despite best efforts, a team within the championship field is impeded or hindered from participating in the championship for reasons beyond its control.

Division I Men's Wrestling

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration 8
Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information 8
Section 1•2 National Committee 8
Section 1•3 Important Dates 8
Section 1•4 Uniforms 9
Section 1•5 Rules 9
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation 10
Section 2•1 Championships Format 10
Section 2•2 Results 11
Section 2•3 Selection Information 12
Section 2•4 Selection Criteria 13
Appendix A • Sport Sponsorship 16
Appendix B • Sports Information 18

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

Mark Bedics
Director, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6541 (office) / 317-966-6762 (cell)
mbedics@ncaa.org

Jackie Kawamoto
Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
317-917-6964 (office) / 317-709-2293 (cell)
jjkawamoto@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee can be found at the following link: web1.ncaa.org/committees/#/reports/roster?committeeCode=1MWROC

Section 1•3 Important Dates

Thursday, Feb. 25	Conference allocations announced.
Thursday, March 11	Online credential/hotel registration portal closes (noon Eastern time).
Tuesday, March 16	On-site team registration begins.
Wednesday, March 17	Mandatory virtual coaches' administrative meeting (7 p.m. Eastern time).
Thursday, March 18	Replacement deadline (time of weigh-ins).

CHAMPIONSHIPS DATES

March 18-20	Enterprise Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

DATE FORMULA

Finals	Third full weekend in March (Thursday-Saturday).

FUTURE DATES

2028 FINALS

March 16-18	US Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT DATES

TOURNAMENT	DATE	SITE
Atlantic Coast Conference	March 6-7	Pittsburgh
Big Ten Conference	March 6-7	Ohio State
Big 12 Conference	March 5-6	Tulsa, Oklahoma
Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association	March 5-6	Army West Point
Ivy League	March 7	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mid-American Conference	March 5-6	Southern Illinois
Pac-12 Conference	March 4-5	Little Rock, Arkansas
Southern Conference	March 5-6	Asheville, North Carolina

Section 1•4 Uniforms

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 1•5 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 2026-27 NCAA Wrestling Rules and Interpretations will be followed. Questions regarding rules interpretations should be directed to Jimmy Chung, secretary-rules editor (phone: 949-525-6004; email: **ncaawrestling.sre@gmail.com**).

Rule 9.6.1 Qualified Examiners. A physician or a certified athletic trainer shall examine all contestants for communicable skin diseases before all tournaments and meets. (For guidelines regarding the dispensation of skin infections, see Appendix C, Skin Infections in Wrestling.) It is recommended that this examination be made at the time of weigh-in. Medical professionals of both genders may participate in the medical examinations.

Rule 9.1.1 Weigh-Ins. Weigh-ins shall be conducted in a private, secured area at the site of competition or in an adjacent building to the competition, and attendance shall be limited to the contestants, required medical personnel, the person(s) supervising the weigh-in and others deemed necessary. All contestants shall weigh in wearing a minimum of a suitable undergarment, such as briefs, boxers or shorts, or a competition singlet. A garment shall not be altered and shall cover the entire buttocks. The referee or other authorized people should supervise the weighing in of contestants. It is mandatory that the NCAA official weigh-in form, generated by the Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC), be used for all competition. (See Rule 8.3.5.3.)

It is recommended that a digital scale be used for weigh-ins. All scales used for weigh-ins shall be certified before the start of each competition.

At all official weigh-ins, the wrestler should stand with both feet flat in the middle of the scale, facing away from the dial or weight indicator. (For failure to make weight, see Rule 9.2.)

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championships Format

The NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships shall be conducted in the following 10 weight classes (33 wrestlers per weight class):

- 125 pounds
- 133 pounds
- 141 pounds
- 149 pounds
- 157 pounds
- 165 pounds
- 174 pounds
- 184 pounds
- 197 pounds
- Heavyweights (183-285 pounds)

The order in which the finals of the respective weight classes will be wrestled may be adjusted by the games committee to accommodate television coverage and spectator interest. The same 10 classes will be used in conference and regional qualifying meets. Match times will be seven minutes in duration.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(All times are local)

Tuesday, March 16

2-8 p.m.	On-site team registration
3-9 p.m.	Team practices

Wednesday, March 17

9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Team practices
9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Team registration
1:30 p.m.	Press conference with selected student-athletes
2 p.m.	Press conference with selected head coaches
3 p.m.	Mandatory skin checks with dermatologist for student-athletes with preexisting skin conditions
4 p.m.	Registration closes
6 p.m.	Mandatory virtual administrative coaches' meeting

Thursday, March 18

11 a.m.	Session One — Preliminaries
6 p.m.	Session Two — Preliminaries and wrestle-backs

Friday, March 19

11 a.m.	Session Three — Quarterfinals and wrestle-backs
7 p.m.	Session Four — Semifinals and wrestle-backs

Saturday, March 20

10 a.m.	Session Five – Consolation finals
5:30 p.m.	Session Six – Championships finals
9 p.m.	Team awards will be presented following all competition; individual awards are presented between each weight class

NOTE: Times are subject to change for television.

TRAVEL

Per NCAA travel policies, you are allowed to book travel for individual and team sports prior to the official selections announcement. However, please be advised that your institution will be billed for any charges incurred as a result of any of the following situations:

1. Any student-athletes who do not qualify for reimbursement.
2. Any student-athlete who gets injured, has an illness or does not travel for any reason.
3. Any nonathlete above the number that are reimbursable, based on the number of student-athletes who qualify.
4. Any name changes or flight changes that result in penalties.
5. Any charges incurred when group space is blocked and then canceled.

Understanding these potential charges, which will be reviewed with you prior to any tickets being charged, you should feel free to book your individual team sports as early as you feel comfortable. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact Short's Travel at 866-655-9215, or the NCAA Travel Department at 317-917-6757.

Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at **ncaa.org/championships/travel**.

TEAM REGISTRATION

Team contact information shall be submitted within the team registration portal (**go.planningpoint.net/Registration/NO2027DIMWRESTLINGSTLOUIS**).

All team contacts shall be maintained and updated here throughout the season.

Each institution is eligible for one administrator credential for their Athletic Director or sport administrator. Up to two medical credentials may be issued for authorized medical personnel. One team personnel credential for support staff will also be provided.

Credentials may be used only by eligible competing student-athletes and recognized members of the coaching staff authorized by the respective institution. Only credentialed participating student-athletes and coaches shall be permitted to take part in practice and warmups.

Section 2•2 Results

QUALIFYING INFORMATION/FORMS

The tournament directors for all qualifying tournaments are responsible for preparing a list of qualifiers for the qualifying positions in each weight class that will be awarded by the NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships Subcommittee. Please be sure to include their tournament finish and season won-lost record, which must include results from the qualifying tournament. This information must be submitted online by 8 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, March 7.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

ALLOCATION

Each qualifying tournament that qualifies for automatic qualification shall be allocated a minimum of 10 positions for the top finisher in each weight class.

The remaining spots available in each class are reserved for at-large selections. The at-large qualifiers will be selected by the NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Committee and will be announced March 10, 2027.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

Atlantic Coast Conference	Ivy League
Big Ten Conference	Mid-American Conference
Big 12 Conference	Pac-12 Conference
Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association	Southern Conference

REPLACEMENT POLICY

The Division I Men's Wrestling Committee will select two alternates per weight, one alternate per weight class will be invited to the championships. If any wrestler withdraws or does not make weight, the alternate will be inserted into the bracket. Teams should notify the NCAA as soon as they know a wrestler will not be able to compete. The replacement deadline is the time of weigh-ins on the first day of competition.

The contact person for replacements for the championships is Mark Bedics of the NCAA national office. Mr. Bedics may be reached by email at **mbedics@ncaa.org**.

LATE ENTRY

If an institution fails to enter required individual and/or team information (starters, season record forms, results, etc.) before the established deadlines, a late-entry fine of $50 per occurrence may be assessed. Fines must be paid before an institution will be issued credentials for the national championships. Late-entry fines are to be made payable to the NCAA and be submitted to Mark Bedics at the NCAA. The funds received will be distributed to support NCAA student-athlete initiatives.

PAIRINGS AND SEEDING

The Division I Men's Wrestling Championships Subcommittee will determine the seeding for each weight class in the championships. At no time will lobbying be allowed. Coaches attempting to lobby or supply additional materials may be cited for misconduct.

A selected representative from each conference tournament is responsible for submitting the list of qualifiers and updated individual season record forms for all qualifiers to be considered for seeding. Immediately after the respective qualifying tournament, each conference tournament director must submit to Mark Bedics at the NCAA national office via email at **mbedics@ncaa.org** the tournament results for each weight class, including brackets.

Final seeding and pairings are made by the Division I Men's Wrestling Championships Subcommittee. Pairing sheets will tentatively be distributed via an internet announcement by 8 p.m. Eastern time, Wednesday, March 10. These pairings are not to be released by any other media outlet before the official NCAA announcement.

After all qualifying events have concluded, the NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships Subcommittee will meet in person to select at-large qualifiers using selection criteria. All weight classes at the 2027 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships will consist of 33 wrestlers. All 33 wrestlers in each weight class will be seeded with no requirement that wrestlers from the same conference tournament not meet in the first round. The pigtail matches will always be paired with one of the top four seeds. At-large qualifiers will be announced on or by March 10.

When compiling a student-athlete's won-lost record for seeding purposes, only matches against student-athletes who compete on intercollegiate teams at two- and four-year, degree-granting institutions where NCAA rules are followed shall be counted.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

PREALLOCATION FORMULA

Preallocations for 2027 will be determined by using the preallocation formula described below and will be communicated to all qualifying events by Feb. 25. Wrestlers in each weight class will be measured on the following: winning percentage (Win %), rating percentage index (RPI) and coaches' ranking (CR). Win % is defined as Division I wins divided by total Division I matches contested. RPI is defined as Win %*, opponents' Win %* and opponents' opponents' Win % (15-match minimum). CR is defined as the weight class-specific ranking as determined by the NCAA Division I Wrestling Coaches Ranking Panel.

NOTE: Each wrestler who has 15 matches will have an RPI, without the requirement of the wrestler's opponents to have 15 matches, as well.

Wrestlers must have wrestled a minimum of eight matches at the championships weight class. Wrestlers who meet or exceed threshold levels for any two of the three measures will earn a preallocated position for their respective weight class at their respective qualifying event. If a wrestler earns a preallocated position and does not compete in his conference or qualifying tournament, the preallocated position that was earned by this wrestler for his qualifying event will revert to the at-large pool, unless the wrestler who earned the preallocated position is replaced by a wrestler who also meets or exceeds the threshold levels for that respective weight class. If a qualifying event does not have any preallocated spots at a weight class, one automatic qualifier position will be allocated for that qualifying event's champion at that weight class. The committee will allocate the number of preallocated spots of the 330 championships field using the primary formula. Threshold levels may slide up or down in concert (i.e., slide up to .800 Win %, top 20 RPI and top 20 CR or slide down to .700 Win %, top 30 RPI and top 30 CR) to achieve a total number of qualifiers in the desired range. The maximum number of preallocations per weight class shall be 29.

SELECTION CRITERIA

On March 8, wrestlers in each weight class will receive an updated Win %, RPI and coaches' ranking that includes all competition through the qualifying events. Wrestlers who meet or exceed any two of the following criteria will be eligible for at-large consideration:

- .700 Win %.
- Top 33 RPI.
- Top 33 CR.
- .700 winning percentage against all competition.
- One win against a wrestler receiving an earned position (preallocated).
- Qualifying event placement one below number of preallocated spots.
- Earned preallocated spot for the conference.

Wrestlers must meet two or more of the above criteria to be eligible for at-large selection to the Division I NCAA Men's Wrestling Championship. Furthermore, a wrestler must have at least two countable matches (must count towards the wrestler's overall record on the individual season record form) in his respective conference tournament to be considered for at-large selection. Examples of two countable matches include: two completed matches, one completed match and an injury default/medical forfeit, or two injury defaults. Any medical forfeits after the first injury loss (whether by injury default or medical forfeit) in the same event do not count as a loss on the wrestler's individual season record form. As a result, in the situation where a wrestler has an injury default followed by a medical forfeit, only the first match is countable, and therefore the wrestler would not be eligible for at-large selection.

Only results from events registered in the NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) system by Sept. 1 on the respective academic year shall be considered for selection and seeding for the Division I Men's Wrestling Championships. This is to confirm that the committee will not consider results from nontraditional matches/events contested after Jan. 1, that have become more common later in the season. This is consistent with the value the committee places on traditional formats (dual meets, individual advancement tournaments) and conference tournament participation to meet the selection criteria.

NOTE: Wrestlers without conference affiliation may be considered if all other criteria are met.

The Division I Men's Wrestling Championships Subcommittee will use the following weighted criteria, in priority order, to evaluate the wrestlers:

- Head-to-head competition – 25%.
- Quality wins – 20%.
- Qualifying event placement – 12.5%.
- Coaches' rankings - 12.5%.
- Results against common opponents – 10%.
- RPI – 10%.
- Win percentage – 10%.

NOTE: Coaches' Ranking – A wrestler must have wrestled eight matches at the championships weight class to be eligible to be ranked in that weight class. He also must have wrestled at least one match in the 30 days preceding each ranking period in the respective weight class. If a wrestler does not meet each of these two criteria, he will be removed from the ranking list for that ranking period. However, any wrestler that qualified for the NCAA Championships via a preallocated spot is eligible to be ranked in the final coach ranking, even if they did not meet the eight-match threshold.

SUBJECTIVE CRITERIA

The committee may also consider the following subjective measures to supplement established selection and seeding criteria:

- Bad Losses.
- Outside the top 30 CR and/or 30 RPI.
- Conference Champion.
- Performance in last five matches.
- Number of Injury default or medical forfeits wins/losses.
- Best quality win.
- Recency of win.
- Wrestler availability (injured or medically unable to compete).

Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Sport Sponsorship **16**

Appendix B • Sports Information **18**

Appendix A • Sport Sponsorship

American University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Appalachian State University	Southern Conference
Arizona State University	Big 12 Conference
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Pac-12 Conference
Bellarmine University	Southern Conference
Binghamton University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania	Mid-American Conference
Brown University	Ivy League
Bucknell University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
University at Buffalo, the State University of New York	Mid-American Conference
California Polytechnic State University	Pac-12 Conference
California State University, Bakersfield	Pac-12 Conference
Campbell University	Southern Conference
Central Michigan University	Mid-American Conference
The Citadel	Southern Conference
Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion	Mid-American Conference
Columbia University-Barnard College	Ivy League
Cornell University	Ivy League
Davidson College	Southern Conference
Drexel University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Duke University	Atlantic Coast Conference
Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro	Mid-American Conference
Franklin & Marshall College	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Gardner-Webb University	Southern Conference
George Mason University	Mid-American Conference
Harvard University	Ivy League
Hofstra University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Big Ten Conference
Indiana University, Bloomington	Big Ten Conference
University of Iowa	Big Ten Conference
Iowa State University	Big 12 Conference
Kent State University	Mid-American Conference
Lehigh University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania	Mid-American Conference
Long Island University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Mercyhurst University*	Independent
University of Maryland, College Park	Big Ten Conference
Michigan State University	Big Ten Conference
University of Michigan	Big Ten Conference

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Big Ten Conference
University of Missouri, Columbia	Big 12 Conference
Morgan State University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Big Ten Conference
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Atlantic Coast Conference
North Carolina State University	Atlantic Coast Conference
North Dakota State University	Pac-12 Conference
University of Northern Colorado	Pac-12 Conference
Northern Illinois University	Pac-12 Conference
University of Northern Iowa	Big 12 Conference
Northwestern University	Big Ten Conference
The Ohio State University	Big Ten Conference
Ohio University	Mid-American Conference
Oklahoma State University	Big 12 Conference
University of Oklahoma	Big 12 Conference
Oregon State University	Pac-12 Conference
University of Pennsylvania	Ivy League
Pennsylvania State University	Big Ten Conference
University of Pittsburgh	Atlantic Coast Conference
Presbyterian College	Southern Conference
Princeton University	Ivy League
Purdue University	Big Ten Conference
Rider University	Mid-American Conference
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick	Big Ten Conference
Sacred Heart University	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
South Dakota State University	Pac-12 Conference
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Mid-American Conference
Stanford University	Pac-12 Conference
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Southern Conference
U.S. Air Force Academy	Pac-12 Conference
U.S. Military Academy	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
U.S. Naval Academy	Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association
Utah Valley University	Big 12 Conference
University of Virginia	Atlantic Coast Conference
Virginia Military Institute	Southern Conference
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Atlantic Coast Conference
West Virginia University	Big 12 Conference
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Big Ten Conference
University of Wyoming	Big 12 Conference

**Not eligible for NCAA Championships as they complete transition to Division I.*

Appendix B • Sports Information

BYE POINTS

A bye point will be awarded to wrestlers who win their next match after the bye.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

All student-athletes shall be examined by qualified physicians (at the national tournament, one of them shall be a dermatologist) and/or certified athletic trainers for communicable diseases before the competition.

WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION

If a student-athlete has been diagnosed as having a skin condition, and is currently being treated by a physician (ideally, a dermatologist) who has determined that it is safe for that individual to compete without jeopardizing the health of the opponent, the student-athlete may compete. However, the student-athlete or his or her coach or athletic trainer shall provide current written documentation from the treating physician to the medical professional at the medical examination with the approved NCAA Skin Evaluation and Participation Status Form describing: (1) the diagnosed skin disease or condition; (2) the prescribed treatment and the time necessary for it to take effect; and (3) that the skin disease or condition would not be communicable or harmful to the opponent at the time of competition. Such documentation shall be furnished at the medical examination. There will be a mandatory skin examination with the dermatologist for student-athletes with preexisting skin conditions. (The NCAA Skin Evaluation and Participation Status Form is available online in the OPC system at **nwcaonline.com**.)

The medical examination/skin examination and weigh-in area shall be a private, secure area. Only participants will be admitted to the medical/skin check and weigh-in area. All participants must report to all weigh-ins with nails trimmed and hair at proper length. Student-athletes who fail to make weight and/or pass the skin check will not have their transportation and per diem paid by the NCAA. The established medical-check time is just prior to weigh-ins each scheduled day of competition. Medical checks end precisely after the last student-athlete has been checked.

Failure to receive a medical examination or weigh-in during the designated time will result in disqualification. Only extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Wrestling Committee or an appointed subcommittee. The tournament physician, as designated by the host institution and the NCAA, shall examine the skin of all participants during the medical examinations. The tournament physician/dermatologist shall report the results of the examination to the chair of the Wrestling Committee or a designated representative, who shall then be responsible for the administrative enforcement of the medical recommendation if it involves disqualification from the tournament.

No media shall be permitted at the weigh-ins or medical examinations.

WEIGH-INS

It is mandatory that all participants in each weight class weigh in. The weigh-ins will be supervised by the Wrestling Committee. Digital scales are recommended for use at all weigh-ins.

Only participants and properly credentialed tournament officials will be admitted to the weigh-in area.

Student-athletes must complete a medical examination/skin check and receive medical clearance on site just prior to weigh-ins.