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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 Sport 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 • Division II

Section 9•1 Division II Philosophy

1. In addition to the purposes and fundamental policy of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as set forth in Constitution 1, members of Division II believe that a well-conducted intercollegiate athletics program, based on sound educational principles and practices, is a proper part of the educational mission of a university or college and that the educational well-being and academic success of the participating student-athlete is of primary concern.

2. Higher education has lasting importance on an individual’s future success. As such, Division II supports the educational mission of college athletics by fostering a balanced approach in which student-athletes learn and develop through their desired academic pursuits, in civic engagement with their communities and in athletics competition. Division II athletics programs also are committed to establishing an inclusive culture in which persons of all backgrounds are respected and given the opportunity to provide input and to participate.
3. Division II members abide by the following principles that help define and distinguish the division:
   
a. Division II colleges and universities are expected to operate their athletics programs with integrity and in a welcoming
   manner that complies with conference and NCAA rules and regulations. Institutional control is a fundamental
   principle that supports the institution’s educational mission and assumes presidential involvement and oversight;
   (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

b. Division II members fund their athletics programs in a manner that aligns with the institution’s budget and educational
   mission. This method of funding features a “partial scholarship” model that allows Division II schools to recognize
   student-athletes for their skills through athletics-based grants, but student-athletes can accept merit-based aid and
   academic scholarships as well; (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

c. Division II believes in a balanced approach that integrates athletics into the college experience and allows students
   to focus on their academic pursuits and participate in other campus and community activities. This “Life in the
   Balance” emphasis facilitates learning through: (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

   (1) **Academics.** Division II offers exceptional teacher-student ratios that provide student-athletes with a quality
   education in the academic curriculum of their choice. The division structures its eligibility requirements to
   facilitate student-athletes earning their degrees, which is measured in part by an institution’s student-athletes
   graduating at least at the same rate as the institution’s student body; (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

   (2) **Athletics.** Division II supports athletics achievement through highly competitive programs that strive to
   participate in the division’s 25 national championships, which offer the best access ratio among the NCAA’s
   three divisions. Division II also supports a regionalization model in scheduling that reduces time away from
   campus and keeps athletics participation in perspective within the educational mission; (Adopted: 1/21/17
   effective 8/1/17)

   (3) **Community Engagement.** Division II athletics programs actively engage with their communities to enhance
   relationships between student-athletes and community members and develop a shared civic experience. Division II
   promotes engagement at the local, conference and national levels, including at all Division II national
   championships; and (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

   (4) **Post-graduation Success.** Division II supports a higher education model that shapes student-athletes who
   graduate with the skills and knowledge to be productive citizens. The balanced approach allows student-
   athletes to focus on their academic pursuits, their internships, and whatever else it takes to prepare them for
   life after graduation; (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

d. Division II members support the utmost in sportsmanship by committing to a “game environment” initiative that
   establishes an atmosphere at athletics contests that is both energetic and respectful; and (Adopted: 1/21/17
   effective 8/1/17)

e. Division II promotes student-athlete involvement in decision-making through campus, conference and national
   Student-Athlete Advisory Committees that provide leadership opportunities and offer a representative voice in the
   division’s governance structure. (Adopted: 1/21/17 effective 8/1/17)

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**Section 9•2 Division II Code of Conduct**

**CONDUCT POLICY STATEMENT**

The NCAA expects each championship to exhibit an experience that represents the highest level of fair play and good
sportsmanship. The NCAA and the NCAA Division II Championships Committee expect that student-athletes, coaches
and administrators do their best to ensure participation in intercollegiate athletics promotes character development for all
participants, enhances the integrity of higher education and promotes civility; therefore, championship events should adhere
to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. These values should be manifest not only
in athletics participation, but also in the broad spectrum of activities associated with the championship event. Accordingly, the
Championships Committee will take strong action in response to any form of misconduct by student-athletes, coaches and/or
administrators during the entire championship. This includes criticism of officials and a misconduct incident at the competition.

Any institution that fails to submit a complete and accurate Division II Code of Conduct form before the start of the first competition
of the championship will be issued a fine of $500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner,
university president, university athletics director, senior woman administrator, sports information director and compliance director.
MISCONDUCT

The NCAA Division II Manual Bylaw 31.02.3 defines misconduct as: “... 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.”

EXPECTATIONS

Each games committee shall hold a pre-championship meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct (as defined in Bylaw 31.02.3). The Division II Championships Code of Conduct is to be part of the championship packet and delivered to all institutional representatives attending the championship events.

If the act of misconduct occurs during the competition, under normal circumstances, the individual shall be allowed to complete the competition in which he or she is participating at the time of the incident. An administrative hearing shall be held at the conclusion of the day’s competition, during a break in the continuity of the championship (e.g., between rounds of a basketball tournament) when no competition is being conducted or at the conclusion of the championship. However, if the act of misconduct is so flagrant that it obviously violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship, the games committee may immediately withdraw the student-athlete or institutional representative from the competition and conduct the hearing after this action. Other actions of misconduct shall be dealt with in a timely manner by the governing sport committee.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

- Submit an accurate and complete Division II Code of Conduct Form before the start of the first competition of the championship.
- Cooperate and participate in game ceremonies, team meetings, community engagement and championship events.
- Discuss misconduct and possible consequences with all members of the travel party.
- Have an administrator or designee present at all competitions.
- Communicate issues and concerns in a honest and timely manner with NCAA staff.
- Follow team, university and NCAA guidelines throughout all championship-related activities.
- Be respectful of other participants, spectators, coaches, administrators and other individuals at the championship site.
- Abide by state and federal laws and facility requirements throughout the championship event.
- Display acceptable behavior on and off the playing field to ensure a positive experience for all participants.

POSSIBLE PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

In accordance with Bylaw 31.1.8.3, the governing sport committee (or the games committee authorized to act for it) may impose any one or a combination of the following penalties on an institution or any student-athlete or representative of an institution guilty of misconduct that occurs incident to, en route to, from or at the locale of the competition or practice. The penalties include, but are not limited to:

- Public or private reprimand of the individual;
- Disqualification of the individual from further participation in the NCAA championship involved;
- Banishment of the individual from participation in one or more future championships of the sport involved;
- Cancellation of payment to the institution of the Association’s travel guarantee for the individual involved;
- Banishment of the institution from participation in one or more future championships in which its team in that sport otherwise would be eligible to participate;
- Disqualification of an institution for a period of time from serving as host institution for one or more NCAA championships;
- Cancellation of all or a portion of the honorarium for hosting an NCAA championship; and
- Financial or other penalties different from (a) through (g) above, but only if they have prior approval of the Championships Committee.

All correspondence regarding a violation of the Code of Conduct will be sent to the president/chancellor of the institution, with a copy to the director of athletics and person(s) involved.
Participation in an NCAA championship is an accomplishment and it is expected that individuals and teams are committed to ensuring that the championship is a positive experience for all participants, fans and volunteers. Participation in these championship events is a privilege for the student-athletes, coaches and administrators and should be treated as such.

**Section 9.3 On-Site Administrator at Team Championships**

All team sports require that a designated individual be identified from each institution participating in the championship as the on-site administrator. This person may be any individual from that school with no on-site responsibilities. The role of the on-site administrator is to be present at the competition site and attend all events that are mandated for the team (e.g., travel from institution to and from the championship site, teleconferences, pre-championship meetings, practices, competition and community engagement, where applicable).

If no one is sent or identified, the site representative is to notify the NCAA championship manager and Division II Championships Committee liaison to administer a fine of $500, with a private letter of reprimand to be sent to the conference commissioner, university president/chancellor, university director of athletics, senior woman administrator, sports information director and the compliance director. The NCAA championship manager will administer the fine and letter of reprimand to the institution(s).

**Section 9.4 Religious Conflicts**

**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 prior to 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. *(Revised: 1/12/99, 1/8/01, 1/9/01)*

**Individual Championships.** In individual championships, an athlete must compete according to the institution’s policy regarding Sunday competition (i.e., 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•1  NCAA Tournament Operations
Staff Contact Information

Marie Scovron
Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6494 / mscovron@ncaa.org

Kerstin Hunter
Assistant Coordinator, Championships and Alliances
P.O. Box 6222 / Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
317-917-6645 / khunter@ncaa.org

Section 1•2  National Committee

Current members of the committee are:

**ATLANTIC REGION**
Karen Hjerpe
Director of Athletics
California University of Pennsylvania

**CENTRAL REGION**
Josh Collins
Head Volleyball Coach / Director of Gameday Operations
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

**EAST REGION**
Kevin DesLauriers
Assistant Athletics Director for Operations
Molloy College

**MIDWEST REGION**
Doug Walters, chair
Head Volleyball Coach
Cedarville University

**SOUTH REGION**
Melissa Wolter
Head Volleyball Coach
University of West Florida

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**
Melanie Robotham
Assistant Commissioner/SWA
Lone Star Conference

**SOUTHEAST REGION**
Dustin Fuls
Director of Compliance
North Greenville University

**WEST REGION**
Tim McDiffett
Interim Athletics Director
University of Alaska Anchorage

For additional information about volleyball rules, officiating and statistics, contact:

Anne Puhfal
Secretary-Rules Editor
anne.puhfal@marquette.edu

Steve Thorpe
National Coordinator of Officials

Rachel Seewald
NCAA Championships and Alliances,
Playing Rules and Officiating
317-917-6141 / rseewald@ncaa.org

Jenn Rodgers
NCAA Championships and Alliances, Statistics
317-917-6109 / jrodgers@ncaa.org
Regional advisory committees act in an advisory capacity for the national committee to assist with the evaluation of teams throughout the season. National committee members serve as chairs for their respective regional advisory committees. Each conference representing women’s volleyball has equal representation on their respective regional advisory committees.

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**Section 1•4 Important Dates**

- **Monday, Oct. 23**: Information and instructions for bidding to host regional competition will be distributed.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 1**: Regional rankings published online.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 8**: Regional rankings published online.
- **Friday, Nov. 10**: Deadline for institutions to submit proposed bids to host regional competition.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 15**: Regional rankings published online.
- **Monday, Nov. 20**: Announcement and notification of selected teams and regional host sites. Selection show will air at 7:30 p.m. Eastern time on www.NCAA.com.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 21**: Teleconference with eight regional hosts and NCAA committee and staff. Times and call-in information will be distributed once hosts are selected.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 21**: Teleconference with regional hosts, participating teams and site representatives. Times and call-in information will be distributed once teams are selected.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 29/ Thursday, Nov. 30**: Mandatory administrative meeting at the regional sites (the day before competition starts). Times and locations will be communicated in the participant manual.
- **Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 2/ Friday-Sunday, Dec. 1-3**: Regional competition (dates and sites will be announced Nov. 20).
- **Monday, Dec. 4**: Teleconference with host, final eight teams, and NCAA committee and staff. Times and call-in information will be distributed once teams are determined.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 6**: Mandatory administrative meeting at the finals site. Time and location will be communicated in the participant manual.
- **Thursday, Dec. 7**: Quarterfinal matches (noon, 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.).
Friday, Dec. 8
Semifinal matches (5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.).

Saturday, Dec. 9
Championship match (5 p.m.).

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND SITES

Regional competition will take place Nov. 30-Dec. 2 or Dec. 1-3 at the site of one of the competing institutions. Dates and
locations for each regional site will be announced Nov. 20.

Finals
The championship quarterfinals, semifinals and final match will take place Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 7-9, at the UWF Field House
in Pensacola, Florida, hosted by the University of West Florida and Pensacola Sports.

DATE FORMULA

Selections
Monday before Thanksgiving

Regionals
Thursday-Saturday or Friday-Sunday after Thanksgiving weekend

Finals
Thursday-Saturday the week after regionals

NOTE: During years when the championship is part of the Division II National Championship Fall Festival, the date
formula will adjust based on the date of the festival.

FUTURE DATES

2018 (Fall Festival)

Sunday, Nov. 11
Selection of teams and regional sites.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15-17/
Friday-Sunday, Nov. 16-18
Regional competition.

Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 29-Dec. 1
Quarterfinals, semifinals and final in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

2019

Monday, Nov. 25
Selection of teams and regional sites.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 5-7/
Friday-Sunday, Dec. 6-8
Regional competition.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 12-14
Quarterfinals, semifinals and final in Denver.

2020

Monday, Nov. 23
Selection of teams and regional sites.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 3-5/
Friday-Sunday, Dec. 4-6
Regional competition.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 10-12
Quarterfinals, semifinals and final in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

2021

Monday, Nov. 22
Selection of teams and regional sites.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 2-4/
Friday-Sunday, Dec. 3-5
Regional competition.

Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 9-11
Quarterfinals, semifinals and final in Tampa, Florida.

Section 1•5 Equipment

Molten, Sport Imports, Connor Sport Court and Spec Seats are the official equipment providers for NCAA volleyball.
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 those sports in which the Association follows rules that are developed by other governing bodies and are 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, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

The 2016 and 2017 Women’s Volleyball Rules and Interpretations book will be followed for the 2017 season. Questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be referred to volleyball secretary-rules editor Anne Pufahl (email: anne.pufahl@marquette.edu).

MEDIA/STATISTICS

All host sites should use Stat Crew programs to submit statistics for the contests. At the end of each game or day of competition, a packed file from each regional/championship contest must be sent to ncaastats@ncaa.org and Jenn Rodgers jrodgers@ncaa.org at the NCAA national office. These files should be sent immediately after each contest or day of competition. Please contact Ms. Rodgers if you have any questions.

Section 1.7 Uniforms

Playing uniforms must be of the same style for each member of a team. 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 competitive uniforms. All uniforms must meet the specifications outlined in the 2016 and 2017 Women’s Volleyball Rules and Interpretations book.

LOGOS

Refer to General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7.
Section 2•1 Selection Information

The championship provides for a field of 64 teams, eight from each region. Regional competition will be single-elimination, best three-of-five-set matches played on the campuses of participating institutions during a three-day period. Participating teams will be seeded according to their final regional rank. Match competition on the first day will occur between the No. 1 and No. 8 seeds, the No. 2 and No. 7 seeds, the No. 3 and No. 6 seeds and the No. 4 and No. 5 seeds. Match competition on the second day will occur between the winner of No. 1/No. 8 seeds vs. the winner of No. 4/No. 5 seeds and the winner of No. 2/No. 7 seeds vs. the winner of No. 3/No. 6 seeds. Regional finals will be on the last day. The higher-seeded team will be the home team and sit on the right side of the scorekeeper’s table facing the first referee.

The winners of each of the eight regionals will advance to the finals site. Competition at the finals site will be single-elimination, best three-of-five-set matches during three days (quarterfinals on day one, semifinals on day two and finals on day three). Teams advancing to the finals site will be seeded after the completion of the regionals. The higher-seeded team will be the designated home team and will sit on the right side of the scorekeeper’s table facing the first referee. See Appendix A for the championship bracket.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, Dec. 7
Quarterfinal Match 1  Noon
Quarterfinal Match 2  2:30 p.m.
Quarterfinal Match 3  5 p.m.
Quarterfinal Match 4  7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 8
Semifinal Match 1  5 p.m.
Semifinal Match 2  7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 9
Championship Match  5 p.m.

SQUAD SIZE AND TEAM BENCHES

Participating teams are limited to a maximum of 25 individuals in the bench area, with a maximum of 17 players in uniform. Official roster forms from each team will be collected during the mandatory administrative meeting. The 17 players in uniform may be declared up to 10 minutes before the starting time of any match. After the match starts, no replacements will be permitted for any reason. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not promptly conform to it shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform to the rule.

TRAVEL PARTY

Reimbursement for teams will be provided for the official travel party of 20 people.

Section 2•2 Results

The score-reporting and stats-reporting processes are combined for Division II women’s volleyball. Schools will submit all schedule and results information to the NCAA statistics site (http://web1.ncaa.org/stats/StatsSrv/login), and this information will then be transferred into the score-reporting system for use by the sports committees. Specific instructions and reporting deadlines will be communicated to sports information directors in a memo from the media coordination and statistics staff. For questions regarding the reporting process, please contact Jenn Rodgers at jrodgers@ncaa.org or 317-917-6109.
Section 2.3 Selection Information

REGIONALIZATION

Regionalization is a policy that requires governing sports committees to select a predetermined number of teams in each of the regions of the sports involved. It is based on the assumption that due to the regional nature of most Division II member institutions, governing sports committees should evaluate and select championship participants based on regional results as opposed to a national evaluation where head-to-head and common opponents results are less prevalent. Regionalization also encourages member institutions to compete against opponents within their regions instead of teams outside of their region, which results in a cost savings in regular-season transportation expense.

The Division II regionalization philosophy provides access to national championships from every region of the country. Regionalization does not guarantee that the best eight programs in the country will compete for a national championship, but does guarantee that the different regions of the country will be represented at the championship by each region’s best team.

For Division II women’s volleyball, the top eight teams in each region are selected to the championship and will compete against each other at regional competition. One team from each region will advance to the national championships. The conferences and institutions that are part of each region are outlined in Appendix B. An institution desiring to participate in the championship must complete all matches before the final selection of teams by the Women’s Volleyball Committee.

PENALTIES FOR INELIGIBILITY

Refer to the General Administrative Guidelines for information on certification of eligibility/availability. Penalties for using an ineligible student-athlete are assessed to the ranking and selection criteria for that respective team. Guidelines for the nullification penalties are outlined below.

1. Opponents of an ineligible individual or team that competes with an ineligible player should not be adversely affected.

2. The ineligible student-athlete and the institution he or she represents will be penalized. As it relates to access to NCAA championships, a penalty will be assessed to the selection criteria, which may impact the individual’s and/or team’s opportunity for selection to postseason competition.

3. All contests in which an ineligible student-athlete competes will be nullified (win, lose or tie). The nullification of a contest will penalize only the individual and/or institution using an ineligible student-athlete.

4. The number of nullified contests is identified and the penalty is assessed for each nullified contest. If a student-athlete was deemed ineligible and then reinstated through the NCAA reinstatement process, only those contests in which the student-athlete competed while ineligible will be nullified. The competition before or after that time will not be nullified.

5. A penalty will be applied in two categories: the won-lost record percentage and the strength of schedule (overall and in-region, if applicable).

6. The penalty assessed will vary from sport to sport. It will be a mathematical calculation that is relevant to each sport and reduces the percentage of the won-lost record and the strength of schedule. The calculation will be determined in conjunction with the NCAA statistics department.

7. The value of the nullification will be consistent across sports; however, the actual mathematical calculation (number) could be different because of factors such as number of games played. (Example: The nullification may be worth 2 percentage points; however, that equates to .025 for one sport and .063 for another sport).

8. Information regarding the penalties for nullification will be part of the selection criteria for each sport.

9. In team sports, a team’s won-lost record that falls below .500 after adjustments for nullification(s) will be ineligible for championships selections to fill at-large berths.

10. Nullifications do not carry over to the next academic year for eligibility violations detected after the season is complete.
AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The following conferences will receive one automatic qualification berth to the 2017 women’s volleyball championship. The automatic qualifiers will be selected from their respective region.

California Collegiate Athletic Association
Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association
Conference Carolinas
East Coast Conference
Great American Conference
Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Great Lakes Valley Conference
The Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Great Northwest Athletic Conference
Gulf South Conference
Heartland Conference
Lone Star Conference
Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
Mountain East Conference
Northeast-10 Conference
Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
Pacific West Conference
Peach Belt Conference
Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
South Atlantic Conference
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Sunshine State Conference

AT-LARGE SELECTION

Once the automatic qualification berths have been designated for each region, the remaining regional spots will be selected at large. To be considered during the at-large selection process:

- Only the best three-of-five-set match format will be considered.
- A team must play a minimum of 60 percent of an institution’s matches against other Division II teams.
- A team must play a minimum of 15 matches against Division II opponents.
- A team must have a Division II won-lost record of .500 or better (except for automatic qualification).

COUNTABLE COMPETITION — BYLAW 31.3.1.

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 3.2.4.4) of four-year, degree-granting institutions located in Canada and the United States, its territories or possessions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

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 in Team Sports]

a. Availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships;

b. Nullification;

c. Following confirmation of the availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships and the application of any nullification, the following required selection criteria shall be applied in no particular order:
(1) Division II in-region winning percentage;
(2) Division II winning percentage;
(3) Division II strength of schedule (opponents’ average winning percentage and opponents’ opponents’ average winning percentage);
(4) Division II head-to-head competition; and
(5) Results versus Division II common opponents.

d. The Division II Championships Committee approved the following three criteria for Division II women’s volleyball:
   (1) In-region Rating Percentage Index.
   (2) In-region non-conference won-lost record.
   (3) Results versus ranked Division II opponents.

Teams advancing to the finals site will be seeded using the above selection criteria.

Section 2.5 Site Selection

CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL SITES

The following criteria will be used in determining regional sites:

- Quality and availability of the facility and other necessary accommodations.
- Hotel availability, location and quality.
- Revenue potential.
- An off-campus facility must be within 30 minutes of the main campus.
- Preference shall be given to conducting competition on the grounds or in buildings of educational institutions unless there are compelling reasons to conduct the competition in an off-campus facility.
- Practice and match times must take priority over other scheduled activities during the tournament. All practice times and match times are prescribed by the committee and any deviations require committee approval.
- Attendance history and potential. Regional hosts must allocate at least 100 tickets to each participating team.
- Live video streaming is required at all regional sites.
- History of hosting NCAA events.

BID MATERIALS

Any institution interested in hosting regional competition of the 2017 championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions, and ensure the institution’s key contacts and facility information, including the safety and security plan, 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 for Bidding” and select “Start Bid.”

Member institutions have regular and easy access to their profiles throughout the year by visiting championships.ncaa.org. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact the respective championship manager.

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 a regional championship is Friday, Nov. 10.

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

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials’ lodging.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Committee/site representative’s per diem and mileage will be paid by the NCAA instead of the host institution. Game officials (excluding line judges) will be reimbursed via the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem and mileage.

**FACILITY PROFILE**

Institutions interested in hosting regional competition of the 2017 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 or removed 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 includes the NCAA Championships Safety and Security Team contact information form, located in Appendix A of the Best Practices document.

The best practices for venue safety and security along with the safety and security contact form is located at: http://www.ncaa.org/championships/travel/championships-travel-information.

**FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

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 the championship manager at 317-917-6494 or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org.
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Appendix A • Bracket

2017 NCAA Division II Women’s Volleyball Championship

The eight advancing teams to the Elite Eight will be seeded by the Division II Women’s Volleyball Committee after completion of the regionals.
# Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

## ATLANTIC REGION

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* Not eligible for NCAA championship competition
## CENTRAL REGION

### Great American Conference
- Arkansas Tech University
- University of Arkansas, Monticello
- East Central University
- Harding University
- Henderson State University
- Northwestern Oklahoma State University

### Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Central Oklahoma
- Emporia State University
- Fort Hays State University
- Lindenwood University
- Missouri Southern State University

### Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference
- Augustana College (South Dakota)
- Bemidji State University
- Concordia University, St. Paul
- University of Mary
- Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Minnesota State University Moorhead
- University of Minnesota, Crookston
- University of Minnesota Duluth

* Not eligible for NCAA championship competition
### EAST REGION

#### Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
- Bloomfield College
- Caldwell University
- Chestnut Hill College
- Concordia College (New York)
- Dominican College (New York)
- Felician University
- Georgian Court University
- Goldey-Beacom College
- Holy Family University
- Nyack College
- Post University
- University of the Sciences
- Thomas Jefferson University
- Wilmington University (Delaware)

#### East Coast Conference
- University of Bridgeport
- Daemen College
- Long Island University/LIU Post
- Mercy College
- Molloy College
- New York Institute of Technology
- Queens College (New York)
- Roberts Wesleyan College

#### Northeast-10 Conference
- Adelphi University
- American International College
- Assumption College
- Bentley University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Le Moyne College
- Merrimack College
- University of New Haven
- Pace University
- Southern Connecticut State University
- Southern New Hampshire University
- Saint Anselm College
- Saint Michael’s College
- The College of Saint Rose
- Stonehill College

* Not eligible for NCAA championship competition
## MIDWEST REGION

### Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ashland University</th>
<th>Northern Michigan University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Davenport University*</td>
<td>Northwood University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferris State University</td>
<td>Purdue University Northwest*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Valley State University</td>
<td>Saginaw Valley State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Superior State University</td>
<td>Tiffin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Technological University</td>
<td>Wayne State University (Michigan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Great Lakes Valley Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bellarmine University</th>
<th>University of Missouri-St. Louis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drury University</td>
<td>Quincy University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Illinois at Springfield</td>
<td>Rockhurst University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Indianapolis</td>
<td>University of Southern Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis University</td>
<td>Truman State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryville University of Saint Louis</td>
<td>William Jewell College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKendree University</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Parkside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri University of Science and Technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Great Midwest Athletic Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alderson Broaddus University</th>
<th>Malone University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedarville University</td>
<td>Ohio Dominican University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis &amp; Elkins College</td>
<td>Ohio Valley University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Findlay</td>
<td>Trevecca Nazarene University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsdale College</td>
<td>Ursuline College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Wesleyan College</td>
<td>Walsh University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Erie College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Independent

| Oakland City University | |

* Not eligible for NCAA championship competition
### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

#### Heartland Conference
- University of Arkansas, Fort Smith
- Dallas Baptist University
- Lubbock Christian University
- Newman University
- St. Edward’s University
- St. Mary’s University (Texas)
- Texas A&M International University

#### Lone Star Conference
- Angelo State University
- Cameron University
- Eastern New Mexico University
- Midwestern State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- University of Texas of the Permian Basin
- Texas Woman’s University
- West Texas A&M University
- Western New Mexico University

#### Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference
- Adams State University
- Black Hills State University
- Chadron State College
- Colorado Christian University
- Colorado Mesa University
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University-Pueblo
- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Fort Lewis College
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- New Mexico Highlands University
- Regis University (Colorado)
- South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- Western State Colorado University
- Westminster College (Utah)*

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### SOUTH REGION

#### Gulf South Conference
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Auburn University at Montgomery*
- Christian Brothers University
- Lee University
- Mississippi College
- University of Montevallo
- University of North Alabama
- Shorter University
- Union University
- Valdosta State University
- University of West Alabama
- University of West Florida
- University of West Georgia

#### Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
- Albany State University (Georgia)
- Benedict College
- Central State University
- Claflin University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Fort Valley State University
- Kentucky State University
- Lane College
- LeMoyne-Owen College
- Miles College
- Paine College
- Spring Hill College*
- Tuskegee University

#### Sunshine State Conference
- Barry University
- Eckerd College
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida)
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida Southern College
- Lynn University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Rollins College
- Saint Leo University
- University of Tampa

#### Independent
- University of Puerto Rico, Bayamon
- University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
- University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

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### SOUTHEAST REGION

#### Conference Carolinas
- Barton College
- Belmont Abbey College
- Converse College
- Emmanuel College (Georgia)*
- Erskine College
- King University
- Lees-McRae College
- Limestone College
- University of Mount Olive
- North Greenville University
- Southern Wesleyan University

#### Peach Belt Conference
- Augusta University
- Flagler College
- Georgia College
- Francis Marion University
- Lander University
- University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- University of South Carolina Aiken

#### South Atlantic Conference
- Anderson University (South Carolina)
- Carson-Newman University
- Catawba College
- Coker College
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Mars Hill University
- Newberry College
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Tusculum College
- Wingate University

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## WEST REGION

**California Collegiate Athletic Association**  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
California State University, Chico  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Los Angeles  
California State University, Monterey Bay  
California State University, San Bernardino  
California State University, San Marcos  
California State University, Stanislaus  
University of California, San Diego  
Humboldt State University  
San Francisco State University  
Sonoma State University

**Great Northwest Athletic Conference**  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Central Washington University  
Concordia University Portland  
Montana State University Billings  
Northwest Nazarene University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Simon Fraser University  
Saint Martin’s University  
Western Oregon University  
Western Washington University

**Pacific West Conference**  
Academy of Art University  
Azusa Pacific University  
Biola University*  
California Baptist University  
Chaminade University  
Concordia University Irvine  
Dixie State University  
Dominican University of California  
Fresno Pacific University  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
Hawaii Pacific University  
Holy Names University  
Notre Dame de Namur University  
Point Loma Nazarene University

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