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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/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, 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 2½ 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
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Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

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<tr>
<th>MIDWEST REGION</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Rick Cole</td>
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<td>Associate Athletics Director</td>
<td>Director of Athletics</td>
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<td>Vanessa Fuchs</td>
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<td>Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA</td>
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<td>California State University, Fresno</td>
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<td>Tim Hall</td>
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<td>Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA</td>
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<td>University of Texas at Arlington</td>
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<td>Jenny McGhee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Athletics</td>
<td>Associate Commissioner</td>
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For additional information about the NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship, contact:

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### Section 1.3 Regional Advisory Committees

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<td>Jenny McGhee, co-chair</td>
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<td>Houston Baptist University</td>
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<td>Jolene Shepardson</td>
<td>San Jose State University</td>
<td>Mountain West Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Lantagne Welch</td>
<td>University of California, Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Big West Conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 1.4 Important Dates**

- **Tuesday, Oct. 11**: Proposed budget information will be available on the NCAA website for teams interested in hosting first and second rounds and regional competition.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 8**: Deadline for institutions to submit proposed budgets to NCAA national office for first and second rounds and regional competition.
- **Sunday, Nov. 27**: Deadline for notification of conference automatic qualifier for 2016 championship.
- **Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 1-3**: First- and second-round matches on campus.
- **Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9-10**: Regionals on campus.
- **Thursday and Saturday, Dec. 15 & 17**: Semifinals and final, Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio.
- **Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 13-15**: NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Committee annual meeting.

**CHAMPIONSHIP DATES**

- **First and Second Rounds** *(16 sites)*: Thursday-Friday, Dec. 1-2, or Friday-Saturday, Dec. 2-3, on the campuses of competing institutions.
- **Regionals** *(four sites)*: Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10, on the campuses of competing institutions.
- **Semifinals and Final**: Thursday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and 17: Nationwide Arena, The Ohio State University and the Columbus Sports Commission, co-hosts.

**DATE FORMULA**

- **First/Second Rounds (16)**: First Thursday/Friday or Friday/Saturday following Thanksgiving weekend.
- **Regionals (4)**: Weekend following first/second rounds (Friday-Saturday).
- **Finals**: Thursday and Saturday following regionals.
FUTURE DATES

2017
Semifinals and Final (Dec. 14 and 16):
Sprint Center, Kansas City Sports Commission
and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, co-hosts.

2018
Semifinals and Final (Dec. 13 and 15):
Site TBD

Section 1•5 Equipment

The Molten IV58X-N Soft Touch (tri-colored) is the official volleyball for the 2016 championship.

Section 1•6 Rules

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.6 in the NCAA Manual.]

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 that the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports that 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 the NCAA rules books, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

The 2016 NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Championship will be conducted according to 2016 and 2017 NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules and Interpretations.

Questions regarding the interpretation of NCAA rules should be referred to Anne Pufahl (414-430-0111; anne.pufahl@marquette.edu).

ELECTRONIC TIMEOUTS

Electronic timeouts will be used for tournament matches regardless of television coverage (live or tape-delayed). In all matches, in a non-deciding set (sets 1 through 4), the media timeout is called when the leading team reaches 15 points (if no timeout has been called by a team before that point). In the deciding game (game 5), the media timeout is called at eight (8) points. Once one timeout has been called in a set, no other electronic timeouts may be requested. Each coach will be permitted to call two timeouts per game. All timeouts (electronic or coach-called) will be 75 seconds.

Section 1•7 Uniforms

[Reference: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

Playing uniforms must be in accordance with NCAA rules. Participants in the championship shall wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition and during related ceremonies. This applies to warm-up shirts and uniforms, and competitive uniforms.

The host team, or the higher-seeded (e.g. lower-numbered) team when the host is not playing, is designated the home team and will wear light-colored uniforms in the first- and second-round and regional matches. For all sessions of the tournament, teams must bring light and dark uniforms. Failure to comply may result in a $200 fine. It is suggested that institutions bring an extra uniform in the event the blood rule is applied.

An institution’s official uniform and all other items of apparel (e.g. socks, headbands, T-shirts, wristbands, visors or hats, and towels) that are worn by student-athletes in competition may bear a single manufacturer’s or distributor’s normal trademark, not to exceed 2¼ square inches, including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (i.e., rectangle, square or parallelogram).
In addition, an institution’s official uniform cannot bear a design element similar to the manufacturer’s that is in addition to another logo or that is contrary to the size restriction.

A student-athlete representing an institution in intercollegiate competition is limited to wearing apparel items that include only the logo (not to exceed 2¼ square inches) of an apparel manufacturer or distributor. The student-athlete may not wear any apparel that identifies another entity other than the student-athlete’s institution.

These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of competition, which includes any prematch or postmatch activities.

This bylaw will be strictly enforced at all NCAA championships and the names of individuals and institutions that are not in compliance with this bylaw shall be forwarded to the NCAA enforcement staff.

The logo restriction on student-athletes’ apparel set forth in Bylaws 12.5.4 and 31.1.8 shall apply during the NCAA championship to all personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers) who are on the team bench for practices and games or who participate in news conferences. Please note that those contracts between institutions and apparel manufacturers or distributors that include logo specifications may be honored, provided such contracts were in effect before Aug. 11, 1998. Also, the logo restriction on student-athletes’ apparel as set forth in Bylaws 12.5.4 and 31.1.8 shall apply to commercial logos on uniforms worn by band members, cheerleaders, dance team members and the institution’s mascot during the NCAA championship events.

LOGOS

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

Section 2•1 Championship Format

The championship provides for a field of 64 teams. Sixteen first- and second-round matches will be played at on-campus sites. Winners will advance to four regional tournaments at non-predetermined sites. The four regional winners will advance to the championship at a predetermined site. Competition will be single-elimination, best three-of-five set matches.

A championship bracket is located in Appendix A.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (tentative) All times Eastern

Wednesday, Dec. 14
8:15 - 9 a.m. Team SID meeting
9 - 9:45 a.m. Administrative meeting
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Team practices/ESPN interviews/press conference
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Championship banquet

Thursday, Dec. 15
10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Team practices
4:30 p.m. Gates open
6 p.m. Court available for warm-up
7 p.m. Semifinal Match #1
7:30 p.m. Warm-up court available for teams in Semifinal Match #2
9 p.m. (approx.) Postgame press conference (non-advancing team goes first)
(Begins 10 minutes following Semifinal #1)
9:30 p.m. (approx.) Semifinal Match #2
11 p.m. (approx.) Postgame press conference (non-advancing team goes first)
(Begins 10 minutes following Semifinal #2)

Friday, Dec. 16
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Semifinal #1 winner practice (closed)
12:30 - 1 p.m. Semifinal #2 winner press conference
1:15 - 1:45 p.m. Semifinal #1 winner press conference
1:05 - 3:05 p.m. Semifinal #2 winner practice (closed)

Saturday, Dec. 17
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Semifinal #1 winner practice (closed)
11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m. Semifinal #2 winner practice (closed)
7 p.m. Gates open
9 p.m. Championship Match (awards immediately following for both teams on court)
10:30 p.m. (approx.) Postgame press conference (second-place team goes first)

START TIMES

On the first day of competition during first and second rounds, the first match must start between 4:30 and 6 p.m. with a minimum of two hours between all matches (e.g., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.). The second match will start 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first match or the designated time, whichever is later. If the second day of competition is Friday, matches should start between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday matches must start between 2 and 8 p.m.
Approximately 22 hours must be allocated between the scheduled start of the last first-round match and the start of the second-round match. The host team will play the second match at first- and second-round sites and regionals.

Any changes to match times or order must be approved by the NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball Committee in advance of submitting an official bid to host. Television schedules may necessitate a revised schedule.

TRAVEL PARTY/SQUAD SIZE/TEAM BENCHES
[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division I General Section.]

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for the official travel party of 22. Please refer to the NCAA Travel policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found online at www.NCAA.org.

[Reference: Bylaw 31.1.5 in the NCAA Manual.]

Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 15 players in uniform. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it automatically shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform to the rule.

A team’s bench limit is 25 and team benches will be set at 18. If an institution wishes to include its own team doctor in the bench area, that individual must occupy one of the 18 chairs and is in addition to the bench limit of 25. New in 2016: While the bench limit will be 25, the squad size will remain at 15. However, within the 25, three additional student-athletes can be on the bench not in uniform for a total of 18.

The event manager may provide additional chairs for the tournament doctor and a security representative.

Participant passes will be provided for a maximum of 25 institutional representatives. Three all-access credentials will be provided for the institution’s administration.

Section 2.2 Results

THE RATING PERCENTAGE INDEX (RPI)

Access to the RPI can be found at: http://www.ncaa.com/rankings/volleyball-women/d1/ncaa_womens_volleyball_rpi

- Factor I: Division I winning percentage, 25%
- Factor II: Opponents’ winning percentage, 50%
- Factor III: Opponents’ opponents’ winning percentage, 25%
- Factor IV: Bonus: For wins against teams ranked 1 through 25 in the original RPI, teams receive a bonus that is approximately two positions in the RPI. For wins against teams ranked 26 through 50 in the original RPI, teams receive a bonus of approximately one position in the RPI.

Bonus: Teams receive a bonus of approximately two positions in the RPI for playing 50 percent of their nonconference schedule against teams ranked 1 through 75 in the original RPI.

Penalty: For losses against teams ranked 285 through 309 in the original RPI, teams receive a penalty of approximately one position in the RPI. For losses against teams ranked 310 through the remainder of the original RPI, and against non-Division I teams, teams receive a penalty of approximately two positions in the RPI.

Penalty: Teams receive a penalty of approximately two positions in the RPI for playing 50 percent of their nonconference schedule against teams ranked 260 through the remainder of the teams, and against non-NCAA opponents.

EVALUATIVE TOOLS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

Among the other tools the committee uses:
Regional advisory committee rankings
Division I record
Overall RPI
Non-conference record
Non-conference RPI
Conference record
Conference RPI
Road record
Record in last 10 games
Record against teams ranked 1-50 by RPI
Record against teams ranked 51-100 by RPI
Record against teams ranked 101-200 by RPI
Record against teams ranked below 200 by RPI
Record against other teams under consideration
Head-to-head
Significant wins and losses
Results against common opponents
Results against teams already receiving at-large bids
Site of match
Other circumstances that could affect results (e.g. injuries)

Section 2.3 Selection Information

[Reference: Selection of Participants in the Division I General Section and Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3 in the NCAA Manual.]

The tournament will consist of four brackets of 16 teams each. The committee will seed the top 16 teams on a national basis. The remaining 48 teams will be placed in the bracket following bracketing policies approved by the NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee. The 16 first- and second-round winners will feed into four regions. When pairing teams, the committee will avoid conference matchups in the first and second rounds of the championship.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

[Reference: Bylaws 31.3.4 and 31.3.5 in the NCAA Manual.]

Conferences that have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2016 championship are:

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

[Reference: Per Diem and Transportation in the Division I General Section and Bylaw 31.4.6 in the NCAA Manual.]

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.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

[Reference: Selection of Participants in the Division I General Section and Bylaws 31.01.2, 31.01.3 and 31.3 in the NCAA Manual.]

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered during the at-large selection process, a team must have an overall won-lost record of .500 or better.

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.

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 Volleyball Committee has received approval from the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the volleyball championship (not necessarily in priority order):

Primary Criteria

- Rating Percentage Index.
- Head-to-head competition.
- Results versus common opponents.
- Significant wins and losses.

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.

- Late-season performance (last 10 games).
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes.
- Location of contest.

Additionally, input is provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the Women’s Volleyball Committee.

Unless the committee gives prior approval for an experimental format, only three-of-five-game matches played to conclusion, using rally scoring, will be considered. In addition, a minimum of 80 percent of an institution’s matches must be played against other Division I teams in order to be eligible for consideration for selection.

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.
The timetable for the selection of at-large teams in 2016 shall be:

**September-November** — Regional advisory committees and the Women’s Volleyball Committee conduct telephone conferences to discuss teams in each region.

**Nov. 23-25** — Each regional chair confers with regional advisory committee members to determine teams that should be considered from that region.

**Nov. 25-27** — Women’s Volleyball Committee meets to review all at-large teams and establish the bracket. The committee will assume all members will participate in the tournament, if selected, unless the NCAA is notified to the contrary before the selection of teams.

**Sunday, Nov. 27** — Selection/notification date. Time TBD.

### CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY

*Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in the Division I General Section and Bylaws 3.2.4, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the NCAA Manual.*

Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may compete in NCAA championships. In accordance with Bylaw 3.2.4, 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 championships competition.

For the volleyball championship, the championships manager must be notified before Nov. 25.

### Section 2.5 Site Selection

*Reference: Site Selection in the General Section and Bylaw 31.1.3 in the NCAA Manual.*

With the adoption of proposal 2010-108, each committee will comply with the bylaw to the greatest extent possible and in doing so, the following policies will be implemented:

- 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 doesn’t submit a bid that meets the requirements, the sport committee will maintain the current policy of geographic consideration when assigning the host sites;
- The committee will use the geographic consideration to help maintain the balance of integrity of the selection;
- The committee also will 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 Volleyball Championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure the institution’s key contact and facility information are complete and current in the Championship Bid and Profile System. A separate proposed budget must be submitted for each round that an institution is interested in hosting. Please note that in order to submit a bit, you must first locate the desired championship in the “Championships Available for Bidding” section and select “Start Bid.”

Please note the change in process that allows all member institutions to regularly and easily access their profiles by visiting [championships.ncaa.org](http://championships.ncaa.org). For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact Kristin Fasbender.

### PROSPECTIVE HOSTS

All first and second and regional rounds of competition will be played on the campus of one of the participating institutions. The following criteria will be used in determining sites:

1. **Availability of the facility for practice and competition.** The facility must be available for four teams’ practice and competition during the following times:
   a. **Day before the match:** From noon to 10 p.m., **minimum of 90 minutes** of practice for each team.
b. First-round match day: **90 minutes** for all teams competing that day.

c. Second-round match day: 90 minutes of practice for each team. Practices should begin seven hours before the start of the first match.

d. Practices must end at least 90 minutes before the start of the first match.

2. In-floor net system is mandatory.

3. Separate locker rooms of comparable quality for each participating team.

4. Hotels of comparable quality and proximity to the facility. The host institution will be required to reserve a minimum of 16 double-double rooms at each team hotel.

5. Institutions may use an off-campus arena, provided that the facility is within 30 miles of the main campus and prior approval has been obtained from the committee. Institutions are not required to play regular-season matches in the facility.

**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 Nov. 8.

In addition to projected ticket sales (if applicable) and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials lodging. However, if the NCAA manages the hotel block for the game officials, the officials' lodging expenses shall be directly billed to the NCAA. The NCAA typically manages the officials' hotel block at the final site for its championships.
- State and city taxes/fees
- Ticket and facility fees

Committees/site representative’s per diem, mileage and luggage fees will be paid by the NCAA, not 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 Volleyball 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**

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.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

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 Kristin Fasbender at 317-917-6520 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.
Appendixes

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# Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

## CENTRAL REGION

### Big 12 Conference (9)

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### Missouri Valley Conference (10)

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### The Summit League (9)

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<td>University of South Dakota</td>
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</table>
### EAST REGION

#### Atlantic Coast Conference (15)
- Boston College
- Clemson University
- Duke University
- Florida State University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Louisville
- University of Miami (Florida)
- North Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- Syracuse University
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Wake Forest University

#### Big South Conference (10)
- Campbell University
- Charleston Southern University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Gardner-Webb University
- High Point University
- Liberty University
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- Presbyterian College
- Radford University
- Winthrop University

#### Colonial Athletic Association (9)
- College of Charleston (South Carolina)
- University of Delaware
- Elon University
- Hofstra University
- James Madison University
- University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Northeastern University
- Towson University
- College of William and Mary

#### Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (13)
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Coppin State University
- Delaware State University
- Florida A&M University
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Morgan State University
- Norfolk State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- Savannah State University
- South Carolina State University
## MIDEAST REGION

### Big Ten Conference (14)

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

### Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (10)

| Canisius College | Niagara University |
| Fairfield University | Quinnipiac University |
| Iona College | Rider University |
| Manhattan College | Siena College |
| Marist College | Saint Peter’s University |

### Mid-American Conference (12)

| University of Akron | Kent State University |
| Ball State University | Miami University (Ohio) |
| Bowling Green State University | Northern Illinois University |
| University at Buffalo, the State University of New York | Ohio University |
| Central Michigan University | University of Toledo |
| Eastern Michigan University | Western Michigan University |

### Northeast Conference (8)

| Bryant University | Robert Morris University |
| Central Connecticut State University | Sacred Heart University |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus | St. Francis College Brooklyn |
| Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus | Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania) |
### MIDWEST REGION

#### Conference USA (13)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida International University
- Louisiana Tech University
- Marshall University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- University of North Carolina, Charlotte
- University of North Texas
- Rice University
- University of Southern Mississippi
- University of Texas at El Paso
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- Western Kentucky University

#### Horizon League (8)
- Cleveland State University
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Northern Kentucky University (Reclass)
- Oakland University
- Valparaiso University
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University

#### Ohio Valley Conference (12)
- Austin Peay State University
- Belmont University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Jacksonville State University
- Morehead State University
- Murray State University
- Southeast Missouri State University
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Technological University
- University of Tennessee at Martin

#### Southwestern Athletic Conference (10)
- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Alcorn State University
- University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff
- Grambling State University
- Jackson State University
- Mississippi Valley State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Southern University, Baton Rouge
- Texas Southern University
## NORTHEAST REGION

### America East Conference (7)
- University at Albany
- Binghamton University
- University of Hartford
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Massachusetts Lowell (Reclass)
- University of New Hampshire
- Stony Brook University

### American Athletic Conference (11)
- 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
- Tulane University
- University of Tulsa

### Atlantic 10 Conference (10)
- Davidson College
- University of Dayton
- Duquesne University
- Fordham University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- La Salle University
- University of Rhode Island
- Saint Louis University
- Virginia Commonwealth University

### 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

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

### Patriot League (9)
- American 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
## PACIFIC REGION

### Big Sky Conference (12)
- California State University, Sacramento
- Eastern Washington University
- University of Idaho
- Idaho State University
- University of Montana
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- University of North Dakota
- Northern Arizona University
- University of Northern Colorado
- Portland State University
- Southern Utah University
- Weber State University

### Pac-12 Conference (12)
- University of Arizona
- Arizona State University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Oregon
- Oregon State University
- University of Southern California
- Stanford University
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Washington State University

### 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
### SOUTH REGION

#### Atlantic Sun Conference (8)
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Jacksonville University
- Kennesaw State University
- Lipscomb University
- New Jersey Institute of Technology (Relcass)
- University of North Florida
- University of South Carolina Upstate
- Stetson University

#### Southeastern Conference (13)
- University of Alabama
- University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- Auburn University
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Kentucky
- Louisiana State University
- University of Mississippi
- Mississippi State University
- University of Missouri, Columbia
- University of South Carolina, Columbia
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Texas A&M University, College Station

#### Southern Conference (9)
- The Citadel
- East Tennessee State University
- Furman University
- Mercer University
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Samford University
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Western Carolina University
- Wofford College

#### Sun Belt Conference (11)
- Appalachian State University
- Arkansas State University
- University of Arkansas, Little Rock
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- University of Louisiana at Monroe
- University of South Alabama
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas State University
- Troy University
## 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

### Mountain West Conference (11)
- Boise State University
- California State University, Fresno
- Colorado State University
- University of Nevada, Reno
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of New Mexico
- San Diego State University
- San Jose State University
- U.S. Air Force Academy
- Utah State University
- University of Wyoming

### Western Athletic Conference (7)
- California State University, Bakersfield
- Chicago State University
- Grand Canyon University (Relcass)
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- New Mexico State University
- Seattle University
- The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- Utah Valley University
# Appendix C • Championship Match Protocol

## SINGLE MATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Allotted</th>
<th>Actual Time</th>
<th>Visible Clock</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41 minutes</td>
<td>6:30-7:11 p.m.</td>
<td>:60-:19</td>
<td>Court available for shared warm-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>:30</td>
<td>Coin toss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>7:11-7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>:19-:15</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>7:15-7:19 p.m.</td>
<td>:15-:11</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>7:19-7:24 p.m.</td>
<td>:11-:06</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>7:24-7:29 p.m.</td>
<td>:06-:01</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 minute</td>
<td>7:29-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>:01-:00</td>
<td>Team huddle/announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>National anthem/player introductions. Match begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match begins at conclusion of introductions

## DOUBLE MATCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Allotted</th>
<th>Actual Time</th>
<th>Visible Clock</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41 minutes</td>
<td>4:30-5:11 p.m.</td>
<td>:60-:19</td>
<td>Court available for shared warm-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coin toss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>5:11-5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>:19-:15</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>5:15-5:19 p.m.</td>
<td>:15-:11</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>5:19-5:24 p.m.</td>
<td>:11-:06</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>5:24-5:29 p.m.</td>
<td>:06-:01</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 minute</td>
<td>5:29-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>:01-:00</td>
<td>Team huddle/announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>:00</td>
<td></td>
<td>National anthem/player introductions. Match begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 minutes between matches

## Time Allotted | Actual Time     | Visible Clock | Protocol                                      |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 minutes</td>
<td>7-7:11 p.m.</td>
<td>:30-:19</td>
<td>Court available for shared warm-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:04 p.m.</td>
<td>:30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coin toss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>7:11-7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>:19-:15</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 minutes</td>
<td>7:15-7:19 p.m.</td>
<td>:15-:11</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>7:19-7:24 p.m.</td>
<td>:11-:06</td>
<td>Visiting team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 minutes</td>
<td>7:24-7:29 p.m.</td>
<td>:06-:01</td>
<td>Home team court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 minute</td>
<td>7:29-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>:01-:00</td>
<td>Team huddle/announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Player introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Match begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix D • Court Layout

NCAA Volleyball Court Layout

- Team Bench
- Service Area (15 feet min.)
- Official Stand
- Photographers
- Cheerleaders

Measurements:
- 10 ft.
- 15 feet min.