Contents

Section 1 • Introduction .......................................................................................... 2
   Section 1•1 Definitions .................................................................................. 2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement ....................................................... 2
Section 3 • Concussion Management .................................................................. 3
Section 4 • Conduct ............................................................................................ 3
   Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability ....................................... 3
   Section 4•2 Drug Testing .............................................................................. 4
   Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship ....................................................... 4
   Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies ................................. 4
   Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy .............................................................. 4
   Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey .......................................... 5
Section 5 • Elite 90 Award ................................................................................. 5
Section 6 • Fan Travel ......................................................................................... 5
Section 7 • Logo Policy ...................................................................................... 5
Section 8 • Research ........................................................................................... 6
Section 9 • Religious Conflicts .......................................................................... 6
Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2017-18 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships — 42 for men, 45 for women, and three for both men and women. Of 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. Of the women’s championships, five are National Collegiate Championships, 13 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/or administrators.
Appendixes. Any supplemental documents to be provided and distributed through the various resources.
Championship Manager(s). The NCAA staff member(s) responsible for the operational oversight of the championship.
Games Committee. The committee assigned to supervise the conduct of each championship session at a specific site. For finals sites, the games committee is typically the NCAA national committee.
NCAA National Committee. The sport committee with direct oversight responsibilities for the championship.
Non-predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host at the time of the participant/team selections announcement.
Playing Rules. The rules under which the competition will be conducted.
Predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host before the participant/team selections announcement.
Preliminary Rounds. The rounds of the championship before the final or championship round.
Regional Alignment. The geographic location of institutions or regional advisory committees.
Schedule of Events. Official event schedule – includes all required activities (e.g., practices, banquets, etc.).
Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the team and/or individual 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.

For further details, please refer to the NCAA Sports Science Institute website for additional guidance.

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 Manual, 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 sport committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 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 Divisions 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 to policies and procedures.

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 in which 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 in which 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, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

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 grade-point average 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-athlete(s) 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.

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, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer’s or distributor’s normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2¼ 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 rounds 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).
Division I Women’s Soccer

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration .......................................................................................... 8
  Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information .................................. 8
  Section 1•2 National Committee .......................................................................................... 8
  Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees ........................................................................ 9
  Section 1•4 Important Dates ............................................................................................... 10
  Section 1•5 Equipment ........................................................................................................ 11
  Section 1•6 Rules ................................................................................................................ 11
  Section 1•7 Uniforms ........................................................................................................... 12

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation ...................................................... 13
  Section 2•1 Championship Format ....................................................................................... 13
  Section 2•2 Results ............................................................................................................. 13
  Section 2•3 Selection Information ....................................................................................... 14
  Section 2•4 Selection Criteria ............................................................................................. 14
  Section 2•5 Site Selection .................................................................................................... 15

Appendix A • Bracket .............................................................................................................. 18

Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship ............................................................................................. 19

Appendix C • Rating Percentage Index .................................................................................. 25

Appendix D • Officials ........................................................................................................... 26
Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations

Staff Contact Information

Kelsey Cermak
Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-917-6651 / kcermak@ncaa.org

Robin Hale
Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-917-6624 / rhale@ncaa.org

Section 1•2 National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

**EAST REGION**
Tony da Luz
Head Women’s Soccer Coach
Wake Forest University

Janet Oberle
Senior Associate Director of Athletics/SWA
Saint Louis University

**EAST REGION**
Nancy Feldman
Head Women’s Soccer Coach
Boston University

**EAST REGION**
Lauren Ashman
Senior Associate Athletics Director/SWA
Bowling Green State University

**MIDWEST REGION**
Erin Chastain
Head Women’s Soccer Coach
DePaul University

**MIDWEST REGION**
John McElwain
Senior Associate Commissioner/Chief Branding &
Communications Officer
Sun Belt Conference

**SOUTH REGION**
Karen Hancock
Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach
Oklahoma State University

**SOUTHEAST REGION**
Chad Miller
Head Women’s Soccer Coach
Western Carolina University

**WEST REGION**
Foti Mellis
Senior Associate Director of Athletics
University of California, Berkeley

**WEST REGION**
Keanah Smith
Senior Associate Commissioner, Championships
Mountain West Conference
# Section 1.3 Regional Advisory Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EAST REGION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony da Luz</td>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
<td>Atlantic Coast</td>
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<td>Nancy Feldman</td>
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<td>Kristi Lefebvre</td>
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<td>Colonial</td>
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<td>Siena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samar Azem</td>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Big South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Mott</td>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
<td>SEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Burr</td>
<td>Furman</td>
<td>Southern</td>
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## Section 1•4 Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 18</td>
<td>First published RPI (weekly through selections)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 2</td>
<td>Preliminary-round bid materials available on NCAA.org.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>Deadline for preliminary-round bid materials to NCAA national office (submitted online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov. 6</td>
<td>Selection announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.-Sun., Nov. 10</td>
<td>First-round competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri., Nov. 17</td>
<td>Second-round competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 19</td>
<td>Third-round competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. or Sat., Nov.</td>
<td>Quarterfinal competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, Dec. 1</td>
<td>National semifinals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 3</td>
<td>National championship</td>
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(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. 4. (The second and third rounds may also be contested on Thursday and Saturday if institutional policies prohibit Sunday play.)

### DATE FORMULA

- **First Rounds (32)**: Three weeks before finals (Friday, Saturday or Sunday)
- **Second/Third Rounds (8)**: Two weeks before finals (Friday and Sunday)
- **Quarterfinals (4)**: One week before finals (Friday or Saturday)
- **College Cup**: First full weekend in December (Friday and Sunday). If December 1 falls on Saturday, that will count as the first weekend.

### FUTURE DATES

#### 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Round</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 10, or 11</td>
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<td>Second/Third Round</td>
<td>Nov. 16 and 18</td>
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<td>Quarterfinals</td>
<td>Nov. 23 or 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s College Cup</td>
<td>Nov. 30 and Dec. 2</td>
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</table>
**Section 1•5 Equipment**

**BALL**

The Wilson FORTE Hybrid 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 Kelsey Cermak 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 goal line. 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 Kelsey Cermak (cell: 317-644-9425). Only after contacting Ms. Cermak 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. For all rounds, host sites must film each game from an elevated, midfield location for the committee and for the visiting team, unless the visiting team is taping its own game. In this case, the host would be required to just tape the game for the committee. 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 2017 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>Date(s)</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>

START TIMES

For the preliminary rounds, first-round games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10, through the weekend with a completion time of not later than 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. (Saturday and Sunday competition may not start before noon local time.)

Second-round games will be played Friday, Nov. 17 (not before 2 p.m.). Third-round games will be played Sunday, Nov. 19 (not before noon). 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. Email Kelsey Cermak (kcermak@ncaa.org) with proposed second-round game times.

Quarterfinal games may be scheduled from 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, through the weekend with a completion time of not later than 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25. (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.

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. 18 to Oct. 30. 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. 6. 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 2017 championship are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>America East Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Athletic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic 10 Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Coast Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASUN Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big 12 Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big East Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Sky Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big South Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Ten Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big West Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial Athletic Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizon League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ivy League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-American Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri Valley Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain West Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio Valley Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patriot League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southland Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestern Athletic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Summit League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Belt Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Coast Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Athletic Conference</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 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 2017 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 Robin Hale (rhale@ncaa.org; 317-917-6624)
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. 23.

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 2017 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 Kelsey Cermak at 317-917-6651 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.
Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Bracket .......................................................... 18
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship ....................................... 19
Appendix C • Rating Percentage Index .............................. 25
Appendix D • Officials ....................................................... 26
### Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

#### EAST REGION

**America East Conference (9)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University at Albany</th>
<th>University of Massachusetts Lowell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Binghamton University</td>
<td>University of New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Hartford</td>
<td>Stony Brook University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maine, Orono</td>
<td>University of Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Maryland, Baltimore County</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AQ – Tournament

**Atlantic 10 Conference (14)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Davidson College</th>
<th>University of Massachusetts, Amherst</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Dayton</td>
<td>University of Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
<td>University of Richmond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fordham University</td>
<td>St. Bonaventure University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Mason University</td>
<td>Saint Joseph's University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Washington University</td>
<td>Saint Louis University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Salle University</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth University</td>
</tr>
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</table>

AQ – Tournament

**Atlantic Coast Conference (14)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boston College</th>
<th>North Carolina State University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clemson University</td>
<td>University of Notre Dame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke University</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>Syracuse University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Louisville</td>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Miami (Florida)</td>
<td>Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Wake Forest University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AQ – Tournament

**Colonial Athletic Association (10)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College of Charleston (South Carolina)</th>
<th>James Madison University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Delaware</td>
<td>University of North Carolina Wilmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drexel University</td>
<td>Northeastern University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elon University</td>
<td>Towson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hofstra University</td>
<td>College of William &amp; Mary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AQ – Tournament

**The Ivy League (8)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brown University</th>
<th>Harvard University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia University-Barnard College</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Princeton University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
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</table>

AQ – Tournament

**Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (11)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canisius College</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield University</td>
<td>Quinnipiac University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iona College</td>
<td>Rider University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan College</td>
<td>Siena College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marist College</td>
<td>Saint Peter's University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

### 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

### MIDWEST REGION

### 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**

### 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

**AQ – Tournament**

### Horizon League (10)

Cleveland State University  
University of Detroit Mercy  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis  
Northern Kentucky University  
Oakland University  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Wright State University  
Youngstown State University

**AQ – Tournament**

### Mid-American Conference (12)

University of Akron  
Ball 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

**AQ – Tournament**
Missouri Valley Conference (8)
Drake University
University of Evansville
Illinois State University
Indiana State University
Loyola University Chicago
Missouri State University
University of Northern Iowa
Valparaiso University
AQ – Tournament

The Summit League (8)
University of Denver
Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne
University of Nebraska Omaha
North Dakota State University
Oral Roberts University
University of South Dakota
South Dakota State University
Western Illinois University
AQ – Tournament

SOUTH REGION

Big 12 Conference (10)
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
AQ – Tournament

Conference USA (14)
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
The University of Southern Mississippi
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Texas at San Antonio
Western Kentucky University
AQ – Tournament

Ohio Valley Conference (11)
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 Technological University
University of Tennessee at Martin
AQ – Tournament

Southland Conference (12)
Abilene Christian University
University of Central Arkansas
Houston Baptist University
University of the Incarnate Word
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&M University-Corpus Christi
AQ – Tournament
### Southwestern Athletic Conference (11)
- Alabama A&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&M University
- Southern University, Baton Rouge
- Texas Southern University

**AQ – Tournament**

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

**AQ – Tournament**

### Independent (2)
- Hampton University
- South Carolina State University

### SOUTHEAST REGION

#### American Athletic Conference (10)
- University of Central Florida
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Connecticut
- East Carolina University
- University of Houston
- University of Memphis
- University South Florida
- Southern Methodist University
- Temple University
- The University of Tulsa

**AQ – Tournament**

#### 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**

#### Southeastern Conference (14)
- 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
- Vanderbilt 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

### WEST 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

#### 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 (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

#### 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
- Saint Mary’s College of California
**Western Athletic Conference (8)**

California State University, Bakersfield  
Chicago State University  
Grand Canyon University  
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>
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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, 2017.
- 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.