

Multiple-Team Events (MTEs) Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions and answers were developed by the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Oversight Committee to help basketball stakeholders understand the application of the men's basketball MTE legislation (NCAA Division I Bylaw 17.4.5.1.1). Basketball coaches, administrators and event operators are encouraged to consult with the institution's compliance office directly to ensure MTEs are operated in a way that is consistent with NCAA legislation and NIL policy and guidance.

Q1: Is there an approval or certification process for conducting or participating in an MTE?

A: No. There is not an application, certification or approval process for conducting or participating in an MTE. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring conference or school and each participating school to ensure that all NCAA rules are being followed when conducting or participating in an MTE.

Q2: Are there any location restrictions for conducting or participating in an MTE?

A: No. There are no location restrictions associated with conducting or participating in an MTE.

Q3: May a student-athlete receive name, image and likeness compensation for participating in an MTE?

A: No. Student-athletes receiving compensation directly or indirectly for promoting an athletics competition in which they participate is prohibited.

Q4: It is clear student-athletes may not be compensated for participating in a competition and may not be compensated for promoting such competition. Is it permissible for an event operator, event sponsor or another institution to pay a collective, which, in turn compensates student-athletes?

A: No. It is impermissible for student-athletes to receive compensation directly or indirectly for participating in an athletics competition. As a result, events operators, event sponsors and institutional opponents may not pay an NIL entity (e.g., collective) for a competition in which student-athletes participate. Further, an institution may not provide direct compensation to student-athletes related to NIL activities, nor may an institution share revenue with student-athletes. Finally, an athletics department staff member (or entity acting on behalf of the athletics department) is prohibited from representing enrolled student-athletes for NIL deals, including securing and negotiating deals on behalf of the student-athlete.

Q5: Do all schools participating in an MTE have to play the same number of contests in the event (e.g., all participants must play three games if structured as a three-game MTE)?

A: Yes. Each participating school must participate in the same number of contests in the event. Further, each participating school must use the same applicable legislated option as its maximum contest limitation for the playing season in which it participates in the event.



Q6: May schools participating in an MTE play four contests as part of the event?

A: No. An MTE may include not more than three contests per school. An event in which each school participates in three contests must conclude not later than 10 days after the first contest of the event. An event in which each school participates in two contests must conclude not later than five days after the first contest of the event.

Q7: Can multiple schools serve as a sponsor of an MTE?

A: Yes. There are no restrictions regarding the number of schools that may serve as the host of an MTE. However, the involved schools must ensure they are handling or sharing the responsibilities associated with hosting the event (e.g., contracts, game guarantees, setting up officials, arranging for medical personnel on site), liability and other operational duties. If the school is not responsible for or sharing in hosting duties, then the school would not be considered the host of the MTE.

Q8: What are criteria that schools should use to determine if an MTE is separate and distinct from an MTE the school previously participated in within the last four years?

A: When determining if an MTE is separate and distinct from another event, a school must consider several factors and evaluate each area collectively to determine if the event is truly separate and distinct. Questions the school should evaluate include, but may not be limited to: (1) Does the event have a new name; (2) Will the event be conducted at a new venue; (3) Are participating teams different from the previous event; and (4) Is there a different entity responsible for the marketing, ticketing and game management of the event? **Note:** If the event is essentially the same as previously implemented and only a new name is given to the event or the event is scheduled at a different time (e.g., a week earlier) but everything else remains the same (e.g., format), those factors do not distinguish the event as separate and distinct. Further, it is not permissible for the event to be conducted by the same event operator, in the same venue or advertised under the same name as the previous year's event (i.e., listed on the team's schedule).

Q9: May a school provide complimentary admissions to prospective student-athletes for a contest that is a part of an MTE when the MTE occurs in the school's home facility.

A: Yes. If an MTE is occurring at the school's home facility, the school may provide complimentary admissions to prospective student-athletes to attend its MTE contests pursuant to Bylaw 13.7.3.1.

Q10: A non-Division I school would like to host an MTE. Is the non-Division I school required to host the event on their campus or at a facility normally used for home contests?

A: There are no location restrictions associated with hosting an MTE. Therefore, the non-Division I school may host the MTE at their school or at another site (e.g., neutral site, another school's facility). The non-Division I school that will be hosting the event must ensure the school is handling or sharing the responsibilities associated with hosting the event (e.g., contracts, game guarantees, setting up officials), liability and other operational duties. **Note:** An MTE may include a non-Division I school as a participant only if the non-Division I school serves as the host of the event.

Q11: May two teams from the same conference participate in an MTE if the schools entered into contracts to participate in the event prior to a conference realignment scenario?

A: No. However, the schools may consider filing a legislative relief waiver seeking to allow two teams from the same conference to participate in the same MTE. **Note:** During its January 2019 meeting, the NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief developed legislative relief waiver information standards for situations in which two schools from the same conference seek to participate in the same MTE due to conference realignment. In submitting a request for relief, the school or conference must provide: (1) A copy of each school's MTE contract; (2) A statement describing the steps taken by the schools to secure another MTE to participate in; (3) A statement from the schools detailing the estimated financial hardship associated with not participating in the MTE (e.g., financial penalty, estimated revenue, game guarantee); (4) A statement from the conference indicating the date of the school's official acceptance into the new conference; and (5) A statement of support for the waiver from each school's athletics director.

