

**In-Region Scheduling Requirement Waiver
Frequently Asked Questions
(Applicable for 2026-27)**

This document is intended to support the information communicated in the form of a memorandum via the NCAA Championships Newsletter. As a reminder, the deadlines to submit a waiver request to the NCAA national office are as follows:

- Fall 2026: March 1, 2026
- Winter 2027: May 1, 2026
- Spring 2027: July 1, 2026

Question: Is the in-region scheduling requirement based on the number of Division III opponents only or the total overall number of contests which may include NAIA, non-Division III opponents, etc.?

Answer: When calculating the in-region scheduling requirement, institutions must use the overall number of scheduled contests in the denominator. For example, if the volleyball schedule includes 25 total matches, 20 of which are against active Division III opponents, then 18 must be in-region to meet the 70 percent requirement.

Question: Does competition against NAIA or non-Division III opponents count toward the in-region scheduling requirement?

Answer: No, only those competitions against Division III opponents (including institutions in any year of the provisional and reclassifying process into Division III) per the following criteria shall be considered as in-region: any contest against an opponent within an institution's defined geographical area (NCAA Bylaw 21.12.1.1) or established sports region; all contests against conference opponents; and all contests against institutions within a 500-mile radius.

Question: When calculating the number of scheduled contests to meet the in-region requirement, does an institution round up or down if the percentage does not equate to a whole number?

Answer: The next whole number must be achieved when calculating the in-region scheduling requirement. For example, if an institution's schedule consists of a total of 22 soccer matches then 16 must be in-region (70 percent of 22 is 15.4 which must be rounded up to 16).

Question: Can postseason conference competition be used to count toward the in-region scheduling requirement?

Answer: No, postseason conference competition, even if guaranteed, may not be used to count toward the in-region scheduling requirement except in the sports of men's and women's golf.

Question: Does out of region competition contested over an institutional vacation period need to be included in the overall contest count when determining the percentage of in-region contests?

Answer: Yes, except in sports where the NCAA championship is conducted in the Spring. In those sports, out-of-region contests conducted during one vacation period (e.g. spring break) may be excluded when calculating the percentage of in-region contests. For example, a softball team has 40 scheduled contests, six of which are out-of-region opponents played during the institution's spring break. Therefore, the institution must schedule 70 percent of its remaining 34 contests against in-region opponents.

Question: Does a competition between two in-region institutions contested at a locale that is out-of-region count as in-region?

Answer: Yes, competition between two in-region opponents counts as in-region even if it is contested at an out-of-region location (e.g., softball games in Florida over Spring Break).

Question: Does an institution meet the in-region scheduling requirement based on scheduled competitions or only those scheduled and contested? For example, an institution's scheduled baseball competitions may meet the in-region scheduling requirement, but as a result of cancellations due to inclement weather, the requisite in-region competitions are not able to be contested.

Answer: An institution meets the in-region scheduling requirement based on scheduled competitions as long as the contests have been scheduled within the maximum dates of competition and appear on the institution's official schedule.

Question: In golf and tennis, an institution often competes against multiple teams during the same event. How does an institution determine if the in-region requirement has been met?

Answer: In individual sports that select at-large championship participants as teams (e.g., golf and tennis), an institution's team must play at least 25 percent (golf) or 50 percent (tennis) of its scheduled competition against in-region opponents to be eligible for selection. The process for tracking in-region competition is based on the total number of teams competed against in regular-season competition. For example, if a golf team competes in five events with a total of 50 teams, 25 percent of those teams must be in-region competition. Opponents may be included multiple times if they are at multiple events.