

PRECHAMPIONSHIPS 2026-27 MANUAL

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

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THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
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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 pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the applicable sports playing rules are satisfied and the following criteria are met. (Adopted: 12/15/22)

(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 (Adopted: 12/15/22)

(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 (i.e., rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. (Adopted: 12/15/22, Revised: 7/21/26 effective 8/1/26)

Section 8 • Research

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

Section 9 • Travel Party

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

Section 10 • Division II

Section 10•1 Division II Philosophy

In addition to the constitution of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational well-being and academic success of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

Higher education has lasting importance on an individual's future success. As such, Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II athletics programs also are committed to establishing an inclusive culture in which persons of all backgrounds are respected and given the opportunity to provide input and to participate. Division II members abide by the following principles that help define and distinguish the division: (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(a) Division II colleges and universities are expected to operate their athletics programs with integrity and in a welcoming manner that complies with conference and NCAA rules and regulations. Institutional control is a fundamental principle that supports the institution's educational mission and assumes presidential involvement and oversight; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(b) Division II members fund their athletics programs in a manner that aligns with the institution's budget and educational mission. This method of funding features a "partial scholarship" model that allows Division II schools to recognize student-athletes for their skills through athletics-based grants, but student-athletes can accept merit-based aid and academic scholarships as well; *(Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22)*

(c) Division II believes in a balanced approach that integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students to focus on their academic pursuits and participate in other campus and community activities. This "Life in the Balance" emphasis facilitates learning through: (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(1) **Academics.** Division II offers exceptional teacher-student ratios that provide student-athletes with a quality

education in the academic curriculum of their choice. The division structures its eligibility requirements to facilitate student-athletes earning their degrees, which is measured in part by an institution's student-athletes graduating at least at the same rate as the institution's student body; (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(2) **Athletics**. Division II supports athletics achievement through highly competitive programs that strive to participate in the division's 25 national championships, which offer the best access ratio among the NCAA's three divisions. Division II also supports a regionalization model in scheduling that reduces time away from campus and keeps athletics participation in perspective within the educational mission; (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(3) **Community Engagement**. Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities to enhance relationships between student-athletes and community members and develop a shared civic experience. Division II promotes engagement at the local, conference and national levels, including at all Division II national championships; and (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(4) **Postgraduation Success**. Division II supports a higher education model that shapes student-athletes who graduate with the skills and knowledge to be productive citizens. The balanced approach allows student-athletes to focus on their academic pursuits, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare them for life after graduation; (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(d) Division II members support the utmost in sportsmanship by committing to a "game environment" initiative that establishes an atmosphere at athletics contests that is both energetic and respectful; and (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

(e) Division II promotes student-athlete involvement in decision-making through campus, conference and national Student-Athlete Advisory Committees that provide leadership opportunities and offer a representative voice in the division's governance structure. (*Adopted: 1/31/22, Revised: 7/19/22 effective 8/1/22*)

Section 10•2 Division II Code of Conduct

CONDUCT POLICY STATEMENT

The NCAA expects each championship to exhibit an experience that represents the highest level of fair play and good sportsmanship. The NCAA and the NCAA Division II Championships Committee expect that student-athletes, coaches and administrators do their best to ensure participation in intercollegiate athletics promotes character development for all participants, enhances the integrity of higher education and promotes civility; therefore, championship events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities associated with the championship event. Accordingly, the Championships Committee will take strong action in response to any form of misconduct by student-athletes, coaches and/or administrators during the entire championship. This includes criticism of officials and a misconduct incident at the competition.

Any institution that fails to submit the online form required for the sport administrator and have a complete and accurate signature page on file at the institution before the start of the first competition of the championship will be issued a fine of $500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, institutional chancellor/president, institutional athletics director, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director.

MISCONDUCT

The NCAA Division II Manual Bylaw 18.02.4 defines misconduct as: **"... 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."**

EXPECTATIONS

Each games committee shall hold a pre-championship meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct (as defined in Bylaw 18.02.4). The Division II Championships Code of Conduct is to be part of the championship(s) packet and delivered to all institutional representatives attending the championship(s) events.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day's competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament) when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other actions of misconduct shall be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sport committee.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Have on file at the institution an accurate and complete Division II Code of Conduct signature page before the start of the first competition of the championship(s).
- Cooperate and participate in game ceremonies, team meetings, community engagement and championship competition.
- Discuss misconduct and possible consequences with all institutional personnel traveling with the team (official travel party and additional individuals).
- Have an administrator or designee present at all competitions.
- Communicate issues and concerns in an honest and timely manner with NCAA staff.
- Follow team, university and NCAA guidelines throughout all championship-related activities.
- Be respectful of other participants, spectators, coaches, administrators and other individuals at the championship(s) site.
- Abide by federal, state and local laws and regulations and facility requirements throughout the championship event.
- Display acceptable behavior on and off the playing field to ensure a positive experience for all participants.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Division II Championships Committee policy, the governing sport committee (or the games committee authorized to act for it) may impose any one or a combination of the following penalties on an institution or any student-athlete or representative of an institution guilty of misconduct that occurs incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice. The penalties include, but are not limited to:

a. Public or private reprimand of the individual;

b. Disqualification of the individual from further participation in the NCAA championship(s) involved;

c. Banishment of the individual from participation in one or more subsequent championships of the sport involved;

d. Cancellation of payment of the Association's travel guarantee to the institution for the individual involved;

e. Banishment of the institution from participation in one or more future championships in which its team in that sport otherwise would be eligible to participate;

f. Disqualification of an institution for a period of time from serving as host institution for one or more NCAA championships;

g. Cancellation of all or a portion of the honorarium for hosting an NCAA championship(s); and

h. Financial or other penalties different from (a) through (g) above, but only if they have prior approval of the Championships Committee.

All correspondence regarding a violation of the Code of Conduct will be sent to the chancellor/president of the institution, with a copy to the director of athletics and person(s) involved.

Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. Participation in these championship events is a privilege for the student-athletes, coaches and administrators and should be treated as such.

Section 10•3 On-Site Administrator at Team Championships

All team sports require that a designated individual be identified from each institution participating in the championship as the on-site administrator. This person may be any individual from that school with no on-site responsibilities. The role of the on-site administrator is to be present at the competition site and attend all events that are mandated for the team (e.g., travel from institution to and from the championship site, teleconferences/videoconferences, prechampionship meetings, practices, competition and community engagement, where applicable).

If no one is sent or identified, the site representative is to notify the NCAA championship manager and Division II Championships Committee liaison to administer a fine of $500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, university chancellor/president university director of athletics, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director. The NCAA championship manager will administer the fine and letter of reprimand to the institution(s).

This policy applies to the following sports: baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball.

Section 10•4 Make Game Day Yours

Division II promotes a game environment that is respectful and engaging for everyone through the Make Game Day Yours initiative. The initiative aims to create a positive game environment at Division II contests and promotes excellent customer service among hosts to both teams' fans, student-athletes, coaches and game officials.

Championship hosts should keep in mind the importance of safety, responsiveness and dignity in order to achieve a positive experience. We ask that each participant and fan be personally accountable for their actions and do their part to ensure this event is a positive reflection of Make Game Day Yours.

Section 10•5 Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Division II Championships Committee Policy.]

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office before 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. *(Revised: 1/12/99, 1/8/01, 1/9/01)*

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

Section 10•6 Lodging Policies

Participating institutions are expected to stay at the hotel assigned by the host and are responsible for confirming with the hotel the number of rooms they will require via submission of the rooming lists. If an institution prefers to stay in another hotel, the institution must use the rooms for persons accompanying the official travel party or will be charged a financial penalty as follows:

1. If the event is one to three nights, the institution will be required to pay for one night.
2. If the event is four or more nights, the institution will be required to pay for two nights.

The participating institution is expected to pay the penalty to the impacted hotel prior departing from the locale.

Division II Men's Wrestling

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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Championships and Alliances, Operations
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leldred@ncaa.org

Tracy McClendon
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317-917-6389
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Section 1•2 National Committee

SUPER REGION ONE
Term Expiration: August 2030

Mike Wehler
Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Student Services
University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown

SUPER REGION TWO
Term Expiration: August 2029

Christina Chow
Senior Associate Director of Athletics/ Compliance & Student Services
University of North Carolina at Pembroke

SUPER REGION THREE
Term Expiration: August 2027

Shawn Nelson, chair
Head Wrestling Coach
University of Findlay

SUPER REGION FOUR
Term Expiration: August 2029

Jason Warthan
Head Wrestling Coach
University of Indianapolis

SUPER REGION FIVE
Term Expiration: August 2030

Marcus Wagner
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
University of Mary

SUPER REGION SIX
Term Expiration: August 2030

Kaylee Summers
Associate Athletic Director of Business Operations
Western Colorado University

Section 1•3 Division II Code of Conduct

The NCAA expects each championship to exhibit an experience that represents the highest level of fair play and good sportsmanship. The NCAA and the NCAA Division II Championships Committee expect that student-athletes, coaches and administrators do their best to ensure that participation in intercollegiate athletics promotes character development for all participants, enhances the integrity of higher education and promotes civility; therefore, championship events should adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should manifest not only in athletic participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities associated with the championship event. Accordingly, the championships committee will take strong action in response to any form of misconduct by student-athletes, coaches and/or administrators during the entire championship. This includes criticism of officials and misconduct incident to the competition.

MISCONDUCT

The prechampionship manual and NCAA Division II Manual Bylaw 18.02.4 define misconduct as: "...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."

EXPECTATIONS

Each games committee shall hold an administrative meeting before the start of the championship with the coaches of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct (as defined in Bylaw 18.02.4). The Division II Championships Code of Conduct is to be part of the championship packet and delivered to all institutional representatives attending the championship events.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition in which he or she is participating at the time of the incident. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day's competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament), or when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other actions of misconduct shall be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sports committee.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Cooperate and participate in game ceremonies, team meetings, community engagement and championship ceremonies.
- Discuss misconduct and possible consequences with all members of the travel party.
- Have an administrator or designee present at all competitions.
- Communicate issues and concerns in an honest and timely manner with NCAA staff.
- Follow team, university and NCAA guidelines throughout all championship-related activities.
- Be respectful of other participants, spectators, coaches, administrators and other individuals at the championship site.
- Abide by state and federal laws and facility requirements throughout the championship event.
- Display acceptable behavior on and off the playing field to ensure a positive experience for all participants.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Division II Championships Committee policy**, the governing sports committee (or the games committee authorized to act for it) may impose any one, or a combination of, the following penalties on an institution or any student-athlete or representative of an institution guilty of misconduct that occurs en route to, from or at the locale of the championship event**. The penalties include, but are not limited to:

- Public or private reprimand of the individual.
- Disqualification of the individual from further participation in the NCAA championship involved and/or banishment of the individual from participating in one or more subsequent championships of the sport involved.
- Cancellation of payment of the Association's travel guarantee to the institution for the individuals involved.
- Withholding of all or a portion of the institution's share of revenue distribution.
- Banishment of the institution from participation in one or more subsequent championships in which its team in that sport otherwise would be eligible to participate.
- Disqualification of an institution for a period of time from serving as host institution for one or more NCAA championships.
- Cancellation of all or a portion of the honorarium for hosting an NCAA championship.

Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment, and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. Participation in these championship events is a privilege for the student-athletes, coaches and administrators and should be treated as such. Again, congratulations to you and your team. We hope this year's championship experience is one that you will cherish for years to come.

Section 1•4 Important Dates

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Tournament	Date	Host	Facility
Super Regional One	Feb. 27, 2027	Millersville University of Pennsylvania	Pucillo Gymnasium
Super Regional Two	Feb. 27, 2027	University of Montevallo	Central State Bank Arena
Super Regional Three	Feb. 28, 2027	Grand Valley State University	Grand Valley State Fieldhouse Arena
Super Regional Four	Feb. 27, 2027	University of Indianapolis	Nicoson Hall
Super Regional Five	Feb. 27, 2027	Northern State University	Barnett Center
Super Regional Six	Feb. 27, 2027	University of Nebraska-Kearney	UNK Health and Sports Center
Finals	March 12-13, 2027	Upper Iowa University	Alliant Energy Powerhouse

DATE FORMULA

Regionals (6)	Conducted two weekends prior to the finals championship over two days (Friday and Saturday).
Finals	Competition will occur on the Friday-Saturday of the second full weekend in March (full weekend is defined as Thursday-Saturday).

FUTURE DATES

2028 Championships	March 10-11, 2028 (hosted by University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown).
2028 Super Regionals	
Super Region One	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by Fairmont State University).
Super Region Two	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by University of North Carolina, Pembroke).
Super Region Three	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by Glenville State University).
Super Region Four	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by University of Central Missouri).
Super Region Five	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by University of Wisconsin, Parkside).
Super Region Six	Feb. 25-26, 2028 (hosted by Colorado Mesa University).

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 2024-25 and 2025-26 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.

Section 1•6 Uniforms

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships shall be conducted in the following 10 weight classes:

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

START TIMES (TENTATIVE)

Friday, March 12

10 a.m.	Preliminaries and first rounds.
5 p.m.	Quarterfinals and first- and second-round consolations.

Saturday, March 13

10 a.m.	Semifinals and wrestle-backs.
7 p.m.	Championships finals.

NOTE: All times are local and subject to change.

TRAVEL PARTY

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**.

HOUSING

Hotel reservations for the official travel parties of the competing teams, the referees and the Division II Wrestling Committee representatives shall be made by the NCAA in consultation with the host institution. Rooms will be allocated according to the number of student-athletes who have qualified from each institution. The following formula will be used for the team hotels:

Qualifiers	Number of Rooms
1-3	4
4-5	5
6-7	6
8-10	7

Requests for hotel rooms must be made immediately upon communication from the national office. A deadline will be given. After this deadline, institutions will have to make their own hotel arrangements. Once the teams/qualifiers have been determined and assigned to a team hotel, the reservations should be reconfirmed in the names of the institutions and, thereafter, the institutions shall be responsible for the reservations.

Participating institutions are responsible for the rooms reserved by the NCAA. If an institution prefers to stay in another hotel, the institution must (1) obtain a release of the rooms in writing from the hotel's general manager or (2) use the rooms for persons accompanying the official travel party. In either case, the institution is responsible for securing arrangements at another property. If an institution fails to make satisfactory arrangements for the use of the rooms at the assigned hotel, it will be charged for those rooms.

Section 2•2 Results

QUALIFYING INFORMATION/FORMS

The tournament managers of all qualifying tournaments are responsible for ensuring the list of qualifiers and alternates, in rank order, are correct in the Trackwrestling system immediately following the conclusion of the tournament.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS REPORTING

The NCAA Division II Men's Wrestling Committee will utilize TrackWrestling, powered by FloWrestling's scoring software to support its score-reporting system. As a result, it will be necessary for institutions to input their roster, schedule, and all statistics and results for all events in which they participate into the Trackwrestling Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) according to the following procedures:

a. Per the Wrestling Rulebook, all tournament hosts must register all individual-advancement and pool/round robin events in the OPC no later than Sept. 1. Institutions that fail to meet the deadline and wish to host a tournament may be assessed a monetary fine. Complete tournament schedules must be submitted in the OPC by Sept. 1; full schedules by Oct. 1.

b. For any results to be considered for selection purposes, the host must accurately and completely input the statistics and results into the OPC within 24 hours (one day) of event completion or it may be assessed a monetary fine.

c. In addition to match results, full statistics must be input for each event. The host institution shall be responsible for all dual and/or tournament scoring and statistics.

d. Those not hosting events are responsible for reviewing and approving the inputted statistics and results from those events in which they participated within 48 hours (two days) of event completion.

e. Institutions that fail to accurately and completely input statistics and results for its events may be assessed a monetary fine.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

SPORT SPONSORSHIP

An institution must meet the sport sponsorship requirements of Division II Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.3 to be eligible for the 2027 Division II Wrestling Championships.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

For 2027, the Championships Committee has allocated 180 positions for the championships:

Regional	Qualifiers
Super Regional One	30
Super Regional Two	30
Super Regional Three	30
Super Regional Four	30
Super Regional Five	30
Super Regional Six	30
Total	180

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

To be eligible to participate in the 2027 NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships, all participants must qualify through their respective qualifying tournament.

Minimum participation requirement:

- For student-athletes to be eligible to participate in the Division II Wrestling Championships, their member institution must compete in a minimum of nine contests with a minimum of six student-athletes in each of those contests (Bylaw 7.3.1.7.1.1). The last date of qualification for the 2027 National Championship is Sunday, Feb. 21.

REPLACEMENT POLICY

Qualifying-tournament personnel must submit the names of the individuals who have qualified for the championships before the established deadlines. Only those individuals listed on the qualifiers list for the respective national championships will be allowed to compete. Replacements on the list are permitted until the established deadline. In Division II, a replacement must be the next-best wrestler from the qualifying tournament at the weight class in which the replacement is required. As such, it is imperative that Division II qualifying tournaments list the fourth-place finishers in each weight class. There will be no replacements after noon Eastern time on Tuesday, March 9. The contact person for replacements is Lindsey Eldred. She can be reached at 317-917-6747 or **leldred@ncaa.org**.

If, before the bracket is made official (Tuesday, March 9 at noon Eastern time):

- The wrestler being replaced is seeded, then seeds move up one (pulling the 9th seed) and the bracket is redrawn.
- The wrestler being replaced is NOT seeded, then the new wrestler is inserted into the bracket at the same location as the replaced wrestler.

Once the bracket is official at noon Eastern time on Tuesday, March 9, the wrestler would be removed from the bracket and no replacement will be made.

SEEDING COMMITTEE

Finals site seeding committee will consist of two representatives from each super region (for a total of 12). For more details on the seeding committee visit the sport landing page: **ncaa.org/championship/division-ii/mens-wrestling/**.

SEEDING

When compiling a student-athlete's won-lost record for seeding purposes at the qualifying tournaments, all matches in which NCAA rules are followed shall be counted, including open or unattached competition. For final site seeding, both of the two seeds per region will be assigned five weight classes to seed. The voting shall be anonymous.

BRACKETING

The top eight seeded wrestlers will be placed in the bracket according to their seed. The remaining ten wrestlers will be drawn randomly. Regional matchups shall be avoided through the round of sixteen.

Unofficial brackets will be released on Friday, March 5. Please note that brackets will not become official and are subject to change up to the replacement deadline.

Bracket Redraw Policy (Super Regional Only). The bracket verification deadline shall be immediately following weigh-ins for super regionals. This allows the tournament committee to redraw the bracket should there be any missed weights, failed skin checks, injuries, etc.

REGISTRATION

The list of entrants submitted by the qualifying tournament managers does not constitute the official entry. Each head coach, or the appointed institutional representative, must verify the entry of the student-athlete(s) at the site of the national championships before the competition.

Failure to meet the entry and registration deadline of noon Eastern time on Thursday, March 4, will eliminate a contestant from the championships.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

Monday, March 8

Noon	Virtual mandatory administrative meeting.

Tuesday, March 9

Noon	Replacement deadline.

Wednesday, March 10

5-9 p.m.	Credential and packet pick up.
5-9 p.m.	Practice.

Thursday, March 11

9 a.m.	Credential and packet pick up.
9 a.m.-8 p.m.	Practice.
Noon	Press conference.
1 p.m.	NWCA/NCAA Coaches Meeting.
4 p.m.	Registration closes.

Friday, March 12

7 a.m.	Practice.
7:50 a.m.	Medical/skin examinations.
8 a.m.	Weigh-ins.
10 a.m.	Preliminaries and first round.
5 p.m.	Quarterfinals and first- and second-round consolations.

Saturday, March 13

7 a.m.	Practice.
7:55 a.m.	Medical/skin examinations.
8 a.m.	Weigh-ins.
10 a.m.	Semifinals, wrestle-backs (seventh-, fifth- and third-place matches).
6:40 p.m.	Parade of All-Americans.
7 p.m.	Championships finals. Trophies and awards follow the next weight class final.

NOTE: All times are local.

Section 2•4 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the Division II Wrestling Championships must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution's key contacts and facility information are up to date via the Championships Bid Portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under "championships available for bid" and select "add bid." This process typically starts in January for the championship that will occur two years later (e.g., the portal opens in January 2027 for the 2029 super regional bids).

Please note the change in process that allows all member institutions to regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting **championships.ncaa.org**. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email **championshipbid@ncaa.org** or contact the respective championships manager.

As a reminder, prospective hosts' budgets should include committee/site representative's lodging expense, game officials' lodging expense, state and city taxes/fees, if applicable, and any ticket fees. Committee/site representative's per diem, mileage and luggage fees will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefQ System for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

FACILITY PROFILE

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

KEY CONTACTS

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

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 (SSAG) 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, which would be inclusive of 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 **fs.ncaa.org/Docs/championships/Bid%20Information/Best_Practices_for_Venue_Safety_and_Security.pdf**.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the bid process, please contact the championships manager at 317-917-6747 or email us at **championshipbid@ncaa.org**.

Appendixes

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Appendix A • Regionalization

SUPER REGIONAL ONE

University of Bridgeport
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Fairmont State University
Felician University
Frostburg State University
Gannon University
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown
Point Park University
Seton Hill University
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
Wheeling University

SUPER REGIONAL TWO

Allen University
Belmont Abbey College
Coker University
Emmanuel University (Georgia)
King University
Lander University
Lincoln Memorial University
University of Montevallo
University of Mount Olive
Newberry College
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Shorter University

SUPER REGIONAL THREE

Ashland University
Bluefield State University
Davenport University
Davis and Elkins College
Emory & Henry University
University of Findlay
Glenville State University
Grand Valley State University
Lake Erie College
Salem University (West Virginia)
Tiffin University
West Liberty University

SUPER REGIONAL FOUR

University of Central Missouri
University of Central Oklahoma
Drury University
University of Indianapolis
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Maryville University of Saint Louis
McKendree University
Newman University
Northeastern State University
Ouachita Baptist University
Quincy University
Thomas More University

SUPER REGIONAL FIVE

Augustana University (South Dakota)
University of Jamestown
University of Mary
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minot State University
Northern State University
St. Cloud State University
University of Sioux Falls
Southwest Minnesota State University
Upper Iowa University
University of Wisconsin-Parkside

SUPER REGIONAL SIX

Adams State University
California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt
Chadron State University
Colorado Mesa University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University Pueblo
Fort Hays State University
Menlo College
University of Nebraska at Kearney
New Mexico Highlands University
San Francisco State University
Simon Fraser University
Vanguard University
Western Colorado University

Appendix B • Wrestling Information

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

Medical Examination/Skin Checks. All student-athletes shall be examined by qualified physicians (at the national tournament, one of them must be a dermatologist; a dermatologist is recommended at regionals) and/or certified athletic trainers for communicable diseases before the competition.

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. (The NCAA Skin Evaluation and Participation Status Form is available online in the OPC system at **trackwrestling.com**.)

The medical/skin examination shall be conducted in a private, secure area. Only participants will be admitted to the medical check area. Student-athletes who fail to pass the skin examination will not have their transportation and per diem paid by the NCAA.

Medical checks will also be performed before weigh-ins during all days of competition at the regional and championship sites.

Failure to receive a medical examination during the designated time will result in disqualification. 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 positive skin examinations to the chair of the governing 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. Any participant who fails the medical/skin check at the official time is able to have the same doctor/dermatologist reexamine him the morning of the first day of competition before weigh-ins to see if the condition has improved to an acceptable level.

No media or coaches are permitted at the medical examinations.

Weigh-Ins. It is mandatory that all participants in each weight class weigh in. The weigh-ins will be supervised by the Division II Wrestling Committee (at championships).

Digital scales are recommended for use at all weigh-ins.

The weigh-ins shall be conducted in a private and secure area only. Only participants and properly credentialed tournament officials will be admitted to the weigh-in area. All participants must report to all weigh-ins clean shaven, nails trimmed and hair at proper length. Student-athletes who fail to make weight will not have their transportation and per diem paid by the NCAA. In addition, participants who fail to weigh in during the designated time will be disqualified.

Student-athletes must complete a medical/skin check and receive medical clearance before weigh-ins on the two days of competition. No media or coaches are permitted at weigh-ins.

The weigh-ins will be conducted at the following times:

- 8 a.m. Friday, March 12
- 8 a.m. Saturday, March 13

Times are subject to change if the session times change.