PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2016-17 MANUAL
Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2016-17 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women, and three for both men and women. Among the men’s championships, three are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Among the women’s championships, six 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 Pre-Championship Manual will serve as a resource for institutions to prepare for the championship. This manual is divided into three sections: General Administrative Guidelines, Sport-Specific Information, and Appendixes.

The first section applies to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the other two sections are sport-specific.

Section 1•1 Definitions

Pre-Championship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.
Administrative Meeting. Pre-championship meeting for coaches and administrators.
Appendixes. Any supplemental documents to be provided and distributed through the various resources.
Championship Administrator. The NCAA staff member 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.
Playing Rules. The rules under which the competition will be conducted.
Predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host before the participant/team selections announcement.
Preliminary Rounds. The rounds of the championship before the final or championship round.
Regional Alignment. The geographic location of institutions or regional advisory committees.
Schedule of Events. Official event schedule – includes all required activities (e.g., practices, banquets, etc.).
Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the selection process.
Site Selection. Policies and procedures in place to guide the site selection process.
Squad Size. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.
Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

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

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes’ optimal experience.
Executing championship events reflecting appropriate quality and values to/stakeholders – student-athletes, coaches, administrators, member institutions, sport committees, fans, broadcast partners and corporate champions/partners.
Coordinating all aspects of the championship in an efficient, effective manner through common operating policies and practices, using internal and external resources.
Integrating championships with broadcast and corporate relationships in a manner that maintains the integrity of the championship.
Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

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

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.18 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.16 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.16 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

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

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

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


Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I, Manuals Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.2 and 31.2.1.5 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 sports committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 4•2 Drug Testing

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

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

Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

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

Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

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

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member’s or student-athlete’s own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; internet sports wagering; 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 prohibition against sports wagering applies to any institutional practice or any competition (intercollegiate, amateur or professional) in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner, etc.) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value.
STUDENT-ATHLETES
A student-athlete involved in sports wagering on the student-athlete’s institution permanently loses all remaining regular-season and postseason eligibility in all sports. A student-athlete who is involved in any sports wagering activity that involves college sports or professional athletics, through internet gambling, a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized gambling, will be ineligible for all regular-season and postseason competition for at least one year.

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
No predetermined or non-predetermined session of an NCAA championship may be conducted in a state with legal wagering that is based on single-game betting on the outcome of any event (i.e., high school, college or professional) in a sport in which the NCAA conducts a championship.

Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey
After each championship, student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators will be copied on the email and asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes and coaches.

Section 5 • Elite 90 Award
The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of the student-athlete by honoring the individual who has reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in his or her sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among his or her peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative GPA of all student-athletes on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

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

Section 6 • Fan Travel
NCAA Travel provides an easy and affordable way for family and fans to follow their favorite student-athletes and team(s) as they participate in NCAA championships competition. Travel arrangements completed through NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to NCAA.com/travel to search and book online hotel, car and air travel, all in one easy transaction.

Section 7 • Logo Policy
[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]
A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics
equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

1. Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer’s normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and

2. The student-athlete’s institution’s official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warm-ups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, headbands, T-shirts, wristbands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer’s or distributor’s normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed $2\frac{1}{4}$ square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete’s institution’s official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer’s trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

### Section 8 • Research

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

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

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

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

### Section 9 • Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

**Institutional Policy.** If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office on or before September 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13)

**Individual Championships.** In individual championships, an athlete must compete according to the institution’s policy regarding Sunday competition (if the institution has no policy against Sunday competition, the athlete shall compete on Sunday if required by the schedule).
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Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations
Staff Contact Information

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<th>Keith Willard</th>
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<td>317-917-6767 / <a href="mailto:kwillard@ncaa.org">kwillard@ncaa.org</a></td>
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Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

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<tr>
<th>CENTRAL REGION</th>
<th>GREAT LAKES REGION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Hancock</td>
<td>Janet Rayfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach</td>
<td>Head Women’s Soccer Coach</td>
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<td>Oklahoma State University</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</td>
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<td>Janet Oberle</td>
<td>Mick D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA</td>
<td>Head Women’s Soccer Coach</td>
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<td>Saint Louis University</td>
<td>Central Connecticut State University</td>
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<td>Foti Mellis</td>
<td>John McElwain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Associate Director of Athletics</td>
<td>Senior Associate Commissioner/Chief Branding &amp; Communications Officer</td>
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<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>Sun Belt Conference</td>
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<td>Stephanie Ransom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Athletic Director - Business Operations</td>
<td>Head Women’s Soccer Coach</td>
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### Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

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<td>Furman</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEST REGION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawn Farrell</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>WAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demian Brown</td>
<td>Cal State Fullerton</td>
<td>Big West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Juniper</td>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
<td>Big West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Clarke</td>
<td>St. Mary’s (California)</td>
<td>West Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Ward</td>
<td>Pepperdine</td>
<td>West Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Woodward</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>WAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1•4 Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 19</td>
<td>First published RPI (weekly through selections)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 3</td>
<td>Preliminary-round bid materials available on NCAA.org.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov. 7</td>
<td>Selection announcement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.-Sun., Nov. 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>First-round competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Nov. 18</td>
<td>Second-round competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 20</td>
<td>Third-round competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. or Sat., Nov. 25 or 26</td>
<td>Quarterfinal competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 2</td>
<td>National semifinals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 4</td>
<td>National championship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: If an institution that has a policy against competing for religious reasons advances to the semifinals, pending the outcome of the semifinal games, the championship game may be contested on Monday, Dec. 5. (The second and third rounds may also be contested on Thursday and Saturday if institutional policies prohibit Sunday play.)

DATE FORMULA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rounds</th>
<th>Formula Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Rounds (32)</td>
<td>Three weeks before finals (Friday, Saturday or Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second/Third Rounds (8)</td>
<td>Two weeks before finals (Friday and Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterfinals (4)</td>
<td>One week before finals (Friday or Saturday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Cup</td>
<td>First full weekend in December (Friday and Sunday). If December 1 falls on Saturday, that will count as the first weekend.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUTURE DATES

2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Round</td>
<td>Nov. 10, 11 or 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second/Third Round</td>
<td>Nov. 17 and 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterfinals</td>
<td>Nov. 24 or 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s College Cup</td>
<td>Dec. 1 and 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 1•5 Equipment

BALL

The Wilson FORTE Fybrid II soccer ball will be used in all NCAA tournament games. These balls will be sent by the manufacturer to the tournament manager at the host institution for each round of competition. The host institution is responsible for “breaking in” the game balls before each tournament game. In the event of inclement weather (e.g., snow), please notify Mary Berdo at the NCAA national office regarding shipment of optic orange Wilson soccer match balls as backup. The game balls may be distributed after the games by giving them to the participating schools, using them as promotional giveaways or by donating them to a local youth group. One ball shall be provided to the center referee.

Section 1•6 Rules

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules.

For the women’s soccer championship, the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Rules shall be followed to the letter.
BALL PERSONS AND ROTATION
The host institution must arrange for a minimum of eight (8) ball persons. Ball persons must be at least 10 years of age. Ball persons shall be placed two per touchline and two per goalline. Six (6) balls shall be available for use in a game.

FIELD DIMENSIONS
The Division I Women’s Soccer Committee mandates games be played on fields that are a minimum of 70 yards x 110 yards; however, the preference is for fields to be 75 yards x 120 yards. The committee prefers grass fields for preliminary-round games but will not preclude artificial turf (if approved by FIFA). Grass fields will be required for the Women’s College Cup.

SUSPENDED GAMES
In the case of inclement weather or other factors leading the referee to suspend a game, the officials, games committee and coaches shall refer to the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Soccer Rules. For NCAA championship competition, a game must be played for the full 90 minutes (as opposed to 70 minutes for the regular season) to be considered a complete game.

If a game is suspended or postponed, it will be the decision of the games committee and the referee to determine if the game can be continued that day. If conditions dictate that the game cannot be completed, the NCAA site representative and tournament manager shall contact Mary Berdo (cell: 317-966-6472). Only after contacting Ms. Berdo may a game be suspended until the next day or moved to an alternate site. Teams should be prepared with footwear for any playing surface.

VIDEO EXCHANGE
A mandatory video exchange is in effect for the championship, beginning with the third-round opponent. For the third-round, quarterfinals and semifinals, the video must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern time the Tuesday before the next round of competition. A video in DVD format, or via an online file sharing platform if agreed by both parties, of your most recent NCAA tournament game must be exchanged between the two teams. All videos must be of high quality, include audible sound and be in good working order. All game tapes must include the full match, unedited, and include any overtime periods and penalty kicks. The video must begin once the teams take the field for warm up, include pregame introductions as well as postgame activities. The video shall conclude once both teams exit the field. Any institution that does not follow the procedures for sending a copy of its tape to its opponent may be subject to a financial penalty up to a maximum of $600 per offense.

Section 1.7 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Competing teams shall have both light- and dark-colored jerseys and light- and dark-colored stockings available. The home team shall have its choice of uniform color (either light or dark) and the visiting team shall wear a uniform in contrast with that of the home team. In the event of a conflict, the home team must change uniform colors (Playing Rule 4.2.1). For the semifinals and final, the games committee will determine the home teams.

Student-athletes competing in the championship shall wear the official uniform of their institution in competition and related ceremonies. This applies to warm-ups, press conferences, awards ceremonies, practices and postgame celebrations.

CONTRASTING COLORS
Goalkeepers shall wear jerseys that distinguish them from all field players and socks that distinguish them from their opponents.

Shorts may differ in color from that of the stockings and jerseys but shall be matching in color and uniform in style.

It is recommended that any visible garment worn under the jersey or shorts shall be a solid color that matches the dominant color of the respective garment.

It is recommended that players warming up outside the coaching and team areas wear colored jerseys/vests that distinguish them from all other field players.
NUMBERS

Numerals at least eight inches (20.32 cm) in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the back of each player’s (including goalkeeper’s) jersey.

Numerals at least four inches (10.16 cm) in height that are easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern shall be worn on the front of each player’s (including goalkeeper’s) jersey. The same number shall be displayed on both the front and back of the jersey, and no two teammates may wear the same number.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Championship provides for a 64-team, single-elimination tournament. Thirty-one conferences will receive automatic qualification for the 2016 championship. The remaining teams will be selected on an at-large basis. A championship bracket can be found in Appendix A.

The top 16 teams identified by the committee will be seeded in the bracket. The seeded teams will compete at separate first-round sites. The committee has been given approval by the NCAA Championships Oversight Committee to place the top 16 seeds in pods of four. There will be four number ones, four number twos, four number threes and four number fours. The remaining 48 teams will be paired geographically. First- and second-round conference matchups will be avoided.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Round</td>
<td>Nov. 11, 12 or 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second/Third Round</td>
<td>Nov. 18 and 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterfinals</td>
<td>Nov. 25 or 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s College Cup</td>
<td>Dec. 2 and 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

START TIMES

For the preliminary rounds, first-round games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, through the weekend with a completion time of not later than 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13. (Saturday and Sunday competition may not start before noon local time.)

Second-round games will be played Friday, Nov. 18 (not before 2 p.m.). Third-round games will be played Sunday, Nov. 20 (not before noon).

Quarterfinal games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25, through the weekend with a completion time of not later than 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26. (Saturday competition may not start before noon local time.)

The game times will be established by the host institution (during the bid process) and approved by the Women’s Soccer Committee. At the discretion of the games committee, there will be a maximum 30-minute break between games of a doubleheader. Institutions without lighted facilities are required to schedule the start time to allow a four-hour window for a daylight opportunity to play the game.

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 http://www.ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information?division=d1. The official traveling party is 28.

Squad Size/Bench Size. Each team is limited to a maximum of 22 players in uniform and a maximum of 32 persons in the bench area. Each team must comply with the bench limit of 32, and do so 20 minutes before game time.

Pregame Warm-up. Teams shall warm up with a maximum of 22 players. Nonparticipating players (those above the maximum) shall not participate in the pregame warm-up.

Section 2•2 Results

The sports information director of the host institution, or an appointed representative, is responsible for reporting all tournament results to Lauren McLaughlin (lmclaughlin@ncaa.org) and ncaa-content@turner.com.

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

RPI information will be released on www.NCAA.com weekly beginning Sept. 19 to Oct. 31. In addition, the RPI will be released after the conclusion of the championship.
Section 2•3 Selection Information

SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT
The Division I Women’s Soccer Committee will select teams for the championship. The committee will announce the teams selected, first-round pairings and game sites Monday, Nov. 7. The selection announcement time will be provided at a later date. Teams will be notified of their selection as soon as possible thereafter.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION
Conferences granted automatic qualification for the 2016 championship are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>America East Conference</td>
<td>Mid-American Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Athletic Conference</td>
<td>Missouri Valley Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic 10 Conference</td>
<td>Mountain West Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Coast Conference</td>
<td>Northeast Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASUN Conference</td>
<td>Ohio Valley Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big 12 Conference</td>
<td>Pac-12 Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big East Conference</td>
<td>Patriot League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sky Conference</td>
<td>Southeastern Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big South Conference</td>
<td>Southern Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Ten Conference</td>
<td>Southland Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big West Conference</td>
<td>Southwestern Athletic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Athletic Association</td>
<td>The Summit League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference USA</td>
<td>Sun Belt Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon League</td>
<td>West Coast Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ivy League</td>
<td>Western Athletic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AT-LARGE SELECTION
To be considered during the at-large selection process, a team must have an overall won-lost record of .500 or better. Thirty-three teams will be selected at large.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Air Travel. If you are located more than 400 miles from the host site, please contact Short’s Travel Management at 866-655-9215 as soon as possible to arrange your air travel. Be prepared to provide the names of the members of the travel party of 28.

Ground Travel. If you are within 400 miles from the host site, you will travel via bus and must make your arrangements via Go Ground at 866-386-4951. The ground transportation portal may be accessed at www.gochampionships.com (same username/password used for Short’s Travel expenses).

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 28. Please refer to the NCAA travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies may be found online at www.ncaa.org. Registration with an institutional email address is required to access the information located on www.ncaa.org. The NCAA travel department may be reached at 317-917-6757, or by email at travel@ncaa.org.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

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

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

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Women’s Soccer Committee has received approval from the NCAA Division I Championships
Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the soccer championship (not necessarily in priority order):

**PRIMARY CRITERIA**
- Results of the adjusted Rating Percentage Index (RPI);
- Results versus common opponents; and
- Head-to-head competition.

**SECONDARY CRITERIA**
If the evaluation of the primary criteria does not result in a decision, the secondary criteria will be reviewed. All the criteria listed will be evaluated.

- Results versus teams already selected to participate in the field (including automatic qualifiers with RPI of 1-75)
- Late-season performance — defined as the last eight games including conference tournaments (strength and results).

Recommendations are provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the Women’s Soccer Committee. Coaches’ polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used as a criterion by the Women’s Soccer Committee for selection purposes.

**RPI.** The committee uses the RPI (Rating Percentage Index), a computer program that calculates the institutions’ Division I winning percentage (25 percent), opponents’ success (50 percent), opponents’ strength of schedule (25 percent) plus a bonus/penalty system. When evaluating the RPI, the committee may consider comparing data of individual teams, including, but not limited to, overall record, Division I record, overall RPI rank, non-conference record and RPI rank, conference regular-season record and conference tournament results. The RPI shall be used as a selection tool.

The bonus/penalty structure for the RPI includes a bonus for non-conference wins or ties against the top 80 teams in the RPI and a penalty for a non-conference losses or ties against the bottom 80 teams in the RPI (Appendix C).

**BYLAW 31.3.3.1 – COUNTABLE COMPETITION**
For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Constitution 3.2.4.5) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded. Regular-season games decided by the penalty-kick tiebreaker procedure shall be considered as ties for selection purposes. The scheduling of additional games not listed on the institution’s published schedule as an aid for selection shall not be considered.

### Section 2.5 Site Selection

For non-revenue generating championships that seed a quarter of the bracket, sites will be awarded to the seeded teams that submit a bid that meets the requirements for hosting. In the event that a seeded team does not submit a bid that meets the requirements, the sports committee will maintain the current policy of geographic consideration when assigning those host sites. The committees will use the geographic considerations to help maintain the balance and integrity of the bracket. The committees will also separate first- and second-round conference opponents when assigning teams to sites.

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2016 NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Championship 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 and Host Profile portal. To submit a bid, first search for the desired championship under “championships available bid” and select “add bid.”

This process 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 Keith Willard (kwillard@ncaa.org; 317-917-6767)

**CHAMPIONSHIPS BID AND HOST PROFILE PORTAL**
The Championships Bid and Host Profile portal can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Monday, Oct. 24.
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 will now be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the RefPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and luggage fees.

**FACILITY PROFILE**
Institutions interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2016 NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Championship 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**
Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for the facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting championships.ncaa.org.

**FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT**
A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championship 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 Mary Berdo at 317-917-6555 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.
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Appendix D • Officials ............................................... 27
## Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

### CENTRAL REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Universities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Athletic Conference (10)</strong></td>
<td>University of Central Florida, University of Cincinnati, University of Connecticut, East Carolina University, University of Houston, University of Memphis, University of South Florida, Southern Methodist University, Temple University, The University of Tulsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Big 12 Conference (9)</strong></td>
<td>Baylor University, Iowa State University, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University, University of Texas at Austin, West Virginia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference USA (14)</strong></td>
<td>University of Alabama at Birmingham, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Louisiana Tech University, Marshall University, Middle Tennessee State University, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Texas, Old Dominion University, Rice University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Texas at San Antonio, Western Kentucky University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southland Conference (12)</strong></td>
<td>Abilene Christian University (2017)<em>, University of Central Arkansas, Houston Baptist University, University of the Incarnate Word (2017)</em>, Lamar University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Sam Houston State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southwestern Athletic Conference (11)</strong></td>
<td>Alabama A&amp;M University, Alabama State University, Alcorn State University, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, Grambling State University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Prairie View A&amp;M University, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Texas Southern University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Independent (1)</strong></td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AQ – Tournament
### GREAT LAKES REGION

#### Big Ten Conference (14)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Indiana University, Bloomington
- University of Iowa
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Northwestern University
- The Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick
- University of Wisconsin-Madison

#### Horizon League (10)
- Cleveland State University
- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Northern Kentucky University
- Oakland University
- Valparaiso University
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University

#### Mid-American Conference (12)
- University of Akron
- State University
- Bowling Green State University
- University at Buffalo, the State University of New York
- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Kent State University
- Miami University (Ohio)
- Northern Illinois University
- Ohio University
- University of Toledo
- Western Michigan University

#### Missouri Valley Conference (7)
- Drake University
- University of Evansville
- Illinois State University
- Indiana State University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Missouri State University
- University of Northern Iowa

#### The Summit League (9)
- University of Denver
- Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne
- Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis
- University of Nebraska Omaha
- North Dakota State University
- Oral Roberts University
- University of South Dakota
- South Dakota State University
- Western Illinois University

AQ – Tournament
# MID-ATLANTIC REGION

## Atlantic 10 Conference (14)
- Davidson College
- University of Dayton
- Duquesne University
- Fordham University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- La Salle University
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Richmond
- St. Bonaventure University
- Saint Joseph’s University
- Saint Louis University
- Virginia Commonwealth University

**AQ – Tournament**

## Colonial Athletic Association (10)
- College of Charleston (South Carolina)
- University of Delaware
- Drexel University
- Elon University
- Hofstra University
- James Madison University
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Northeastern University
- Towson University
- College of William and Mary

**AQ – Tournament**

## The Ivy League (8)
- Brown University
- Columbia University-Barnard College
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Harvard University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Princeton University
- Yale University

**AQ – Tournament**

## Patriot League (10)
- American University
- Boston University
- Bucknell University
- Colgate University
- College of the Holy Cross
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- Loyola University Maryland
- U.S. Military Academy
- U.S. Naval Academy

**AQ – Tournament**

## Independent (1)
- Delaware State University
### NORTHEAST REGION

**America East Conference (9)**
- University at Albany
- Binghamton University
- University of Hartford
- University of Maine, Orono
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Massachusetts Lowell (2017)*
- University of New Hampshire
- Stony Brook University
- University of Vermont

**AQ – Tournament**

**Big East Conference (10)**
- Butler University
- Creighton University
- DePaul University
- Georgetown University
- Marquette University
- Providence College
- Seton Hall University
- St. John's University (New York)
- Villanova University
- Xavier University

**AQ – Tournament**

**Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (11)**
- Canisius College
- Fairfield University
- Iona College
- Manhattan College
- Marist College
- Niagara University
- Quinnipiac University
- Rider University
- Siena College
- Saint Peter's University
- Monmouth University

**AQ – Tournament**

**Northeast Conference (9)**
- Bryant University
- Central Connecticut State University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus
- Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus
- Mount St. Mary's University
- Robert Morris University
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania)
- Wagner College

**AQ – Tournament**

### PACIFIC REGION

**Big Sky Conference (11)**
- California State University, Sacramento
- Eastern Washington University
- University of Idaho
- Idaho State University
- University of Montana
- University of North Dakota
- Northern Arizona University
- University of Northern Colorado
- Portland State University
- Southern Utah University
- Weber State University

**AQ – Tournament**

**Mountain West Conference (12)**
- Boise State University
- California State University, Fresno
- Colorado College
- Colorado State University
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of New Mexico
- San Diego State University
- San Jose State University
- U.S. Air Force Academy
- Utah State University
- University of Wyoming

**AQ – Tournament**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pac-12</td>
<td>University of Arizona&lt;br&gt;Arizona State University&lt;br&gt;University of California, Berkeley&lt;br&gt;University of California, Los Angeles&lt;br&gt;University of Colorado, Boulder&lt;br&gt;University of Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH REGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Valley</td>
<td>Austin Peay State University&lt;br&gt;Beltmore University&lt;br&gt;Eastern Illinois University&lt;br&gt;Eastern Kentucky University&lt;br&gt;Jacksonville State University&lt;br&gt;Morehead State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>University of Alabama&lt;br&gt;University of Arkansas, Fayetteville&lt;br&gt;Auburn University&lt;br&gt;University of Florida&lt;br&gt;University of Georgia&lt;br&gt;University of Kentucky&lt;br&gt;Louisiana State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Belt</td>
<td>Appalachian State University&lt;br&gt;Arkansas State University&lt;br&gt;University of Arkansas at Little Rock&lt;br&gt;Coastal Carolina University&lt;br&gt;Georgia Southern University&lt;br&gt;Georgia State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Hampton University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTHEAST REGION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Coast</td>
<td>Boston College&lt;br&gt;Clemson University&lt;br&gt;Duke University&lt;br&gt;Florida State University&lt;br&gt;University of Louisville&lt;br&gt;University of Miami (Florida)&lt;br&gt;University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ASUN Conference (8)

- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Jacksonville University
- Kennesaw State University
- Lipscomb University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- University of North Florida
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- Stetson University

- AQ – Tournament

### Big South Conference (10)

- Campbell University
- Charleston Southern University
- Gardner-Webb University
- High Point University
- Liberty University
- Longwood University
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- Presbyterian College
- Radford University
- Winthrop University

- AQ – Tournament

### Southern Conference (10)

- The Citadel
- East Tennessee State University
- Furman University
- Mercer University
- The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Samford University
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Virginia Military Institute
- Western Carolina University
- Wofford College

- AQ – Tournament

### WEST REGION

### Big West Conference (9)

- California Polytechnic State University
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Northridge
- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of Hawaii, Manoa
- Long Beach State University

- AQ – Tournament

### West Coast Conference (10)

- Brigham Young University
- Gonzaga University
- Loyola Marymount University
- University of the Pacific
- Pepperdine University
- University of Portland
- University of San Diego
- University of San Francisco
- Santa Clara University
- St. Mary’s College of California

- AQ – Tournament

### Western Athletic Conference (8)

- California State University, Bakersfield
- Chicago State University
- Grand Canyon University (2017)*
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- New Mexico State University
- Seattle University
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Utah Valley University

- AQ – Regular Season

* Not eligible for championship.
Appendix C • Rating Percentage Index

RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX BONUS/PENALTY STRUCTURE

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) shall be used as a selection tool. Below is the RPI bonus/penalty structure against non-conference opponents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS’ RPI RANK</th>
<th>PENALTY VALUE</th>
<th>BONUS/SCALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td>Greatest bonus awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>1-40</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>41-80</td>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td>Lowest bonus awarded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NON-CONFERENCE OPPONENTS’ RPI RANK</th>
<th>PENALTY VALUE</th>
<th>BONUS/SCALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td>Lowest penalty imposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>254-293</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Away</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>294-333</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
<td>Greatest penalty imposed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no penalty for losing to a non-DI team.
Appendix D • Officials

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR OFFICIALS

An NCAA sports committee may not require membership in any specific officials’ association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in an NCAA tournament. For all NCAA postseason soccer matches, officials (referee, assistant, alternate) shall be selected and assigned by the NCAA national coordinator of officials with assistance from the regional advisors on approval of the respective NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Committee. Any committee member whose team is selected to the championship will be recused from the process.

In addition, officials shall adhere to the Association’s policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Appointments to work as an official for any of the NCAA soccer championships are conditioned on the NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Committee in its sole discretion, remaining of the opinion that your character, fitness, rules knowledge and regular and postseason officiating performance are all of the highest order. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment.

- Officials shall be qualified, competent and appropriately credentialed. In selecting officials, experience and ability as a referee and as an assistant referee shall be considered.
- Officials MUST take and pass an online NCAA Soccer Rules Test. Officials will have two attempts to pass the exam with 90 percent or better score. The test requirement must be fulfilled not later than October 15, 2016.
- Officials MUST be registered with ncaasoccer.arbitersports.com in order to be considered and potentially receive an NCAA postseason assignment.
- Officials will not be assigned a match if it involves an institution he or she attended, was or is an employee of, or if his or her spouse/partner or relatives have any of these affiliations. In addition, officials will not be assigned to a game if there is an affiliation with a member of the coaching staff (i.e., former team member).
- To be selected as a Center Referee for an NCAA Division I women’s soccer postseason match, an official must have officiated (as a Center Referee) a minimum of six (6) NCAA Division I women’s soccer matches in the current season.
- To be selected as an Assistant Referee for an NCAA Division I women’s soccer postseason match, an official must have officiated (as a Center Referee and/or an Assistant Referee) a minimum of six (6) NCAA Division I women’s soccer matches. A combination of Division I soccer assignments as a referee and assistant referee may be used to meet the requirement.
- In order for an official to be considered for selection, such official must be recommended by at least one NCAA Division I conference.
- Officials shall be within driving distance for preliminary rounds (must be within 400 miles for Division I) or approved for a flight by NCAA staff.