SPORT CODES

NJCAA HANDBOOK

2026-27

SPORT CODES

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NJCAA Sport Codes – General

Section 1. General Sport Codes are applied to all NJCAA sport codes

Section 2. Tournament Site Selection

A. The NJCAA National Office will announce when bids are open for the current cycle of awarding sites to host NJCAA Championships.
B. The NJCAA National Office shall place all bids before the Committee on Championship Events.

Section 3. All-American Nomination Guidelines

See procedure listed in the All-American Awards section of the NJCAA Handbook & Casebook.

- All-America selections and seeding determinations shall be made by the members on the sport committee.
- Additional district representatives poll voters are not permitted to participate during the All-America call.
- A member of the NJCAA National Office will be present during each All-America call to assist with any questions regarding the All-America selection process.
- All-America timelines (nomination window, call date(s), release dates) shall be determined by the NJCAA National Office and shared with the sport committee no later than two weeks prior to the release of the regular season poll.
- The NJCAA National Office will provide the sport committee with an All-America report detailing all nominations.
- Statistics from games against non-member programs will not be considered for post-season awards. NJCAA will work with Ardor to exclude these stats from All-Region and All-American nominations.
- The Sport Committee shall confirm a date and time for the All-America call with the NJCAA National Office no later than two weeks prior to the district competition deadline.
- Coaches Associations
    - Coaches Association representatives are not given a designated vote during the All-America call.
    - Coaches Association representatives are permitted to participate during the All-America call to provide input and insight from the Coaches Association's perspective.
    - If a Coaches Association representative participates during the All-America call, the representative will be excused from the call prior to the actual voting process.
        - *Note: Coaches Association representative is defined as a recognized officer of the NJCAA Coaches Association. Recognized officers include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Divisional Representative.*

Section 4. Substance Abuse

The use of all tobacco products by any coach, player, official or other individual involved in the conducting of any NJCAA sponsored regular season or postseason play is prohibited within the confines of the playing area. Any individual not in compliance shall be disqualified from further participation in that contest and would need to sit out a minimum of the next scheduled game to comply with the NJCAA Sportsmanship Policy. During the post-season, the name of the individual will also be forwarded to the Standard and Ethics committee.

Section 5. Sports Gambling

NJCAA does not encourage or support sports gambling of any kind and supports the NCAA stance on Sports Gambling. NCAA rules ban participation in sports betting activities and prohibit providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports betting activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition. In other words, if you are a student-athlete, coach or athletics staff member, regardless of sport or division, you are not allowed to bet or provide any useful information that can influence a bet in any sport the NCAA sponsors at any level.

Section 6. Open Wound Policy

Current NCAA rules and procedures regarding open wounds and bleeding shall be adhered to.

Section 7. Tournament Lodging

Should the Tournament Host/National Office choose to assign lodging for this event, all participating colleges must honor that assignment or pay for those rooms.

Section 8. Code of Conduct/Sportsmanship Expectations.

All coaches, athletes and support personnel are expected to be familiar with and follow the NJCAA Code of Conduct. This code may be found in the NJCAA Handbook. All Sportsmanship expectations and guidelines are located in the Policy Manual section.

Section 9. Player of the Week

- Player of the Week nominations will be due at 12p.m. ET on Tuesday afternoons and released publicly on Wednesday.
- Statistics from Tuesday to Monday of the previous week and games only played against NJCAA opponents will be used when selecting Player of the Week.
- To be considered for NJCAA Player of the Week honors, all statistics from the previous week must be entered into the NJCAA Stat System by 2 p.m. ET each Monday.

Section 10. Dress Decorum National Championship Finals

A. Men's and Women's Basketball & Men's and Women's Volleyball

Match attire for all bench personnel other than uniformed players is sports business casual. This would not include jeans, shorts, cotton or fleece sweats, t-shirts tank-tops, hats, and flip flops. All players must be in uniform and/or team warm-ups. When attending as a spectator, the recommendation for participating teams is appropriate attire and coaches should dress professionally.

Unless otherwise specified by the tournament host, when individuals are attending the banquet or other non-match or game related functions, all members of the travel party should dress in sports business casual. T-shirts, jeans, hats, shorts, or flip-flops will no be permitted at those functions unless otherwise stated by the host or sports chair. Violations of dress decorum will be asked by the respective sports chair, NJCAA representative, or tournament director to comply with the stated dress decorum. Failure to comply will result in a letter of reprimand being sent to the Athletic Director and College President as well as to the NJCAA office and chair of the Tiered Sanctions committee for possible future sanctions or penalty.

B. All other sports

Attire for all team personnel (coaches, athletic trainers, managers, administrators) at any other NJCAA championship is expected to be professional with regards to the individual specific sport, and is in large part determined by the weather and location While some sports like baseball, might have very specific requirements for participants and coaches, others might be more lenient and be determined in part by temperature, precipitation, wind, and time of day for the event. In those situations, clothing such as shorts, hats, visors, jackets, and multiple layers of clothing might be appropriate.

C. All the above is the expectation for all National Tournaments and is recommended for all levels of the post-season.

Section 11. NJCAA District Championships

In District tournaments involving two or more regions, the following policy will be in place:
In the event a District tournament does not start or cannot be completed, the NJCAA Sport Committee for the impacted sport/division will be called upon to select the district representative. Protocol in place for selecting at-large teams should be used to assist in the selection. In situations where the district never started, only eligible participants of the District Tournament will be considered for the bid to the National Tournament. If a qualifying team for the District Tournament cannot participate due to extenuating circumstances, they are not eligible for the automatic tournament bid. In cases where the event has started, but cannot be completed, the committee will consider only those schools that were still alive in the District Tournament at the point of interruption. In sports where at-large bids are given, all teams remain eligible to be selected.

In cases where the District tournament is also the Regional tournament, it will be the responsibility of the Region to have a policy in place prior to the start of the regular season. If disputes arise, the NJCAA Vice-President overseeing Championships and Sports, along with the Chair of Championship & Alignment Committee, and the respective Sports Chair and Committee, will make the final decision.

Section 12. NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process

Sport Committees

Each standing sport committee will consist of members of the committee, chosen by the Men's Senior Administrator, Women's Senior Administrator, and Vice Chair of the Board of Regents, with guidance from the NJCAAA National Office and final approval from the Chair of the Board of Regents.

Sport Committee Duties (if applicable):

- Rankings
- Preseason
- Regular Season
- Postseason

- National Tournament At-Large Selection
- National Tournament Seeding
- All-America and Postseason Award Selection
- Sport Governance Oversight and Maintenance of Sport Codes

Rankings Process

The NJCAA National Office facilitates and releases preseason and weekly regular season rankings for the following sports: Baseball, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Football, Men's Lacrosse, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball. The NJCAA will release polls conducted by Men's and Women's XC and Golf.

Preseason Polls

- Each poll voter shall submit their votes via Ardor by 1:00 PM ET on the day the preseason poll is released.
- The highest and lowest votes (two total) for each team will be omitted from the preseason poll.
- Preseason polls shall be released by the National Office on Monday prior to the first permitted date of competition.

Regular Season Polls

- Poll voters shall receive a weekly poll report from the NJCAA National Office each Sunday evening containing the following information on each team in that sport/division:
  - Previous rank
  - Region
  - Results since last poll (win, loss, tie, winning %)
  - Results of previous week's games for all ranked and receiving votes teams
  - Overall record (win, loss, tie, winning %)
  - Streak
  - Record of last 10 games
  - Conference record (win, loss, tie, winning %)
  - Region record (win, loss, tie, winning %)
- Each poll voter shall submit their votes via the Ardor each Monday. Voting portals shall open at 8:00 AM ET and all votes are due by 1:00 PM ET.
  - *Note: If Monday is a federal holiday, votes shall be due at 1:00 PM ET on Tuesday.*
- Number of Teams in Poll
  - Baseball
    - Division I – 25
    - Division II – 25
    - Division III – 15
  - Men's & Women's Basketball
    - Division I – 25
    - Division II – 25
    - Division III – 15

- Football
  - Division I – 15
  - Division III – 5
- Lacrosse
  - Men's – 5
- Men's & Women's Soccer
  - Division I – 20
  - Division II – 20
  - Division III – 10
- Softball
  - Division I – 25
  - Division II – 25
  - Division III – 10
- Volleyball
  - Division I – 20
  - Division II – 25
  - Division III – 15
  - Men's – 10

- The highest and lowest vote (two total) for each team will be omitted from each regular season poll. A no vote is considered the lowest vote. If the highest vote is a 1st place vote, it will still be included in receiving votes but not in the total points.
- Committees may schedule a weekly poll call, if desired, to discuss the week's results, but each poll voter is required to submit their individual votes via Ardor.
  - If a poll voter does not meet the voting deadline, the NJCAA National Office will manually enter the average point totals assigned to each ranked team by other committee members.
- If a poll voter opts to reassign their vote to someone else:
  - Must be vetted/recommended by the region and approved by the Sport Chair and the NJCAA Championship and Sports and External Affairs Divisions no later than two weeks prior to the release of preseason polls.
  - The substitute must be from within the representative's region
- Receiving Votes Teams
  - Any teams that receive votes in Ardor but do not make the number of teams included in the poll shall be listed as receiving votes on the NJCAA website.
  - Committees are not permitted to pre-select receiving votes teams.
  - Receiving votes teams shall be listed from highest to lowest in order of total number of votes received.
- In the event of a tie for the No. 1 position in the poll, the number of overall first place votes from the poll voters will be used to break the tie.
- Ranking and Seeding: Any games played against non-member programs (club, JV, and Prep) except for NJCAA approved military programs, NWAC, or California Junior Colleges, will not be included in the rankings, seeding, or at-large considerations. The NJCAA plans to work with Ardor to ensure that those non-member games are removed from seeding reports for committees.

<u>Poll Committees</u>
Poll committees shall be made up of the members of the sport committee.

District Representative Voters
- Each sport committee may add additional poll voters to ensure full District representation in the regular season poll for any District that is not represented by a member of the sport committee.
- Additional poll voters will be selected by the Sport Chair.
  - NJCAA National Office will assist in sourcing additional poll voters via recommendations from the Committee, Coaches Association, Region Leadership, and/or online nomination process.
  - NJCAA National Office will send an initial communication to the Sport Chair no later than six weeks prior to the regular season poll being released. Sport Chair and/or Committee shall decide if they will add additional poll voters no later than one month prior to the regular season poll call being released.
- Additional poll voters shall only vote on preseason and regular season polls. Additional poll voters are not permitted to vote on at-large selection or seeding calls, All-America selection, or postseason polls.
- Additional poll voters shall be permitted to participate during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call to provide input and insight from their district but will leave the call after providing their update.
- Additional poll voters may be coaches, sport information directors, or administrators and DO NOT have to be Region Directors or Assistant Region Directors.

Coaches Associations
- Coaches Association representatives are not given a designated vote during preseason, regular season, and/or postseason poll calls.
- Coaches Association representatives are permitted to participate during preseason, regular season, and/or postseason poll calls to provide input and insight from the Coaches Association's perspective.
- If a Coaches Association representative will be participating during preseason, regular season, and/or postseason poll calls, the Coaches Association president must notify the NJCAA National Office and the Sport Chair prior to the release of the preseason poll.
  - *Note: Coaches Association representative is defined as a recognized officer of the NJCAA Coaches Association. Recognized officers include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Divisional Representative.*

Poll Voting Criteria

- Overall body of work
- Record since last poll
- Last 10 games
- Record vs. District
- Record vs. DI, DII, and DIII opponents

Poll Voter Transparency

- Individual votes of poll voters shall be shared internally with each respective committee each Tuesday following the release of the poll.
- The NJCAA National Office will provide each poll voter with a document showing the overall point totals received by each team as well as how the members of the poll voting committee voted. Individual committee member votes shall be listed by Voter 1, 2, 3, etc. rather than by name.
- Poll votes shall remain confidential within the committee and shall not be shared externally by a member of the poll voting committee or the NJCAA National Office.
- Poll votes are shared internally with the poll voting committee to serve as a mechanism for thoughtful discussion and accountability within the committee.

Post-Season: NJCAA Sport Committee members who have a team in the tournament or an at-large team under consideration will be allowed to remain on the call and participate in selections and the seedings. District representative poll voters, not on the actual sport committee, shall be allowed to participate to provide input and insight during the process but will leave the call prior to actual votes taking place.

Massey Ratings

The NJCAA National Office has gone through a vetting process with Massey Ratings and for the 2026-2027 academic year, the Massey Ratings system may be used as a tool for sport committees in football, men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, women's volleyball, men's soccer, and women's soccer when preparing weekly rankings, national championship seeding, and at-large selections.

National Tournament At-Large Selection & Seeding Calls

National tournament at-large selections and seeding determinations shall be made by the members on the sport committee.

District Representative Voters

- District representative poll voters shall be permitted to participate during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call to provide input and insight from their district but will leave the call prior to voting taking place.

Logistics

- A member of the NJCAA National Office will be present during each national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call to assist with any questions regarding the at-large selection or seeding process. This includes "preliminary" calls that take place the day or night before the final call.
- All national tournaments at-large selection and/or seeding calls shall be held no later than one day following the district competition deadline.
- The NJCAA National Office will provide the sport committee with an at-large report (if applicable) and a seeding report prior to the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call. These reports should be used as a tool when selecting the at-large teams and determining national tournament seeding.
- The NJCAA National Office will send national tournament at-large nomination forms to the membership no later than two weeks prior to the district deadline. Any team wishing to be considered for an at-large selection to the national tournament must complete the at-large nomination form.
- The Sport Committee shall confirm a date and time for the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call with the NJCAA National Office no later than one month prior to the district competition deadline.

Coaches Associations

- Coaches Association representatives are not given a designated vote during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding calls.
- Coaches Association representatives are permitted to participate during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call to provide input and insight from the Coaches Association's perspective.
- If a Coaches Association representative will be participating during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call, the Coaches Association president must notify the NJCAA National Office and the Sport Chair no later than the official start date of the regular season.
- If a Coaches Association representative participates during the national tournament at-large selection and/or seeding call, the representative will be excused from the call prior to the actual seeding process.

Note: The Coaches Association representative is defined as a recognized officer of the NJCAA Coaches Association. Recognized officers include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Divisional Representative.

National Tournament Bracket Release

- The NJCAA National Office shall announce the at-large selections (if applicable) and national tournament seeding no later than one day following the sport committee's seeding call.
- The sport committee is not permitted to share any information with any external parties regarding the outcome of the at-large selection and/or national tournament seeding.
- Following the national tournament at-large selection call, the NJCAA National Office will notify the athletic director of all at-large teams of their selection and share full tournament seeding information with the host.

Section 13. NJCAA Ball Licensing Program

This program was implemented to promote a level playing field by assuring consistency across licensed vendors and ensuring brand compliance with the identification of inflated and non-inflated balls used in sanctioned NJCAA competitions. The ball licensing program is similar to programs and licensing followed by the NCAA and NFHS.

The NJCAA and its official licensing partner, Affinity Licensing, notified all major ball companies prior to the beginning of the program of the standard criteria to be approved as a game ball. All such balls that will be approved for competition and are required to display one of the approved NJCAA marks to be used by member colleges in sanctioned NJCAA competitions. NJCAA official ball partners can use the NJCAA logo and all other approved balls from manufacturers will display a stamp with the text shown below.

The presence of the mark on balls used in sanctioned NJCAA competitions will clearly demonstrate to administrators, coaches, and officials that playing standards are being upheld. All game balls used in NJCAA competition must display one of the NJCAA marks above, which confirms the ball has been approved and meets the criteria of the licensing process for use in NJCAA play. To find all currently licensed NJCAA ball manufacturers, click here.

NJCAA region leadership and all game officials were notified of the game ball criteria prior to the implementation of the program. Any team that provides and uses a non-licensed game ball in NJCAA competition will be issued a $250 fine per offense for the first two violations. Beginning with the third violation, each game with the use of a non-licensed ball will result in a forfeit for the home team.

The NJCAA strongly encourages member colleges to ask ball manufacturers or any dealer you order from before making a purchase if the balls follow the guidelines of the NJCAA ball licensing program. Any sporting goods dealers should confirm that the game ball has NJCAA approval marks on the ball. All NJCAA Official Ball Partners are currently approved and follow the NJCAA ball licensing guidelines and can be found below:

- Diamond - Official Baseball
- Rawlings - Official Softball
- Molten - Official Volleyball
- Select - Official Soccer Ball
- Spalding - Official Basketball
- Team Issue - Official Football
- Wilson - Official Tennis

1. BASEBALL – DIVISION I

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Division I Baseball Committee and the Tournament Host. Future dates:

May 29-June 4/5, 2027- Sam Suplizio Field; Grand Junction, CO
May 27-June 2/3, 2028 - Sam Suplizio Field; Grand Junction, CO
May 26-June 2, 2029 – Sam Suplizio Field; Grand Junction, CO

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedule and other pertinent information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 10 districts:

2027 NJCAA DI BASEBALL DISTRICTS									
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Appalachian	7, 17	Mid-Atlantic	10, 20	Mid-South	14	Midwest	4, 11, 24	Plains	6
South	22, 23	South Atlantic	8	South Central	2, 16	Southwest	5	West	1, 9, 18

B. The NJCAA DI Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding.
   1. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 24,2027
   2. Only games played against NJCAA, NWAC, or CCCAA programs will be considered using the following criteria (in no order):
      i. Record vs. Division I NJCAA teams
      ii. Record vs. Division I top 20 teams
      iii. Overall record vs Division II & Division III
      iv. National Poll
      v. Overall record on the road, at a neutral site, at home Strength of Region/District in National Tournament
C. In the event there is a vacancy in the tournament bracket, the runner-up in the district of the vacancy will be the alternate team.
   1. If the runner-up from a district of the vacancy is unable to attend the Division I Baseball Committee will be responsible for selecting an alternate team from one of the other district runners-up.
D. Districts will conduct double elimination tournaments to qualify teams for the National Tournament.
E. The scheduled first game of each District Tournament must be no later than the Saturday preceding the NJCAA Tournament. All District Tournaments must be completed no later than midnight on the Sunday prior to the start of the NJCAA Tournament (May 23, 2027).

Section 4. Tournament Rules and Officials

A. The tournament shall be conducted as a ten-team double elimination tournament.
B. NCAA Baseball rules shall be used in all NJCAA Division I tournament games, including district play, with the following exceptions:
   1. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 40 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
   2. All games are scheduled for nine innings.
   3. The 10-run rule shall be in effect after five complete innings.
   4. The eight-run rule shall be in effect after seven complete innings.
   5. The Championship Game (or games) shall be played for the full nine innings regardless of the score.
   6. Any game delayed because of rain, power failure, etc., shall be resumed at the point of suspension and played a full nine innings unless terminated under Rule 3 or 4 above.
   7. In the event of unavoidable delays due to weather or other unforeseen causes, the Tournament Co-Chairmen and the NJCAA Representative reserves the right to re-schedule game times, schedule seven inning games, schedule a team(s) for two games in one day, or other arrangements as necessary. Coaches will be kept closely advised of any changes.
   8. At the World Series, in any game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team is undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. If both teams have a loss, then there will be a coin flip to determine the home team. In District play, the Districts shall determine how the home team is determined, however it is recommended that If it is a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip,
   9. Bat testing will be conducted by an NJCAA representative prior to the start of the National Tournament in accordance with the NCAA bat testing protocols. The process for bat testing at the National Tournament will be clearly spelled out in the pre-tournament information packet.
C. Diamond DI-PRO Low Seam Baseball is the official baseball of the NJCAA. Baseballs used in the NJCAA Baseball World Series shall be secured through the NJCAA National Office and shipped directly to the host.

D. Championship Bracket – The World Series bracket shall be a 10-team consolation –double elimination.
   1. Game times listed below:

2027 NJCAA DI BASEBALL WORLD SERIES SCHEDULE	
	DAY ONE
9:00 AM	Game 1- #4 vs. #7
12:00 PM	Game 2- #1 vs. #10
3:00 PM	Game 3- #2 vs. #9
7:30 PM	Game 4- #3 vs. #8
	DAY TWO
10:00 AM	Game 5- #5 vs. #6
2:00 PM	Game 6- L1 vs. L2
7:00 PM	Game 7- L3 vs. L4
	DAY THREE
9:00 AM	Game 8- W3 vs. W4
1:00 PM	Game 9- W6 vs. W7
6:00 PM	Game 10- W1 vs. W2
	DAY FOUR
10:00 AM	Game 11- L5 vs. L8
2:00 PM	Game 12- L10 vs. W9
7:00PM	Game 13- W8 vs. W5
	DAY FIVE
2:00 PM	Game 14- W11 vs. L13
7:00 PM	Game 15- W10 vs. W13
	DAY SIX
2:00 PM	Game 16- W14 vs. L15
7:00 PM	Game 17- W15 vs. W12
	DAY SEVEN and DAY EIGHT (if necessary)
7:00 PM	Championship | Game 18- W17 vs. W16

E. The NJCAA Division I Baseball Committee shall have jurisdiction over the technical aspects of the tournament and officials.
F. If a participating institution has a written policy against Sunday competition, the tournament schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team to play sooner than when it was originally scheduled. Notice of such written policy must be filed with the NJCAA National Office prior to September 1st, each academic year. Alternate brackets may be obtained from the NJCAA National Office.
G. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
H. No umpire will be allowed to work more than two consecutive years at the World Series. Each year a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out of the tournament. Whenever possible no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the district he is from

is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the Tournament Executive Committee (including the NJCAA Representative).

I. If there are three teams remaining at Game 18, the team with the most games played shall receive a bye to Game 19. If there is a tie for the most games played, the team that won the head-to-head matchup in the tournament shall receive a bye to Game 19. If the tie is still not able to be broken, the higher seed shall advance to Game 19

J. Video Review will be allowable during the DI Baseball post-season and the NJCAA World Series in accordance with NCAA rules.

Section 5. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own expenses and shall be reimbursed for travel on a prorated basis of total miles traveled by participating teams with the money available.

B. Per DIEM expenses for meals and lodging shall be paid based on a total of not more than 37 players, coaches, etc. representing each team. Per DIEM expenses begin on the first day of scheduled tournament games and runs through the day the team is eliminated from the tournament.

Section 6. Miscellaneous Procedures

A. Only scheduled seven or nine inning games may be used in figuring team, individual statistics, and overall record. Official games that have been shortened as the result of weather conditions or time restraints may also be included.

B. Each team will be allowed 56 games in the spring and a combination of 14 scrimmage dates in the fall/spring

C. Regions and Conferences may choose to have a 10-run rule after 5 innings and an 8-run rule after 7 innings.

D. A visible pitch clock will not be required.

Section 7. NJCAA DI Baseball Poll

A. The NJCAA DI Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria

1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates Jan. 19^, Feb. 22, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, Apr. 13**, Apr. 19, Apr. 26, May 3, May 10

^Preseason poll

*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday

**Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention

BASEBALL - DIVISION II

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Division II Baseball Committee and the Tournament Host.

Future Dates:

May 29- June 4/5, 2027 – David Allen Memorial Ballpark; Enid, OK
May 27- June 2/3, 2028 – David Allen Memorial Ballpark; Enid, OK
May 26-June 2, 2029 – David Allen Memorial Ballpark; Enid, OK

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time, schedules, and other pertinent information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 10 districts with 2 At-Large:

2027 NJCAA DII BASEBALL DISTRICTS									
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	16, 24	East	3, 15, 19, 21	Great Lakes	12	Gulf	23	Mid-Atlantic	20
Midwest	4	North Plains	11, 13	South	8, 22	South Atlantic	10	West	1, 2

B. The NJCAA Division II Baseball Committee has complete jurisdiction over the selection and invitation of teams who are to compete.
C. In the event there is a vacancy in the tournament bracket, the runner-up in the district of the vacancy will be the alternate team. The DII Baseball committee will be responsible for selecting the replacement if the runner-up is unable to fill the vacancy.
D. The Division II Baseball Committee, in coordination with the Vice-President of Championships and Sport Governance reserves the right to adjust the district qualification procedures using current declaration numbers. The adjustments must be published no later than November 15th annually. Specific group and district playoff procedures are the responsibility of the respective Region Directors and must be published by December 15th annually.
E. Districts will conduct double-elimination tournaments to qualify teams for the National Tournament.
F. The scheduled first game of each District Tournament must be no later than the Saturday preceding the NJCAA World Series. All District Tournaments must be completed no later than midnight on the Sunday prior to the start of the NJCAA Tournament (May 23, 2027).

Section 4. Tournament Rules and Officials

A. The tournament shall be conducted as a 12-team double elimination tournament.
B. NCAA baseball rules shall be used in all tournament games, including district play, with the following exceptions:
   1. The NJCAA DII Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 24, 2027. Seeding criteria will include National Poll, overall record, emphasis on record last 1/3 of the season, strength of schedule, quality of wins and losses vs ranked foes and other teams qualifying for DII World Series, and history and results of participating school and district.
   2. **At-Large Bids:** The 12-team World Series will be made up of 10 Districts and 2 At-Large bids. The criteria for selecting the At-Large bids will be emphasis on record the last 1/3 of the season, strength of schedule, quality of wins and losses vs. ranked foes and other teams qualifying for the DII World Series, and history and results of participating school in series and district. **(Seeding will take place the day after (May 24) the conclusion of the post-season)**
   3. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 40 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
   4. The 10-run rule shall be in effect after five complete innings; all games must be scheduled for nine-innings.
   5. The eight-run rule shall be in effect after seven complete innings.
   6. The Championship Game (or games) shall be played for a full nine innings regardless of the score.
   7. Any game delayed because of rain, power failure, etc., shall be resumed at the point of suspension and played a full nine innings unless terminated under rule 4 or 5 above.
   8. At the World Series, in any pool play game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team is undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. If both teams have a loss, then there will be a coin flip to determine the home team.
   9. In District play, the districts shall determine how the home team is determined, however it is recommended that If it is a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip.
   10. Bat testing will be conducted by an NJCAA representative prior to the start of the National Tournament in accordance with the NCAA Bat Testing Protocols.
   11. PROTESTS: No protests will be tolerated on judgment calls. Rule interpretation protests will be decided immediately by the Tournament Director, the NJCAA Representative and the Supervisor of Officials. The game shall then proceed immediately.
   12. In the event of unavoidable delays due to weather or other unforeseen causes, the Tournament Director, the DII Sport Chair, and the on-sight NJCAA Representative, reserves the right to re-schedule game times, schedule seven inning games, schedule a team(s) for two games in one day, or other arrangements as necessary.
C. Diamond DI-PRO Low Seam baseball is the official baseball of the NJCAA. Baseballs used in the NJCAA Baseball Tournament shall be secured through the NJCAA National Office and shipped directly to the host.

D. Championship Bracket – The World Series Bracket shall be a 12-team tournament consisting of two 6-team double elimination brackets with the winners of each bracket playing one national championship game.
   1. Game times listed below:

2027 NJCAA DII BASEBALL WORLD SERIES SCHEDULE	
	SATURDAY - DAY ONE
10:00 AM	Game 1- #7 vs #10
1:00 PM	Game 2 - #6 vs #11
4:00 PM	Game 3 - #8 vs #9
7:00 PM	Game 4 - #5 vs #12
	SUNDAY - DAY TWO
10:00 AM	Game 5 – #3 vs. W2
1:00 PM	Game 6 - #2 vs. W1
4:00 PM	Game 7- #4 vs. W4
7:00 PM	Game 8 - #1 vs. W3
	MONDAY - DAY THREE
10:00 AM	Game 9 – L2 vs. L6
1:00 PM	Game 10 – L1 vs. L5
4:00 PM	Game 11 – L4 vs. L8
7:00 PM	Game 12 – L3 vs. L7
	TUESDAY - DAY FOUR
10:00 AM	Game 13 – W9 vs. W10
1:00 PM	Game 14 – W11 vs. W12
4:00 PM	Game 15 – W5 vs. W6
7:00 PM	Game 16 – W7 vs. W8
	WEDNESDAY - DAY FIVE
3:00 PM	Game 17 - W13 vs. L15
7:00 PM	Game 18 - W14 vs. L16
	THURSDAY – DAY SIX
3:00 PM	Game 19 – W15 vs. W17
7:00 PM	Game 20 – W16 vs. W18
	FRIDAY – DAY SEVEN*
3:00 PM	Game 21 - TBD
7:00 PM	Game 22 – TBD

	SATURDAY – DAY EIGHT (IF NECESSARY)
7:00 PM	Game 23 - TBD

***If a one-loss team wins either bracket's semifinal, those teams will play again on Friday. If there is one game, it will be at 7 p.m. If there are two games, they will be at 3 and 7 p.m. If there are two undefeated teams after the semifinals, the winner-take-all championship game is Friday at 7 p.m. If an if-necessary game is played on Friday in either bracket final, the winner-take-all championship game will be played at 7 p.m. on Saturday.**

E. If a participating institution has a written policy against Sunday competition, the tournament schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution and such adjustment shall not require its team to play sooner than when it was originally scheduled. Notice of such written policy must be filed with the NJCAA National Office prior to September 1, each academic year. Alternate brackets can be obtained from the NJCAA National Office.

F. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

G. No umpire will be allowed to work more than two consecutive years at the Division II Championship. Each year a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out of the tournament. Whenever possible, no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the district he is from is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the Tournament Executive Committee (including the NJCAA Representative).

H. All districts with inter-regional play and national tournament games shall be played with a minimum of three officials.

Section 5. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 6. Miscellaneous Procedures

A. Only scheduled seven or nine inning games may be used in figuring team, individual statistics and overall record. Official games that have been shortened as the result of weather conditions or time restraints may also be included.

B. During the regular season, conferences and regions are allowed to adopt a 10-run rule after 5 innings of play and an 8-run rule after 7 innings.

C. Teams are allowed to play 56 games in the Spring and up to 14 scrimmages in the fall and spring combined.

D. A visible pitch clock will not be required.

Section 7. NJCAA DII Baseball Poll

A. The NJCAA DII Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 11 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria
   a. Overall record
   b. Record since last poll
   c. Last 10 games
   d. Record vs. District opponents
   e. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Jan. 19^, Feb. 22, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, Apr. 13**, Apr. 19, Apr. 26, May 3, May 10
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention

Section 8. Bat Testing

A. Bat testing will be conducted in accordance with the NCAA Bat Testing Protocols as outlined in the NCAA Baseball Rule Book for all regular season, postseason, and scrimmage competitions.





NJCAA DIVISION I AND II SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL POSTSEASON MODEL

Effective Spring 2028

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Guiding Principles & Common Framework
3. Proposed Postseason Structure Overview
4. Softball Postseason Model
    - Timeline & Format
    - Automatic Qualifiers & At-Large Bids
5. Baseball Postseason Model
    - Timeline & Format
    - Automatic Qualifiers & At-Large Bids
6. Super Regional Hosting & Bid Requirements
7. Rankings & Postseason Seeding Protocols
8. Conclusion

Appendices

Appendix A – Softball Super Regional Schedule
Appendix B – Softball World Series Bracket Format
Appendix C – Baseball Super Regional Schedule
Appendix D – Baseball World Series Bracket Format

NJCAA Division I & II Softball and Baseball Postseason Model Proposal

Implementation: Spring 2028

Guiding Principles & Common Framework

- Improve the student-athlete postseason experience
- Align NJCAA championships with national best practices
- Ensure equitable geographic and regional representation
- Maintain fiscal and logistical responsibility
- Provide predictable timelines for host institutions

Postseason Structure

Regional / District → Super Regional → World Series

- 32 total teams
- 8 Super Regional sites
- 4 teams per site

Softball Postseason Model

Division I & II

- Regional completion: May 7, 2028

- Qualifier notification: May 8, 2028

- Bracket reveal: May 9, 2028

- Super Regionals: May 13–15, 2028 *See Appendix A for schedule

- World Series: Tuesday, May 23 – Saturday, May 27, 2028

- 4-team pods with best of 3 championship series (5 days) *See Appendix B for bracket

Automatic Qualifiers (AQs) & At-Large Bids

The Division 1 and Division 2 Softball Committees approved adjustments to the AQ system to support equitable representation across the country.

Automatic Qualifier Structure

Region Size	**New AQ Allocation**
1–2 teams	**Combine with another region**
3–12 teams	**1 automatic bid**
13+ teams	**2 automatic bids**

Regions with automatic qualifiers may be combined with regions that do not have automatic qualifiers based on geography.

Softball Regional Team Counts & AQ Distribution

Division I Softball Summary

- Total Teams: 140
- Total AQs: 18
- AQ Ratio: 13%
- At Large Bids: 14
- Total: 32

Division II Softball Summary

- Total Teams: 166
- Total AQs: 19
- AQ Ratio: 11%
- At Large Bids: 13
- Total: 32

Regional Breakdown: Team Counts & Auto Qualifiers Distribution

Division I & Division II Summary Table

Region	D1 Teams	D1 Bids	D2 Teams	D2 Bids
1	6	1	8	1
2	7	1	12	1
3	–	–	–	–
4	–	–	22	2
5	17	2	–	–
6	9	1	11	1
7	11	1	–	–
8	15	2	8	1
9	9	1	–	–
10	5	0.75	11	1
11	5	1	10	1
12	–	–	21	2
13	–	–	5	1
14	14	2	–	–
15	-	-		
16	8	1	4	1
17	6	1	–	–
18	5	1	–	–
19	–	–	7	1
20	1	0.25	14	2
21	–	–	–	–
22	9	0.75	10	1
23	1	0.25	16	2
24	12	1	7	1
Total	**140**	**18**	**166**	**19**

Notes:

- Division I: Regions **10 & 20** combine; Regions **22 & 23** combine
- Summary table will be evaluated on an annual basis

Baseball Postseason Model

Division I & II

- Regional completion: May 9, 2028

- Qualifier notification: May 10, 2028

- Bracket reveal: May 11, 2028

- Super Regionals: May 16–19, 2028 *See Appendix C for schedule

- World Series: Saturday, May 27 – Saturday, June 3, 2028

- 8-Team Double-Elimination Bracket *See Appendix D for bracket

Automatic Qualifiers (AQs) & At-Large Bids

The Division 1 and Division 2 Baseball Committees approved adjustments to the AQ system to support equitable representation across the country.

Automatic Qualifier Structure

Region Size	New AQ Allocation
1–2 teams	**Combine with another region**
3–12 teams	**1 automatic bid**
13+ teams	**2 automatic bids**

Regions with automatic qualifiers may be combined with regions that do not have automatic qualifiers based on geography.

Baseball Regional Team Counts & AQ Distribution

Division I Baseball Summary

- **Total Teams:** 155
- **Total AQs:** 20
- **AQ Ratio:** 13%
- **At Large Bids:** 12
- **Total:** 32

Division II Baseball Summary

- **Total Teams:** 163
- **Total AQs:** 20
- **AQ Ratio:** 12%
- **At Large Bids:** 12
- **Total:** 32

Regional Breakdown: Team Counts & Auto Qualifiers Distribution

Region	D1 Teams	D1 Bids	D2 Teams	D2 Bids
1	7	1	9	1
2	6	1	15	2
3	-	-	1	0.25
4	5	0.67	17	2
5	19	2	-	-
6	18	2	-	-
7	11	1	-	-
8	16	2	7	1
9	8	1	-	-
10	6	0.67	15	2
11	2	0.33	11	1
12	-	-	22	2
13	-	-	6	1
14	13	2	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
16	8	1	4	1
17	5	1	-	-
18	4	1	-	-
19	-	-	6	0.5
20	2	0.33	15	2
21	-	-	1	0.25
22	10	1	10	1
23	4	1	15	2
24	11	1	9	1
Total	**155**	**20**	**163**	**20**

Notes:

- Division I: Regions **4 & 11** combine; Regions **10 & 20** combine
- Division II: Regions **3 & 19 & 21** combine
- Summary table will be evaluated on an annual basis

Super Regional Hosting & Bid Requirements

-Super Regional sites will be geographically placed across the country with no more than two sites being awarded to one region

-All games will be broadcasted on the NJCAA Network

-Streaming capabilities (minimum one camera, score/inning display)

-Neutral broadcast standards when applicable

-Facility signage packages

-Staffing: Public Address individual, Scoreboard Operator, Live Stats/Official Scorer, Athletic Trainer, Security, Grounds Team, Concession (preferred), Onsite Administrator (cannot be directly affiliated with institution hosting)

-Umpire crews (3-person crews+ UIC)

-Field and facility standards must meet with NCAA postseason requirements

-Facilities with field tarps, artificial turf and lights will be given preference during bid process with build in consideration for average precipitation during the month of May

-Hotel room blocks for participating teams

Bid Hosting Timeline-

<u>Softball:</u>

Bid Document Available: October 15, 2027

Bid Document Submission Deadline: April 8, 2028

Host Sites Awarded: April 24, 2028

<u>Baseball:</u>

Bid Document Available: October 15, 2027

Bid Document Submission Deadline: April 15, 2028

Host Sites Awarded: May 1, 2028

DI & DII Baseball and Softball Regular Season Rankings & Post Season Seeding Protocols

1. Overall Body of Work

    a. Overall Record, only to include games vs. NJCAA, NWAC, CCCAA, and Military Preparatory Schools will be considered.

    b. Strength of Schedule

        i. Record vs. teams ranked in the poll in your division

        ii. Record vs. teams ranked in the poll outside your division

        iii. Record vs. region/conference opponents

        iv. Record against non-region/non-conference opponents

        v. Overall record on the road, at a neutral site, and at home

    c. Overall record for last 20 games to include post season competition

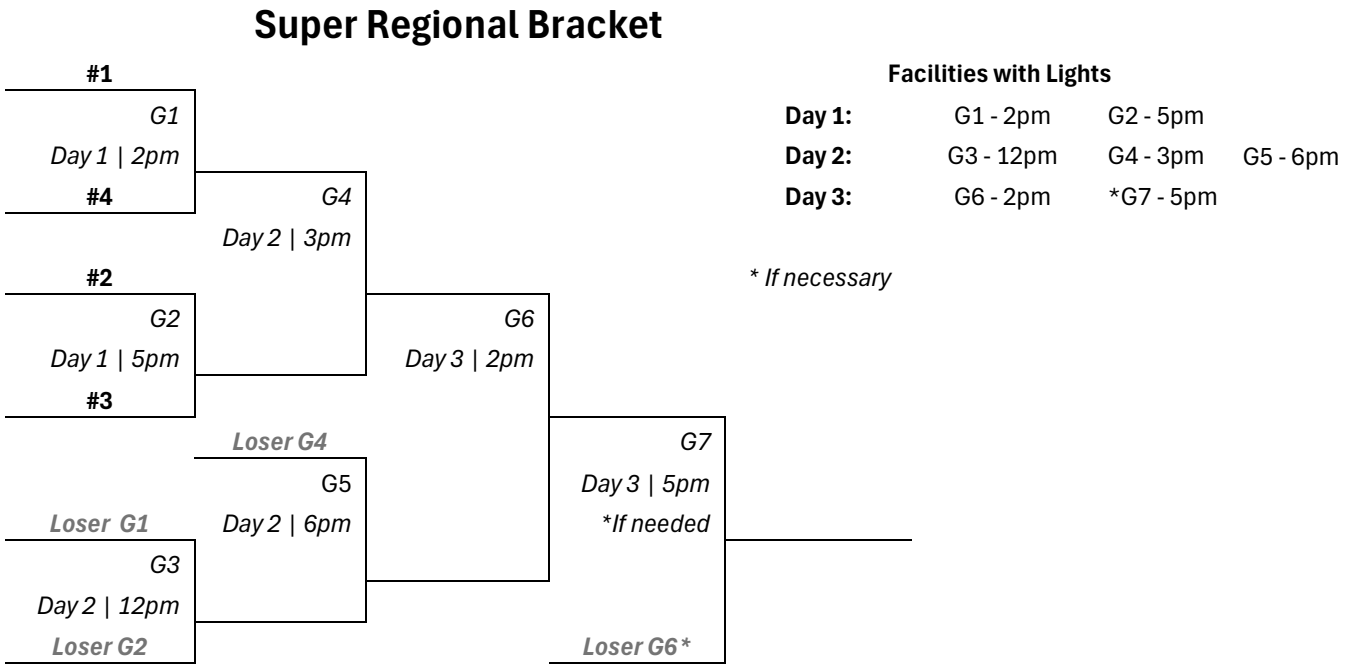
    d. Massey Ratings

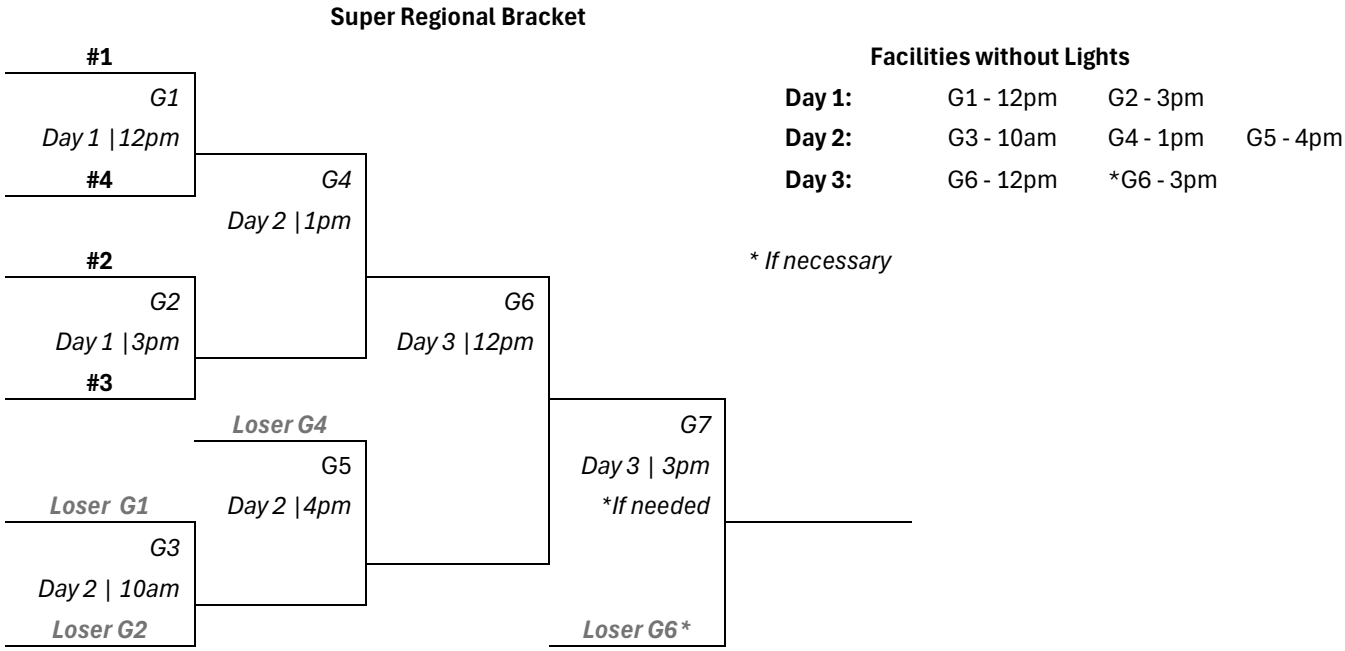
2. Strength of Region

    a. Historical success of region, district, team at the national tournament over the previous 3 seasons

Appendices

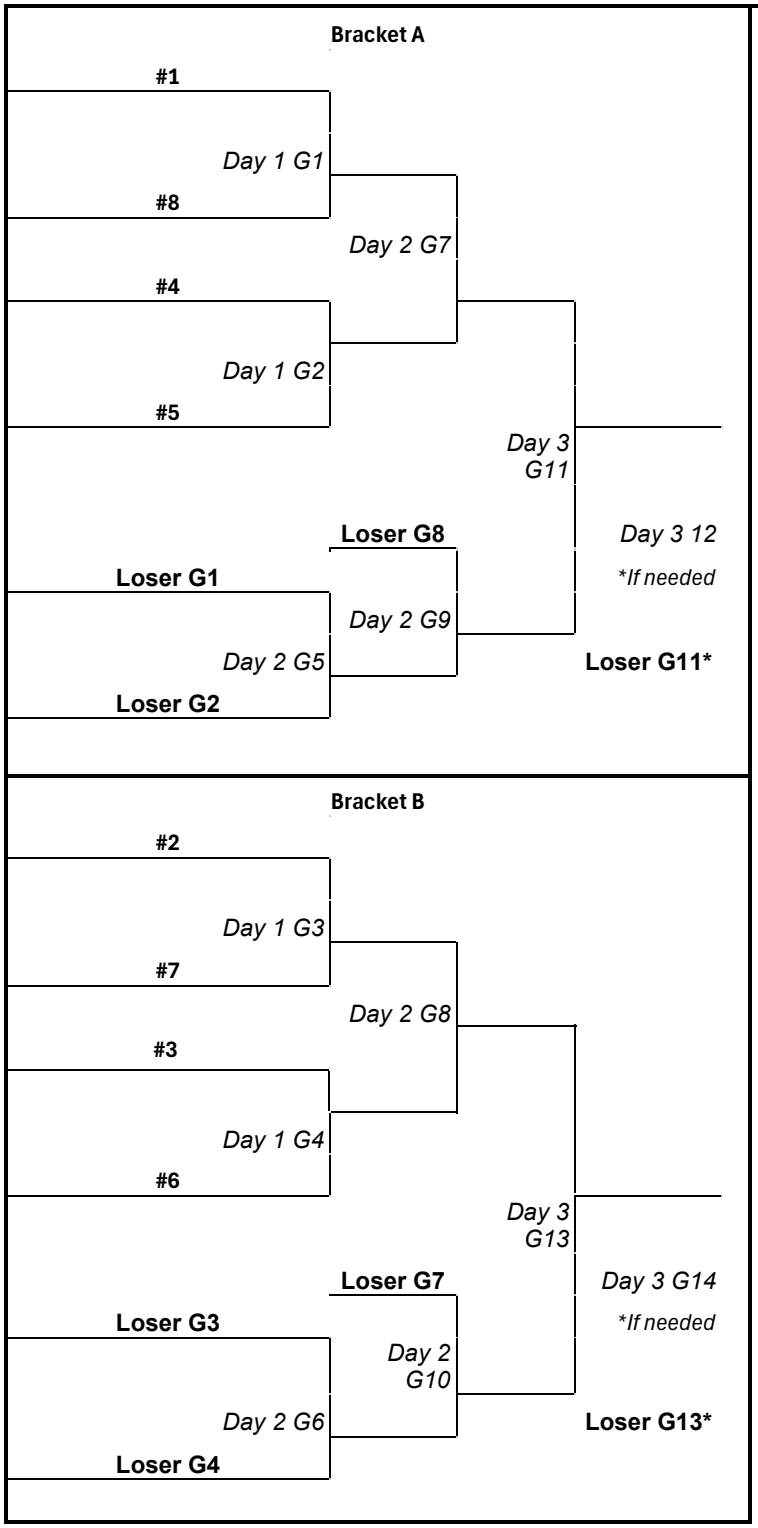
Appendix A – Softball Super Regional Schedule





Appendix B – Softball World Series Bracket Format

Two 4-Team Double Elimination Brackets



Option 1

Day 1: G1, G2, G3, G4

Day 2: G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10

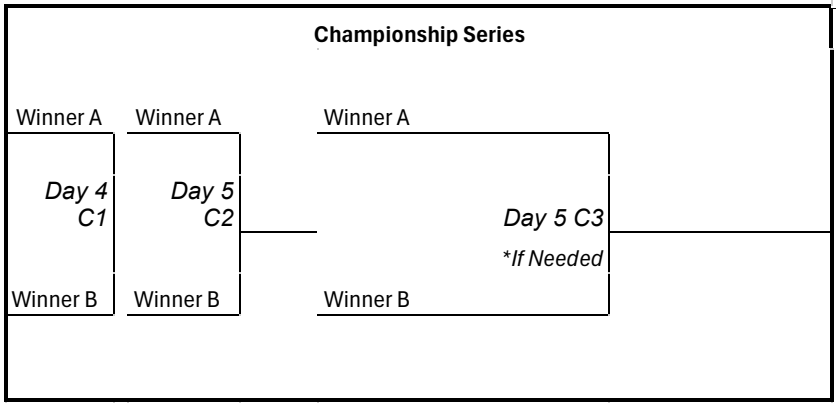
Day 3: G11, G12*, G13, G14*

Day 4: C1

Day 5: C2

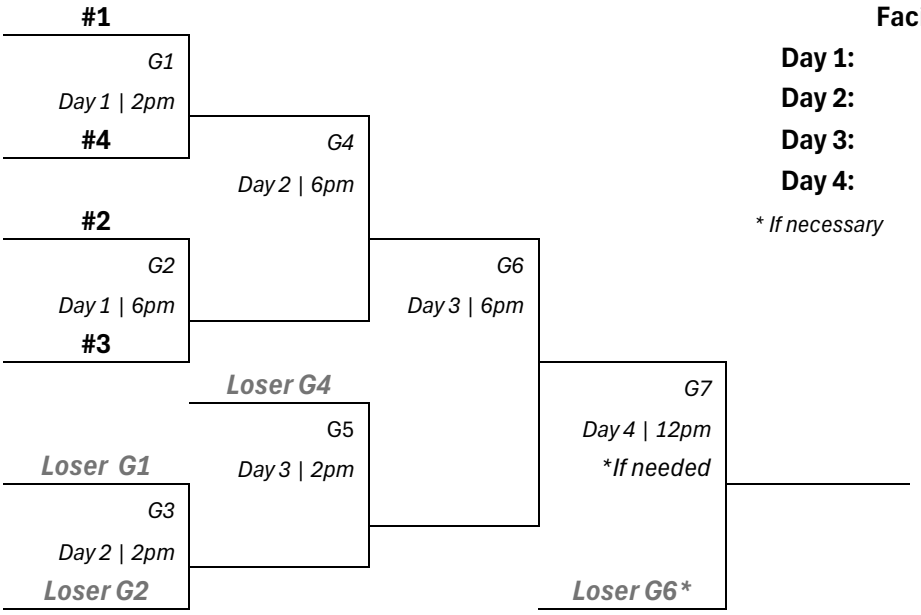
C3* If necessary

** If necessary*



Appendix C – Baseball Super Regional Schedule

Super Regional Bracket

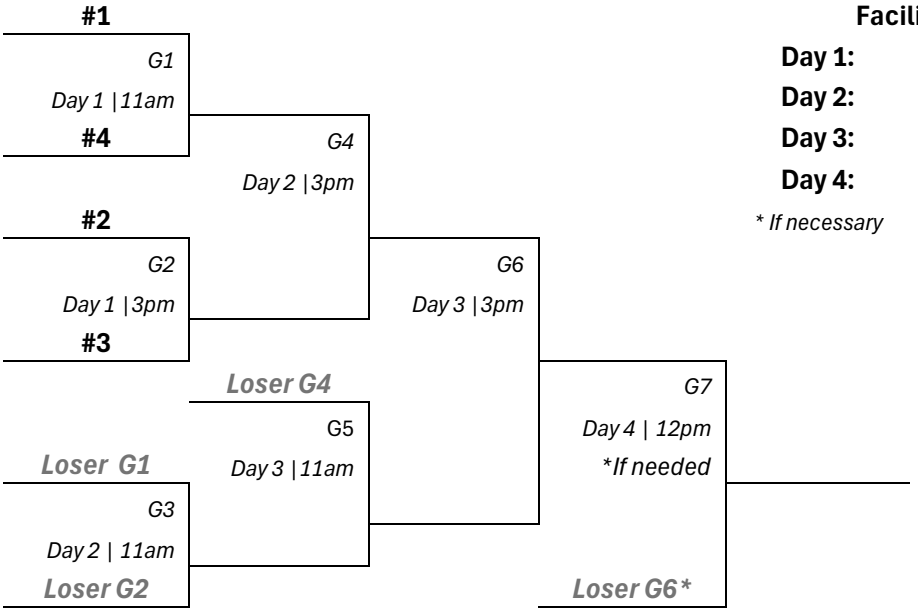


Facilities with Lights

Day 1:	G1 - 2pm	G2 - 6pm
Day 2:	G3 - 2pm	G4 - 6pm
Day 3:	G5 - 2pm	G6 - 6pm
Day 4:	*G7 - 12pm	

** If necessary*

Super Regional Bracket



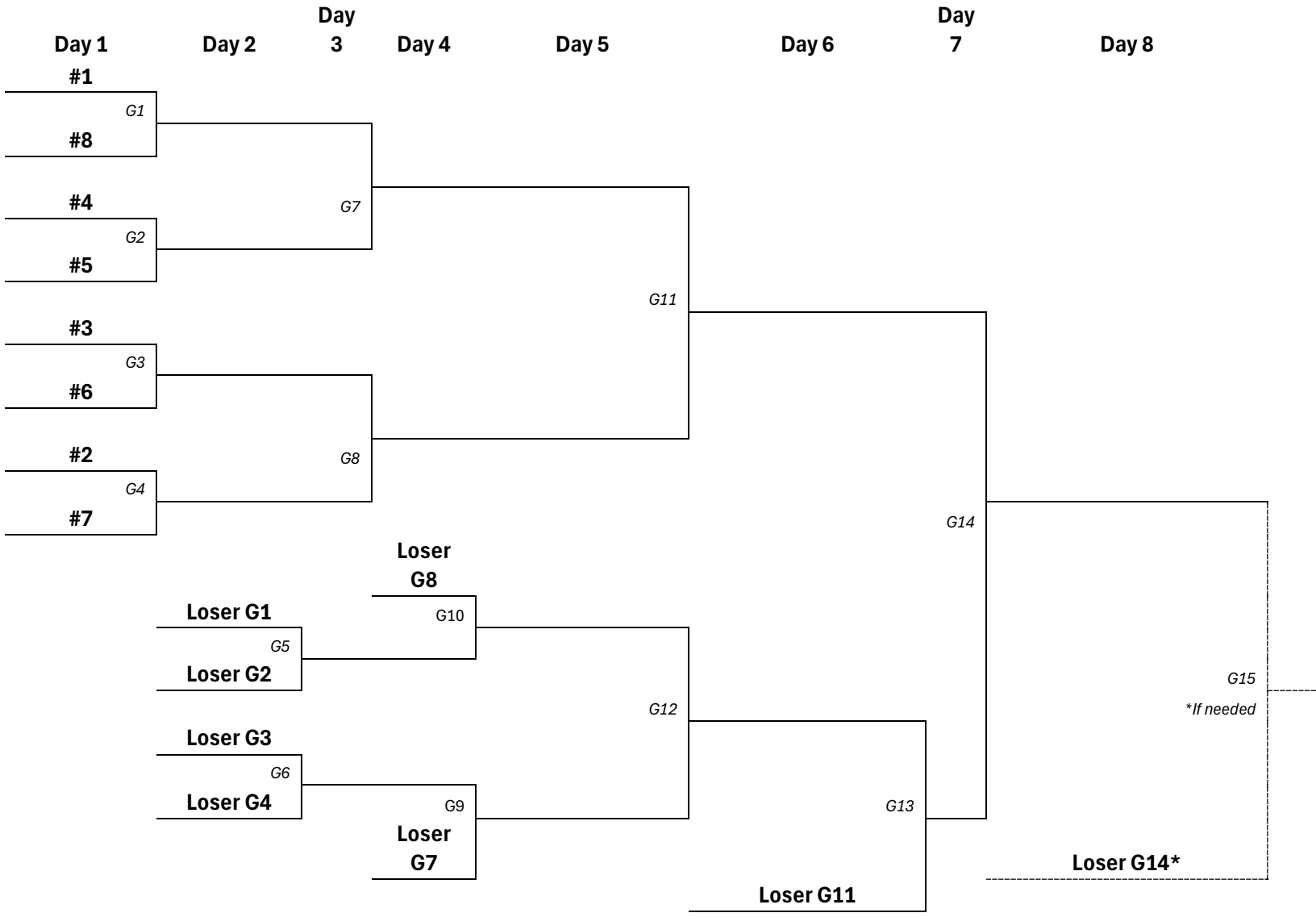
Facilities without Lights

Day 1:	G1 - 11am	G2 - 3pm
Day 2:	G3 - 11am	G4 - 3pm
Day 3:	G5 - 11am	G6 - 3pm
Day 4:	*G7 - 12pm	

** If necessary*

Appendix D – Baseball World Series Bracket Format

8-Team Double Elimination Bracket



Day 1: G 1-4
Day 2: G 5-6
Day 3: G 7-8
Day 4: G 9-10
Day 5: G 11-12
Day 6: G 13
Day 7: G 14
Day 8: G 15*

** If necessary*

3. BASEBALL – DIVISION III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Division III Baseball Committee and the Tournament Host. Future Dates:

May 29 - June 2/3, 2027 at Falcon Park; Auburn, NY
May 27 – 31/June 1, 2028 at TVA Credit Union Stadium; Johnson City, TN
May 26 – 30/31, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedules and other pertinent information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following seven districts with one At-Large:

2027 NJCAA DIII BASEBALL DISTRICTS									
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Great Lakes	4, 12	Mid-Atlantic	10	North	3	North Atlantic	19	Northeast	15, 21
North Plains	13	South Central	5						

B. All colleges must qualify in compliance with NJCAA bylaws.
C. In the event there is no representative from a district, that district's runner-up will be selected to fill the vacancy. If the runner-up is unable to participate, the committee will select an at-large team as a replacement.
D. Districts will conduct double-elimination tournaments to qualify teams for the National Tournament.
E. The scheduled first game of each District Tournament must be no later than the Saturday preceding the NJCAA World Series. All District Tournaments must be completed no later than midnight of the Sunday prior to the start of the NJCAA Tournament (May 23, 2027).
F. The NJCAA DIII Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection.
G. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 24, 2027.
H. One At-Large team will be selected to complete the field for the World Series. The criteria for selecting the At-Large team and conducting seeding, shall be based on the following (in no rank order):
- NJCAA Record vs. Common Opponent
- Head-to-Head
- Overall NJCAA Record
- Overall Record
- Strength of Schedule
- National Ranking (last three polls)
- Six-year World Series won/loss history for each District/At- Large representative
- Six-year individual college won/loss history

Section 4. Tournament Rules and Officials

A. The tournament shall be conducted as an eight-team double elimination tournament.
B. NCAA Baseball rules shall be used in all tournament games, including district play, with the following exceptions:
1. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 42 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
2. All games are scheduled for nine innings.
3. The 10-run rule shall be in effect after five complete innings.
4. The eight-run rule shall be in effect after seven complete innings.
5. The Championship Game (or games) shall be played for the full nine innings regardless of the score.
6. Any game delayed because of rain, power failure, etc., shall be resumed at the point of suspension and played a full nine innings unless terminated under rule 3 or 4 above.
7. At the World Series, in any game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team is undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. Up thru game 8, the highest seeded team will be the home team. From Game 9 on, it will follow the process above when one team is undefeated and have a coin flip in the other.
8. In District play, the districts shall determine how the home team is determined, however it is recommended that if it is a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip.
9. If a team is playing consecutive games on the same field, they may remain in the same dugout, regardless if they are the home team or the visiting team.
10. PROTESTS: No protests will be tolerated on judgment calls. Rule interpretation protests will be decided immediately by the Tournament Director, the NJCAA Representative and the Supervisor of Officials. The game shall then proceed immediately.
11. In the event of unavoidable delays due to weather or other unforeseen causes, the Tournament Host, NJCAA DIII Baseball Sports Chair, and the NJCAA Representative reserves the right to re-schedule game times, schedule seven inning games, schedule team(s) for two games in one day or other arrangements as necessary.
12. Bat testing will be conducted by an NJCAA representative prior to the start of the National Tournament in accordance with the NCAA bat testing protocols. The process for bat testing at the National Tournament will be clearly spelled out in the pre-tournament information packet.

C. Diamond DI-PRO Low Seam baseball is the official baseball of the NJCAA. Baseballs used in the NJCAA Baseball Championship Tournament shall be secured through the NJCAA National Office and shipped directly to the host.
D. If a participating institution has a written policy against Sunday competition, the tournament schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution, and such adjustment shall not require its team to play sooner than when it was originally scheduled. Notice of such written policy must be filed with the NJCAA National Office prior to September 1st, each academic year. Alternate brackets can be obtained from the NJCAA National Office.
E. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
F. Whenever possible, a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out annually from the World Series. Unless agreed upon by the NJCAA Representative, Supervisor of Umpires, and Tournament Director or their designee, no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the district he/she represents is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the NJCAA Representative, Supervisor of Umpires, and Tournament Director or their designee.
G. All Districts with interregional play and national tournament games shall be played with a minimum of three officials.

2027 NJCAA DIII BASEBALL WORLD SERIES SCHEDULE	
DAY ONE	
9:30 AM	Game 1 - #3 vs. #6
12:45 PM	Game 2 - #2 vs. #7
4:00 PM	Game 3 - #1 vs. #8
7:15 PM	Game 4 - #4 vs. #5
DAY TWO	
9:30 AM	Game 5 – L1 vs. L2
12:45 PM	Game 6 – L3 vs. L4
4:00 PM	Game 7 – W1 vs. W2
7:15 PM	Game 8 – W3 vs. W4
DAY THREE	
12:00 PM	Game 9 – L7 vs. W6
3:15 PM	Game 10 – L8 vs. W5
6:30 PM	Game 11 – W7 vs. W8
DAY FOUR	
3:30 PM	Game 12 – W10 vs. W9
7:00 PM	Game 13 – L11 vs. W12
DAY FIVE	
7:00 PM	Game 14 – W11 vs. W13
DAY SIX *IF NECESSARY*	
7:00 PM	Game 15 – L14 vs. W14

Section 5. **Finances**
Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 6. **Miscellaneous Procedures**
A. Only scheduled seven or nine inning games may be used in figuring team, individual statistics and overall record. Official games that have been shortened as the result of weather conditions or time restraints may also be included.
B. Baseball is allowed to play 56 game in the spring and a total of 14 scrimmages in the fall and spring combined.
C. The District Champion of the host region may be placed in the final game of the opening round.
D. During the regular season, conferences and/or Regions may adopt a 10-run rule after 5 innings and an 8-run rule after 7 innings.

E. Visible pitch clock will not be required but all pitch clock rules will be enforced.

Section 7. NJCAA DIII Baseball Poll

A. The NJCAA DIII Baseball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria
   a. Overall record
   b. Record since last poll
   c. Last 10 games
   d. Record vs. District opponents
   e. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Jan. 19^*, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, March 29, Apr 5, Apr. 13**, Apr. 19, Apr. 26, May 3
   ^Preseason poll
   *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
   **Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention

Section 8. Bat Testing

A. Bat testing will be conducted in accordance with the NCAA Bat Testing Protocols as outlined in the NCAA Baseball Rule Book for all regular season, postseason, and scrimmage competitions.

4. BASKETBALL – MEN'S – DIVISION I

Section 1. Tournament Dates

March 20-27, 2027 at Hutchinson Sports Arena; Hutchinson, KS
March 18-25, 2028 at Hutchinson Sports Arena; Hutchinson, KS
March 17-24, 2029 at Hutchinson Sports Arena; Hutchinson, KS

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedules and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Tournament Play

A. District Basketball Tournaments must be completed **by March 13, 2027.**
B. Last Dates for District Finals:

NJCAA DI MEN'S BASKETBALL FINAL DISTRICT DATES			
2027	**March 13**	**2028**	**March 11**

C. 15 districts and nine at-large teams will participate in the National Tournament. This is in play for the 26-27 and 27-28 seasons only. There is no longer a limit on how many teams from one district may be chosen in any combination (district champion and at-large).
D. 15 District Championship games must be played with the winners receiving automatic bids to the National Tournament.

2027 NJCAA DI MEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Appalachian	7	Mid-Atlantic	10, 20	Central	24	North Central	11, 13
Gulf	23	Midwest	4, 16	Mid-South	14	South Atlantic	8
Northwest Plains	9	Plains	6	South	22	West	1,18
South Central	2	Southeast	17	Southwest	5		

Note: Region 10 and 20 now combined since 15 and 19 have no teams. Would recommend 10 hosts in 2027 and 20 in 2028. DI will go with 15 districts and 9 at-large in 2026-28.

E. In the event a team(s) is unable to participate in the National Tournament, the following will be used:
1. District Champions
   i. District runner-up
   ii. If the district runner-up is unable to participate, an at-large selection will be selected based on at-large ranking
   iii. If the district runner-up is an original at-large selection, an at-large selection will be selected based on ranking
2. At-large
   i. The selection committee will rank selections 1-12 with the top nine receiving bids. In the event an at-large selection is unable to participate, team(s) will be replaced in order from 10-12.

Section 4. Seeding & At-Large Selection

The NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection.
Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – March 14, 2027.
The seeding criteria are as follows:

A. First round byes to be given to the top eight seeds as determined by the seeding committee.
B. Only games versus NJCAA, NWAC or CCCAA programs will be considered. Seeding criteria are listed below:
1, Overall body of work
   i. Record against NJCAA Division I opponents
   ii. Record against NJCAA Division I top-25 teams for the season
   iii. Overall record vs. NJCAA Division II and NJCAA Division III
   iv. Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
   v. National Poll
2. Overall Record
   i. On the road
   ii. At a neutral site
   iii. At home
3. Strength of Region/District in National Tournament
   i. Over-all Region/District
   ii. Historical perspective of the Region/District participation in National Tournament (3, 5 10 year history)

Section 5. Postseason Policies and Rules

A. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the bench is 20 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. Each player must be identified on the final roster before the start of the first game. No deletions or additions may be made after this time.

B. The Tournament Host, acting with the NJCAA Executive Director, NJCAA Director of Championships, and Chair of Division I Men's Basketball Committee, may change the game schedule during the tournament if such action is thought necessary.

C. No team shall be required to play more than one game per day in the tournament.

D. The Spalding TF 1000 Legacy basketball will be used in postseason play.

E. A television monitor will be placed at the scorers' table at the National Tournament to assist officials in case of the need for video review. Video review for district tournaments is recommended but not required.

F. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
Note: No official will officiate a game involving his own region/state.

G. Game officials shall be rotated and shall not be employed more than two years in a row.

H. The official basketball rules to be used by the NJCAA will be the current NCAA Basketball Rules, with exceptions as approved by the NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee.

I. Teams participating in the national tournament must designate both a light jersey and a dark jersey. It must be noted on their official entry sheet as to the exact colors of both jerseys.

J. National Tournament Timeout Information (Required for district tournaments. National Championship game timeouts may change due to national television coverage).

1. Media Timeouts:
   i. Four timeouts at the first dead ball under 16 minutes, 12 minutes, 8 minutes, and 4 minutes in each half. Media timeouts range from 90 seconds to 120 seconds.
   ii. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the media agreement.
   iii. When a timeout is granted or charged, or the officials elect to use instant replay and either creates a dead ball with 30 seconds or less before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or after one of the 16-, 12-, 8-, and 4-minute marks, that timeout or dead ball will become the electronic-media timeout for that specified media mark time.

2. Team Timeouts:
   i. Three 30-second timeouts for each team per regulation game.
   ii. Each team may carry up to two 30-second timeouts into the second half.
   iii. One 60-second timeout for each team per regulation game that may be used at any time during the game.
   iv. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any unused timeouts it has not used previously.
   v. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.

K. District playoffs must have mutually agreeable officials selected by the Regional Directors involved in the district game. In case the Regional Director cannot come to terms of agreement, then the NJCAA National Office and NJCAA Supervisor of Officials will arbitrate the selection decision of officials.

N. The selection of a Most Valuable Player will be made and awarded an MVP plaque. Twelve other players shall be selected for the Division I Men's Basketball All-Tournament Team and awarded medals. (1 plaque, 12 medals=13 total)

O. The Coach of the Tournament Award will be presented to the coach of the winning team. If the coach of the winning team displays conduct in violation of the NJCAA Code of Conduct (including a game ejection), the award will be presented to the coach of the runner-up team. Coach of the Tournament Award will not be awarded below the winner/runner-up.

P. No dunking will be allowed during the pre-game or halftime for the regular or post-season.

Q. In all regular and post-season games, a disqualified student-athlete receiving three Class B Technical Fouls will not be required to serve a suspension.

R. The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 9-30, 2026. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

	2027 NJCAA DI MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FORMAT						
DAY 1	**DAY 2**	**DAY 3**	**DAY 4**	**DAY 5**	**DAY 6**	**DAY 7**	**DAY 8**
G1: 16 vs. 17	G5: 9 vs. 24	G9: 1 vs. G1 Winner	G13: 8 vs. G5 Winner	G17: G9 Winner vs. G13 Winner	**Rest Day**	G21: G17 Winner vs. G19 Winner	G23: G21 Winner vs. G22 Winner
G2: 15 vs. 18	G6: 10 vs. 23	G10: 2 vs. G2 Winner	G14: 7 vs. G6 Winner	G18: G10 Winner vs. G14 Winner			
G3: 13 vs. 20	G7: 12 vs. 21	G11: 4 vs. G3 Winner	G15: 5 vs. G7 Winner	G19: G11 Winner vs. G15 Winner		G22: G18 Winner vs. G20 Winner	
G4: 14 vs. 19	G8: 11 vs. 22	G12: 3 vs. G4 Winner	G16: 6 vs. G8 Winner	G20: G12 Winner vs. G16 Winner			

Section 6. National Tournament Schedule

1. Tournament Format

   Game Film Exchange:

   Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played, including postseason, to the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider with instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider, a Letter of Reprimand to offending college president, and a $500 fine.
2. A pre-determined tournament practice schedule will be part of the Pre-Championship Packet.
3. For each game of the tournament, the team with the highest seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniforms. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark-colored uniform

Section 7. NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Poll

A. The NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria

1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1

^Preseason poll

*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday

5. BASKETBALL – MEN'S – DIVISION II

Section 1. Future Tournament Dates

March 15-20, 2027 at Mary Miller Gymnasium; Danville, IL
March 20-25, 2028 at Mary Miller Gymnasium; Danville, IL
March 19-24, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time, schedules, and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They should secure the playing site and make all arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Tournament Play

A. The qualifying teams come from the following 16 districts with 4 at-large:

2027 NJCAA DII MEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	24	Central Plains	2, 16	East A	3, 15, 19	East B	3, 15, 19
Great Lakes A	12A	Great Lakes B	12B	Great Lakes C	12C	Mid-Atlantic	20
Midwest A	4A	Midwest B	4B	North Central A	11	North Central B	11 runner-up, 13
Plains	6	South Atlantic	10	Gulf South	8, 22	West	1

1. All district qualifying games must be completed by March 6, 2027.
2. Game Film Exchange:
   i. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played – including postseason - to the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to the offending institution not being granted access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider, a Letter of Reprimand to offending college president, and a $500 fine.
3. Tournament Seeding:
   i. The NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding. Four (4) at-large teams will be selected from teams that did not qualify through District Play. Seeding will be completed no later than March 8, 2027.
   ii. All teams will be seeded, and at-large teams will be chosen using the following criteria:
      a. Final Poll Results (regular season body of work)
      b. Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
      c. Strength of Schedule – Overall record vs. NJCAA member institutions (DI/DII/DIII). Results vs. non-member institutions (except for California Community College and NWAC organizations) will not be considered for national polls, at-large selections or seeding for the national tournament.
      d. Quality wins/losses (against teams in poll/teams in national tournament)
      e. Historical results of the district in national tournament over the last five years.
   iii. Teams will be seeded 1-20. First round matchups of teams from the same Region/District should be avoided.
4. The NJCAA Division II Basketball Committee, in coordination with the NJCAA Director of Championships, reserves the right to adjust the district qualification procedures using current declaration numbers. The adjustments must be published no later than November 15, annually.
5. The Automatic Qualifiers to compete in the NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Championship Tournament must be district winners. If a district winner declines to participate, the Regional Director shall certify the district runner-up. When a district winner and district runner-up decline to enter the NJCAA Basketball Tournament, the committee shall select an additional At-Large in each instance this may occur.

Section 4. Tournament Scheduling and Rules

A. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the bench is 20 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. Each player must be identified on the final roster before the start of the first game. No deletions or additions may be made after this time.
B. The Tournament Host, acting with the NJCAA Representative, and the NJCAA Director of Championships. may change the game schedule during and/or prior to the tournament if such action is thought necessary. If a change to the schedule occurs, the Tournament Host will communicate to the qualifiers as soon as possible.
C. No team shall be required to play more than one game per day in the tournament.
D. The Spalding TF 1000 Legacy basketball will be used by the NJCAA in postseason play.
E. For each game of the tournament, the team with a higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark coloredjerseys/uniform.
F. No dunking will be allowed during the pre-game or half-time during the regular or post-season.
G. In all regular and post-season games, a disqualified student-athlete receiving three Class B Technical Fouls will not be required to serve a suspension.
H. The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 9-30, 2026. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

2027 NJCAA DII MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE			
	Day 1		**Day 2**
9:00 AM	Game 1 - 13 vs. 20	9:00 AM	Game 7 - 4 vs. W1
11:00 AM	Game 2 - 16 vs. 17	11:00 AM	Game 8 - 1 vs. W2
1:00 PM	Game 3 - 14 vs. 19	1:00 PM	Game 9 - 8 vs. 9
3:00 PM	Game 4 - 15 vs. 18	3:00 PM	Game 10 – #3 vs. W3
6:00 PM	Game 5 - 5 vs. 12	6:00 PM	Game 11 – #7 vs. #10
8:00 PM	Game 6 - 6 vs. 11	8:00 PM	Game 12 – #2 vs. W4
	Day 3		**Day 4**
9:00 AM	Game 13 – L1 vs. L2	12:00 PM	Game 19 – L8 vs. L9
11:00 AM	Game 14 – L3 vs. L4	2:00 PM	Game 20 – L11 vs. L12
1:00 PM	Game 15 – L5 vs. L7	5:00 PM	Game 21 – W5 vs. W7
3:00 PM	Game 16 – L6 vs. L10	7:00 PM	Game 22 – W11 vs. W12
6:00 PM	Game 17 – W8 vs. W9		
8:00 PM	Game 18 – W6 vs. W10		
	Day 5		**Day 6**
9:00 AM	Game 23 – W15 vs. W16	12:00 PM	7th Place | Game 29 – W23 vs. W24
11:00 AM	Game 24 – W19 vs. W20	2:00 PM	5th Place | Game 30 – W25 vs. W26
1:00 PM	Game 25 – L18 vs. L21	5:00 PM	3rd Place | Game 31 – L27 vs. L28
3:00 PM	Game 26 – L17 vs. L22	7:00 PM	Championship Game | Game 32 – W27 vs. W28
6:00 PM	Game 27 – W17 vs. W21		
8:00 PM	Game 28 – W18 vs. W22		

Section 5. **Rules and Officials**

A. The NJCAA Championship Basketball Tournament Representative will have the authority to select the tournament referees with recommendations from the NJCAA Committee on Basketball.

B. Member colleges shall be limited to 30 games plus NJCAA postseason play. **Note:** Postseason play is defined as Regional, District, and National Tournaments. Each college may play one foreign game during the current academic year without this game counting against the 30-game limit.

C. The Official Basketball Rules to be used by the NJCAA will be the current NCAA Basketball Rules, except for uniform authenticating marks that require pre-approval prior to production.

D. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
Note: No official will officiate a game involving his own region/state.

E. Game officials shall be rotated and shall not be employed more than two years in a row.

F. National Tournament Timeout Information (this applies to the National Tournament only):
   1. Media Timeouts:
      i. Four timeouts at the first dead ball under 16 minutes, 12 minutes, 8 minutes, and 4 minutes in each half. Media timeouts range from 90 seconds to 120 seconds.
      ii. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the media agreement.
      iii. When a timeout is granted or charged, or the officials elect to use instant replay and either creates a dead ball with 30 seconds or less before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or after one of the 16-, 12-, 8-, and 4-minute marks, that timeout or dead ball will become the electronic-media timeout for that specified media mark time.

2. Team Timeouts:
   i. Three 30-second timeouts for each team per regulation game.
   ii. Each team may carry up to two 30-second timeouts into the second half.
   iii. One 60-second timeout for each team per regulation game that may be used at any time during the game.
   iv. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any unused timeout it has not used previously. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.

Section 6. **Finances**

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

Section 7. **NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Poll**

A. The NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria
   1. Overall record
   2. Record since last poll
   3. Last 10 games
   4. Record vs. District opponents
   5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponent

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1
   ^Preseason poll
   *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

6. BASKETBALL – MEN'S – DIVISION III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

March 10-13, 2027 at Varsity Gymnasium; Herkimer, NY
March 8-11, 2028 at Varsity Gymnasium; Herkimer, NY
March 14-17, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedules and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Tournament Play

A. Twelve-Team Tournament
1. This tournament will be a standard twelve-team tournament, seeded 1-12.
2. This tournament will be played on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The game time will be set by the host in coordination with the NJCAA Championship staff.
3. Eight districts and four at-large teams will participate in the National Tournament.
4. The NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – March 2, 2027
   i. Only games versus NJCAA, NWAC, or CCCAA programs will be considered. At-large selection criteria is listed below:
      a. Over-all Body of Work
         - Record against Division III opponents for season
         - Record against Division III top-15 teams for the season
         - Overall record vs. Division I and Division II teams
         - Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
         - National Poll
      b. Overall Record
         - On the road
         - At a neutral site
         - At home
      c. Strength of Region/District in National Tournament
         - Over-all Region/District record
   ii. Eight District Championship games much be played with the winners receiving automatic bids to the National Tournament

2026-27 NJCAA DIII MEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
East	21	North Atlantic B	19	Mid-Atlantic	4, 10. 12, 17. 20	North	3
North Atlantic A	19	Northeast	15	North Plains	13	South Central	5

   iii. District winners must be determined by March 1, 2027
   iv. All colleges must qualify in compliance with the NJCAA bylaws.
   v. Game Film Exchange:
      a. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played, including postseason, to the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider, a Letter of Reprimand to offending college president and a $500 fine.

Section 4. Tournament Scheduling and Rules

A. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the bench is 21 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. Each player must be identified on the final roster before the start of the first game. No deletions or additions may be made after this time.
B. The Tournament Host, acting with the NJCAA representative, NJCAA Executive Director, and NJCAA Director of Championships, may change the game schedule during the tournament if such action is thought necessary.
C. Teams participating in the National Tournament must have both a light and dark jersey. The exact color of both jerseys must be noted on their entry form.
D. For each game of the tournament, the team with higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark colored uniform.
E. No team shall be required to play more than one game per day in the tournament.
F. The Spalding TF 1000 Legacy basketball will be used by the NJCAA in postseason play
G. No dunking will be allowed during the pre-game or half-time during the regular or post-season.
H. In all regular and post-season games, a disqualified student-athlete receiving three Class B Technical Fouls will not be required to serve a suspension.
I. The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 9-30, 2026. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions

to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

J. National Tournament Timeout Information (Required for district tournaments. National Championship game timeouts may change due to national television coverage).
   1. Media Timeouts:
      i. Four timeouts at the first dead ball under 16 minutes, 12 minutes, 8 minutes, and 4 minutes in each half. Media timeouts range from 90 seconds to 120 seconds.
      ii. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the media agreement.
      iii. When a timeout is granted or charged, or the officials elect to use instant replay and either creates a dead ball with 30 seconds or less before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or after one of the 16-, 12-, 8-, and 4-minute marks, that timeout or dead ball will become the electronic-media timeout for that specified media mark time.
   2. Team Timeouts:
      i. Three 30-second timeouts for each team per regulation game.
      ii. Each team may carry up to two 30-second timeouts into the second half.
      iii. One 60-second timeout for each team per regulation game that may be used at any time during the game.
      iv. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any unused timeouts it has not used previously.
      v. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.

2027 NJCAA DIII MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
DAY ONE	
12:00 PM	Game 1 - #8 vs. #9
2:00 PM	Game 2 - #5 vs. #12
4:00 PM	Game 3 - #7 vs. #10
6:00 PM	Game 4 - #6 vs. #11
DAY TWO	
9:00 AM	Game 5 – L1 vs. L2
11:00 AM	Game 6 – L3 vs. L4
1:00 PM	Game 7 – #1 vs. W1
3:00 PM	Game 8 – #4 vs. W2
6:00 PM	Game 9 – #2 vs. W3
8:00 PM	Game 10 - #3 vs. W4
DAY THREE	
12:00 PM	Game 11 – L7 vs. L8
2:00 PM	Game 12 – L9 vs. L10
5:00 PM	Game 13 – W7 vs. W8
7:00 PM	Game 14 – W9 vs. W10
DAY FOUR	
12:00 PM	5th Place | Game 15 – W11 vs. W12
2:00 PM	3rd Place | Game 16 – L13 vs. L14
5:00 PM	Championship Game | Game 17 – W13 vs. W14

Section 5. **Rules and Officials**

A. The NJCAA Championship Basketball Tournament Representative (see Article XI, Section 1) will have the authority to select the tournament referees with recommendations from the NJCAA Committee on Basketball.

B. Member colleges and players shall be limited to 30 games plus NJCAA postseason play.
Note: Postseason play is defined as Regional Tournament and beyond. Each college may play one foreign game during the

current school year without this game counting against the 30-game limit.

C. The official basketball rules to be used by the NJCAA will be the current NCAA Basketball Rules, except for uniform authenticating mark that requires pre-approval prior to production.

D. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
Note: No official will officiate a game involving his own region/state.

E. Game officials shall be rotated and shall not be employed more than two years in a row.

F. District Playoffs must have mutually agreeable officials selected by Regional Directors involved in the district game. In case the Regional Directors cannot come to terms of agreement, the selection decision of officials will be arbitrated by the NJCAA National Office.

G. Video review is recommended, but not required

Section 6. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

B. An entry fee of $500 shall be paid to the host by the 12 qualifying teams.

Section 7. NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Poll

A. The NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria

1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22

^Preseason poll

*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

BASKETBALL – WOMEN'S – DIVISION I

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The NJCAA Women's Championship Basketball Tournament begins on Monday prior to the third Tuesday in March.

March 23-30, 2027 at McNeese State University; Lake Charles, LA
March 18-25, 2028 at McNeese State University; Lake Charles, LA
March 24-31, 2029, TBD

Section 2 Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedules and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.
C. No entry fee will be required.

Section 3. Division I Qualifications of Teams for Tournament Play

A. Sixteen districts and nine at-large teams will participate in the 2027 NJCAA Tournament.
B. The 2027 Tournament Bracket will be a 24-team single elimination bracket (see Tournament seeding)
C. Sixteen District Champions will receive automatic bids.
D. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played – including postseason – to the NJCAA official film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA
   i. National Office. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At-Large qualifier will upload film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA official film exchange, a letter of reprimand to offending college president, and the head coach will be suspended from coaching the first National Tournament game.
E. Districts:

2026-2027 NJCAA DI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Appalachian	7	Central	16	Gulf	23	Mid-South	14
Midwest	24	North Central	4, 13	Mid-Atlantic	10,15,20	Northwest Plains	9
Plains	6	Rocky Mountain	18	South	22	South Atlantic	8
South Central	2	Southeast	17	Southwest	5	West	1

NJCAA DI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL FINAL DISTRICT DATES			
2027	**March 13**	**2028**	**March 11**

A. District winners must be determined by March 13, 2027
B. A district championship game must be played in order for teams to qualify for the national championship. If a district fails to provide a representative to the National Tournament, the following process will be used:
   1. District runner-up
   2. District replacement order as stated in district contract.
   3. At Large:
      i. The selection committee will rank selections 1-10 with the top eight receiving bids. In the event an at-large selection is unable to participate; team(s) will be replaced in order from 9-10.
C. The district playoff winner will receive a plaque to be provided by the NJCAA National Office
D. District playoff games must be played on regulation size court.

Section 4. Rules and Procedures

A. NCAA Rules shall be used except for uniform NCAA authenticating mark that requires preapproval prior to production.
B. No dunking is allowed in pre-game or at half-time.
C. The official tournament ball will be the Spalding TF1000 Legacy 28.5.
D. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the bench is 20 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. Each player must be identified on the final roster before the start of the first game. No deletions or additions may be made after this time.
E. For each game of the tournament, the team with a higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark colored jerseys/uniform.
F. The 2027 National Tournament Bracket with placement and game numbers are as follows:

2027 NJCAA DI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FORMAT							
DAY 1	**DAY 2**	**DAY 3**	**DAY 4**	**DAY 5**	**DAY 6**	**DAY 7**	**DAY 8**
G1: 16 vs. 17	G5: 9 vs. 24	G9: 1 vs. G1 Winner	G13: 8 vs. G5 Winner	G17: G9 Winner vs. G13 Winner	**Rest Day**	G21: G17 Winner vs. G19 Winner	G23: G21 Winner vs. G22 Winner
G2: 15 vs. 18	G6: 10 vs. 23	G10: 2 vs. G2 Winner	G14: 7 vs. G6 Winner	G18: G10 Winner vs. G14 Winner			
G3: 13 vs. 20	G7: 12 vs. 21	G11: 4 vs. G3 Winner	G15: 5 vs. G7 Winner	G19: G11 Winner vs. G15 Winner		G22: G18 Winner vs. G20 Winner	
G4: 14 vs. 19	G8: 11 vs. 22	G12: 3 vs. G4 Winner	G16: 6 vs. G8 Winner	G20: G12 Winner vs. G16 Winner			

G. All postseason play will follow NCAA rules.
   1. No dunking in pre-game and halftime warmups. No music will be played at any dead ball situation in both regular and postseason play.

H. Timeout Information:
   1. Media Timeouts • Three 30-seconds timeouts for each team per regulation game. • One full timeout for each team per regulation game may be used anytime during the game.
   2. These electronic media timeouts shall occur at or below the 5-minute mark in each period when the game clock is stopped when there has been no team-called timeout that proceeds dead ball and at the end of each quarter. Media timeouts are 2:30 in length.
   3. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the electronic media agreement:
   4. Media timeouts will not be used during overtime periods in any game with the following exceptions: NJCAA TV Game of the Week and National Championship game.
   5. When a timeout is granted before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or below the 5-minute mark in a period, that timeout will become the electronic media timeout for that period. (Exception: Rule 5-14.10. d.)
   6. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any timeouts it has not used previously.
   7. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.
   8. In the games involving electronic media timeout format, when a foul (personal or technical) is committed that causes the ball to become dead at the specified time mark on the game clock for the electronic media timeouts, that electronic media timeout shall be taken and then the free throw(s) shall be administered after the timeout.
   9. The Nationally Televised Championship game WILL be subject to the NCAA electronic media format. This should and will be communicated in advance.

I. All filming must be coordinated by the Tournament Director and NJCAA Staff

J. Member colleges shall be limited to 30 games plus NJCAA postseason play.
   Note: Postseason play is defined as Regional Tournaments. Each college may play one foreign game during the current academic year without this game counting against the 30-game limit.

K. Crowd Control: The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of the tournament. Refer to Rule 10-4 Section 5 in the NCAA Basketball Rulebook regarding noisemakers. Bands, or any component thereof, are not allowed to play while the competition is in progress. This rule applies to all NJCAA tournament basketball games.

L. All cheerleaders must be in college-issued uniform.

M. See Section 15 for Basketball Tournament Decorum Policy.

N. Use of video review is recommended for District and National Tournament.

Section 5. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
   Note: No official will officiate a game involving his own region/state.

B. Officials can only call for two straight years and then they must take a year off.

Section 6. Tournament Seeding

A. The NJCAA DI Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – March 14, 2027

B. All teams will be seeded, and large teams will be chosen by the following criteria:
   1. Final poll results (regular season body of work).
   2. Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
   3. Strength of Schedule – Overall record vs. Division II and/or Division III member institutions. Results (wins or losses) vs. non-member institutions (except for California Community College and NWAC organizations) will not be considered for national polls, at-large selections, or seeding for the national tournament.
   4. Quality wins/losses (against teams in poll/teams in national tournament).
   5. Historical results of the district in national championships over the last five years.

C. Teams will be seeded 1-24 with no restrictions. The top eight teams will receive an opening round bye in the tournament

Section 7.

A. The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 9-30, 2026. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

Tournament Lodging
Should the Tournament Host/NJCAA National Office choose to assign lodging for this event, all participating colleges must honor that assignment or pay for those rooms.

Section 8. NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll

A. The NJCAA DI Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria
   1. Overall record
   2. Record since last poll
   3. Last 10 games
   4. Record vs. District opponents
   5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1
   ^Preseason poll
   *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

8. BASKETBALL – WOMEN'S – DIVISION II

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The NJCAA Women's Championship Basketball Tournament will be conducted:
March 17-22, 2027 at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center; Joplin, MO
March 20-25, 2028 at Tarlton Complex; Hickory, NC
March 19-24, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time, schedules, and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all arrangements for the handling of spectators.
C. No entry fee will be required.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Tournament Play

A. 16 district winners and 4 at-large selections will participate in the tournament.
   1. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 16 districts:

2026-27 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	24	Central Plains	2, 16	East A	3, 15, 19	East B	3, 15, 19
Great Lakes A	12A	Great Lakes B	12B	Great Lakes C	12C	Mid-Atlantic	20
Midwest A	4A	Midwest B	4B	North Central A	11	North Central B	11 runner-up and 13
Plains	6	South Atlantic	10	Gulf South	8, 22	West	1

B. The Tournament Bracket will be a 20-team false double-elimination tournament featuring 32 total games.
C. Sixteen District Champions will receive automatic bids.
D. Game Film Exchange:
Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played – including postseason - to the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to the offending institution not being granted access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider, a Letter of Reprimand to offending college president, and a $500 fine.
E. District tournaments must be completed by March 8, 2027.
F. A district championship game must be played for teams to qualify for the national championship. If a district fails to provide a champion representative to the National Tournament, the following process will be used:
   1. District runner-up
   2. DII Women's Basketball Committee would assign another at-large bid
G. The district playoff winner will receive a plaque provided by the NJCAA National Office.

Section 4. Rules and Procedures

A. NCAA Rules shall be used except for uniform NCAA authenticating mark that requires pre-approval prior to production.
B. The official tournament ball will be the Spalding TF1000 LEGACY 28.5.
C. Teams are limited to 15 players in uniform, which corresponds to the number of letters of intent as listed in the basketball sport procedures. Once the roster is entered in the official scorebook, no substitutions may be made.
D. For each game of the tournament, the team with the higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the Home Team and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the Visitor Team and wear dark-colored jerseys/uniform.
E. The National Tournament Bracket with placement and game numbers are as follows:

2027 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
	Day 1 (Monday)
10:00 AM	Game 1 - #13 vs. #20
12:00 PM	Game 2 - #16 vs. #17
2:00 PM	Game 3 - #14 vs #19
4:00 PM	Game 4 - #15 vs. #18
6:00 PM	Game 5 - #5 vs. #12
8:00 PM	Game 6 - #6 vs. #11

2027 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
	Day 2 (Tuesday)
10:00 AM	Game 7 - #4 vs. W1
12:00 PM	Game 8 - #1 vs. W2
2:00 PM	Game 9 - #8 vs. #9
4:00 PM	Game 10 - #3 vs. W3
6:00 PM	Game 11 - #7 vs. #10
8:00 PM	Game 12 - #2 vs. W4
	Day 3 (Wednesday)
12:00 PM	Game 13 – L2 vs. L9
2:00 PM	Game 14 – L1 vs. L5
4:00 PM	Game 15 – L4 vs. L11
6:00 PM	Game 16 L3 vs. L6
	Day 4 (Thursday)
12:00 PM	Game 17 – W8 vs. W9
2:00 PM	Game 18 – W5 vs. W7
4:00 PM	Game 19 – W12 vs. W11
6:00 PM	Game 20 – W10 vs. W6
	Day 5 (Friday)
12:00 PM	Game 21 – W13 vs. W14
2:00 PM	Game 22 – W15 vs. W16
4:00 PM	Game 23 – W17 vs. W18
6:00 PM	Game 24 – W19 vs. W20
	Day 6 (Saturday)
12:00 PM	5th Place | Game 25 – W21 vs. W22
5:00 PM	3rd Place | Game 26 – L23 vs. L24
7:00 PM	Championship | Game 27 – W23 vs. W24

F. All postseason play will follow NCAA rules.
   1. No dunking in pre-game and halftime warmups in regular season or post-season. No music will be played at any dead ball situation in both regular and postseason play.

G. Timeout information:
   1. Three 30-second timeouts for each team per regular season game. One full timeout for each team per regulation game may be used anytime during the game.
   2. Electronic media timeouts shall occur at or below the 5-minute mark in each period when the game clock is stopped when there has been no team-called timeout that proceeds the dead ball
   3. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the electronic media agreement.
   4. In any extra period, the first timeout granted to either team may become an electronic media timeout.
   5. When a timeout is granted before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or below the 5-minute mark in a period, that timeout will become the electronic media timeout for that period. (Exception: Rule 5-14.10. d.)
   6. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any timeout it has not used previously.
   7. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.
   8. In the games involving electronic media timeout format, when a foul (personal or technical) is committed that causes the ball to become dead at the specified time mark on the game clock for the electronic media timeouts, that electronic media timeout shall be taken and then the free throw(s) shall be administered after the timeout.
   9. The Nationally Televised Championship game WILL be subject to the NCAA electronic media format. This should and will be communicated in advance.

H. All filming must be handled by the Tournament Director and NJCAA Staff.

I. Member colleges shall be limited to 30 games plus NJCAA postseason play. Each college may play one foreign game during the season without it counting against the 30-team limit.
   Note: Postseason play is defined as Regional Tournaments and beyond. Each college may play one foreign game during the current college year without this game counting against the 30-game limit.

J. Crowd Control: The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of the tournament. Refer to rule 10-4 Section 5 in the NCAA Basketball Rulebook regarding artificial noisemakers. Bands, or any component thereof, are not allowed to play while the competition is in progress. This rule applies to all NJCAA Basketball Tournament games.

K. All cheerleaders must be in college issued uniforms.

L. See Section 15 for Basketball Decorum Policy

M. Use of video review is recommended for District and National Tournament.

Section 5. Officials

A. The Tournament Director shall select the officials in conjunction with the NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee.

Section 6. Seeding Procedure

A. The NJCAA DII Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – March 9, 2026.

B. All teams will be seeded, and at-large teams will be chosen by the following criteria in no order:
   1. Final poll results (regular season body of work)
   2. Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
   3. Strength of Schedule – Overall record vs. NJCAA member institutions (DI/DII/DIII). Results (wins or losses) vs. non-member institutions (except for California Community College and NWAC organizations) will not be considered for national polls, at-large selections, or seeding for the national tournament.
   4. Quality wins/losses (against teams in poll/teams in national tournament).
   5. Historical results of the district in national championship over the last five years.

C. Teams will be seeded 1-20 with no restrictions. The top four teams will receive an opening round bye in the tournament.

Section 7. NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Poll

A. The NJCAA DII Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria listed in no particular order:
   1. Record vs. NJCAA DI, DII, DIII opponents
   2. Overall record
   3. Record since last poll
   4. Last 10 games
   5. Record vs. District opponents
   6. Strength of Schedule

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1
   ^Preseason poll
   *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

Section 8

A. The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 3-30, 2025. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

9. BASKETBALL – WOMEN'S – DIVISION III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

March 10-13, 2027 at Tarlton Complex; Hickory, NC
March 8-11, 2028 at Brownwood Coliseum; Brownwood, TX
March 14-17, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will notify the qualifying teams of the time schedules and other pertinent tournament information.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Tournament Play

A. The NJCAA DIII Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – March 2, 2027
   1. Eight District winners and four at-large selections will participate in the 2027 National Tournament.
   2. This tournament will be a standard twelve-team tournament, seeded 1-12.
   3. This tournament will be played on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The game times will be set by the host in coordination with the National Office.
   4. For national tournament seeding and at-large selection, only games versus NJCAA, NWAC, or CCCAA programs will be considered. Criteria is listed below:
      a. Record vs. All-Divisions
         - Record against Division III opponents for season
         - Record against Division III top 15 teams for the season
         - Overall record vs. Division I and Division II teams
         - Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament
         - National Poll
      b. Overall Record
         - On the road
         - At a neutral site
         - At home
      c. Strength of Region/District in National Tournament
         - Overall, Region/District record

   ii. Eight District Championship games much be played with the winners receiving automatic bids to the National Tournament

2026-2027 NJCAA DIII WOMEN'S BASKETBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
East	21	Central	4, 5	North	3	North Atlantic	19
Northeast	15	North Plains A	13A	North Plains B	13B	Mid Atlantic	10, 12, 20

   iii. District winners must be determined by March 2, 2027
   iv. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
   v. Game Film Exchange:
      a. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played, including postseason, to the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If a National Tournament qualifier team's last game was against an at-large selection, that film will serve as game film for both teams. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from a half-court view and must be of good quality where player numbers are visible. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At-Large qualifier will upload a film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. Penalties for non-compliance will include but are not limited to: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA Official Film Exchange Provider, a Letter of Reprimand to offending college president and a $500 fine.
   vi. Tournament Seeding:
      a. Seeding to be completed by March 3, 2027
   vii. Seeding Criteria:
      a. Most recent National Poll rank.
      b. Game by game results entered on the NJCAA Stats System.
      c. Any additional information the Committee deems necessary.

Section 4. Tournament Scheduling and Rules

A. Teams participating in the NJCAA Championship Basketball Tournament are limited to not more than 15 players in uniform. Each player must be identified in the scorebook before the start of the first game. No deletions or additions may be made after this time. Corrections in squad size will be made immediately when noted.
B. The Tournament Host, acting with the NJCAA representative, NJCAA Executive Director, and NJCAA Director of Championships, may change the game schedule during the tournament if such action is thought necessary.
C. Teams participating in the National Tournament must have both a light and dark jersey. The exact color of both jerseys must be noted on their entry form.
D. For each game of the tournament, the team with a higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark colored uniforms.
E. No team shall be required to play more than one game per day in the tournament.
F. The official tournament ball for 2026-27 will be an eight-panel ball, the Spalding TF1000 LEGACY 28.5.
G. The official team party will not exceed twenty (20) people.

H. Timeout Information:

1. Media Timeouts • Three 30-seconds timeouts for each team per regulation game. • One full timeout for each team per regulation game may be used anytime during the game.
2. These electronic media timeouts shall occur at or below the 5-minute mark in each period when the game clock is stopped when there has been no team-called timeout that proceeds dead ball and at the end of each quarter. Media timeouts are 2:30 in length.
3. The first timeout requested by either team in the second half shall become the length of a timeout called for by the electronic media agreement:
4. Media timeouts will not be used during overtime periods in any game with the following exceptions: NJCAA TV Game of the Week and National Championship game.
5. When a timeout is granted before the media marks or creates the first dead ball at or below the 5-minute mark in a period, that timeout will become the electronic media timeout for that period. (Exception: Rule 5-14.10. d.)
6. Each team shall be entitled to one additional 30-second timeout during each extra period in addition to any timeouts it has not used previously.
7. The extra timeout shall not be granted until after the ball becomes live to begin the extra period.
8. In the games involving electronic media timeout format, when a foul (personal or technical) is committed that causes the ball to become dead at the specified time mark on the game clock for the electronic media timeouts, that electronic media timeout shall be taken and then the free throw(s) shall be administered after the timeout.

2027 NJCAA DIII WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
DAY ONE	
12:00 PM	Game 1 - #8 vs. #9
2:00 PM	Game 2 - #5 vs. #12
4:00 PM	Game 3 - #7 vs. #10
6:00 PM	Game 4 - #6 vs. #11
DAY TWO	
10:00 AM	Game 5 – L1 vs. L2
12:00 PM	Game 6 – #1 vs. W1
2:00 PM	Game 7 – #4 vs. W2
4:00 PM	Game 8 – #2 vs. W3
6:00 PM	Game 9 – #3 vs. W4
DAY THREE	
10:00 AM	Game 10 – L3 vs. L4
12:00 PM	Game 11 – L6 vs. L7
2:00 PM	Game 12 – L8 vs. L9
4:00 PM	Game 13 – W6 vs. W7
6:00 PM	Game 14 – W8 vs. W9
DAY FOUR	
10:00 AM	5th Place | Game 15 – W11 vs. W12
12:00 PM	3rd Place | Game 16 – L13 vs. L14
2:00 PM	Championship Game | Game 17 – W13 vs. W14

Section 5. **Officials**

The Tournament Director and NJCAA Director of Championships shall select the officials in conjunction with the NJCAA Division III Basketball Committee.

Section 6. **Finances**

A. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

B. An entry fee of $500 shall be paid to the host by the 12 qualifying teams.

Section 7. **NJCAA DIII Women's Basketball Poll**

A. The NJCAA DIII Women's Basketball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria

1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Oct. 19^, Nov. 9. Nov. 16, Nov. 23, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 19*, Jan 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22

^Preseason poll

*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

Section 8.

The NJCAA has approved for member institutions to have a one-day practice event for men's and women's basketball during the NCAA recruiting period between September 3-30, 2026. Member institutions may attend a one-day multi-team practice one time during this period. Teams may not practice together; each team must have their own time period to practice. This occurs during the NJCAA off-season for basketball; however, an exception has been made to allow institutions to cover expenses for their team to attend this event, expenses include but are not limited to transportation and meals.

11. BOWLING – MEN'S & WOMEN'S

Section 1. Tournament Dates

A. The tournament shall be scheduled for the weekend of the first Saturday in March. The tournament dates may have to be adjusted based on host's availability to secure adequate facility to conduct the tournament.
March 4-6, 2027 at Airport Lanes; Cheektowaga, NY
March 2-4, 2028 at Airport Lanes; Cheektowaga, NY
March 1-3, 2029, TBD

B. All Region Tournaments must be completed no later than 10 days prior to the start of the National Tournament (February 22, 2027)

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. Invitations to participate must be extended to all member colleges of the NJCAA.

B. The Tournament Director will send official entry blanks to the interested teams and will notify them of the events, their order, the time schedule, the deadline for entries and other pertinent information.

Section 3. Participation Requirements

A. Entries are due 10 days prior to the National Tournament. (February 22, 2027)

B. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Bowling Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Tournament Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.

C. Participants in the NJCAA Bowling Championship should be dressed appropriately:
1. Must have team shirts with the college name on the back.
2. Participants may wear skirts, shorts or dress slacks.
3. No jeans allowed.
4. Violators of dress decorum will be asked by either the Tournament Director or NJCAA Representative to alter dress to comply with the stated dress decorum. If they don't comply, the incident will be referred to the Championship Events Committee for possible sanctions.

D All coaches, athletes and support personnel are expected to be familiar with and follow the NJCAA Code of Conduct. This code may be found in the NJCAA handbook.

Section 4. Tournament Events

A. Each member college is allowed to enter up to eight participants. Any college may enter as few events as they wish.

B. The tournament shall consist of the following events:

1. Doubles Event - two team members are paired together to bowl three games. Combined pin fall per doubles team will determine doubles competition. If a team has an odd number of players, the odd player may bowl three games during doubles competition but shall not be eligible for that award. Players may not be paired with members from another college.
2. Singles Event - all entrants will bowl three games. This pin fall will be used to determine singles competition.
3. Five Man/Woman Event - there will be a 6 game block in this event. Teams may only bowl up to five members of their team during this format. Any additional players may only be used as substitutes.
4. Championship Bracket - Baker Games: Top 8 teams after Singles, Doubles and Team event will bowl in a single elimination seeded bracket using Baker games in a Best of 7. Tie Breaker for Seeding Purposes: In the case there is a tie for seeding among the top 8, the tie will be broken by the team who has bowled the highest team game score. If there is a tie for the last seed, a full head to head baker will be bowled and the highest score will be awarded the seed. If any ties remain, an additional Baker game will be bowled until a winner is determined.

   Up to three substitutions per Baker Game will be permitted. Founded by the American Bowling Congress Secretary Emeritus, Frank Baker, the Baker System of scoring utilizes all five players in a single line of scoring with the lead-off player rolling the first and sixth frame, the second player rolling the second and seventh frame, and so on, with the anchor (fifth) bowler rolling the fifth and tenth or final frame.
5. Team scoring will be determined by total pin fall as follows:
   i. At the conclusion of doubles and singles competition, the top five highest pin falls shall be counted towards the team total.
   ii. The six games bowled in the Five Man/Woman format will count towards team total.
   iii. Tie Breaker for Baker Games Match Play: During the Elimination Bracket if a best of 7 match ends up tied, a full baker game will be bowled to determine the winner. If any ties remain, an additional Baker game will be bowled until a winner is determined.
6. Tournament Schedule
   1. Thursday will be doubles and singles
   2. Friday will be 6 team games
   3. Saturday will be the Top 8 Single elimination bracket best of 7 matches.
   4. There will be a consolation match between the teams eliminated in the semifinals to determine 3rd place.
   5. If time allows, a practice session will be run on Thursday morning.
   6. The banquet will be on Friday evening and will present Doubles, Singles and All American awards along with Hall of Fame inductions.

Section 5. Rules and Officials

A. USBC Collegiate Division rules shall be followed.
1. Lane Assignments- Lane assignments will be determined by the tournament director and provided prior to the start of play. During doubles each team will have their bowlers on consecutive lanes with no more than one per lane. Bowlers will move pairs each game within a 6 or 8 lane block. All team members will be in the same block. The "move" consisting of a new lane assignment block will occur after the doubles events. Individual bowlers must stay within their groupings and cannot switch out of their groups and associated assignments once tournament play begins and the same groupings must be kept after the "move". During singles all members of the same team will still be on consecutive lanes in the same block. During team event teams will move lanes each game and use lane blocks of 6,8,10,12 teams.

B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials, judges, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Bowling.

C. All teams will abide by the six-ball limit rule at both regional and national championships. Balls will be registered with the Tournament Director who will be responsible for administering this rule.

D. There is to be no practice session (bowling) of any type once tournament play begins.

E. Ball registration sheets must be turned in prior to the start of warm-ups on the beginning day of the tournament. No equipment may be changed after that point.
F. Lanes shall be re-oiled after the Doubles and Singles competition. Lanes will be oiled fresh at the beginning of each day. The bracket will use freshly oiled pairs each match.

Section 6. **Finances**

A. Each team shall pay its own expenses.
B. The entry fee shall be $400 per team or $80 per individual. Lunch and Banquet costs will now be charged separately and be included in the pre-tournament packet.

Section 7. **Affiliation Recommendation**

All students bowling at the intercollegiate level under the jurisdiction of the Athletic Director are encouraged to belong to the USBC Collegiate and that all leagues and tournaments be sanctioned by:

USBC Collegiate
621 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011

The NJCAA shall recognize and permit member institutions to participate in USBC Collegiate events after the conclusion of the NJCAA National Tournament as USBC Collegiate is an organization derived of two- and four-year colleges and seeks to promote opportunities for student-athletes to participate in the sport of bowling.

COMPETITIVE CHEER (Emerging Sport)

Section 1. Invitational Dates

National Invitational dates shall be on the first weekend in February.

February 4-7, 2027

February 2-5, 2028

Section 2. Participation Requirements

A. Registration

B. Eligibility
   a. Current NJCAA Eligibility rules shall apply.

C. Number of Participants
   a. LOI allotment = 40 total.
   b. No team roster limitation.
   c. Available to both male and female

Section 3. Invitational Host Requirements

A. The invitational host must require a warm-up space and competitive space. Traditional carpet bonded foam will be required.
   a. 11 traditional carpet bonded mats. 9 for competition and 2 for warm-ups

B. Tournament staff and necessities to include but not limited to Announcer, Music Scoreboard, Live Streaming, Instant replay IPAD for judges.

C. 4 judges to be selected by the Coaches Committee

Section 4. Qualifications for National Invitational

A. All teams will qualify by an open invitational. Must submit your registration deadline to enter the invitational by the first Monday in January of the National Championship year.

B. The registration fee for the National Invitational will be a $500 fee payable to the host school, due at the time of registration.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. The NJCAA mandates that all participating schools adhere and follow the NJCAA Competitive Cheer Sport Code

B. Competitions
   a. Participating teams must submit a competition roster the day of the competition determining who will be competing that day. If the student-athlete is on the list, they can compete. The maximum amount of competitors is 20 with 4 total alternates/subs which means up to 24 athletes can compete during a match.
   b. Warm-up time prior to competition is 25 minutes
   c. Coaches must sit/stand in the designated coaches' area. During competition, they are unable to have any electronic devices that are used for filming purposes. Coaches are also only allowed to talk to the liaison for challenge review purposes.
   d. The competition will be three periods in duration.
   e. The first two periods are compulsory/creative tumbling and building
      i. Set compulsory skill sets for both competing teams' stunts, tumbling baskets, etc. – technique based.
      ii. Halftime will take place after the first two quarters. The halftime will be a total of 12 minutes with 4 minutes shared, and then 4 minutes each.
      iii. The last period will be one compulsory and one creative routine.
      iv. Team preference and skill-set full routine with up to 20 athletes on the mat at once in the final quarter.
      v. Third period music will be involved. The team can choose to use the selection provided by the NJCAA or the music of their choice that is licensed.

C. Competition Host Requirements
   a. A regulation basketball court can host an official cheer competition.
   b. 11 traditional carpet bonded mats. 9 for competition and 2 for warm-ups

D. Scoring Procedures
   a. The NJCAA score sheet will be used to score the competition

E. Challenge Review System
   a. Each team is allotted one 1 challenge per period. If the team wins the challenge, they will receive that challenge back
   b. Max 2 challenges per period
   c. Challengeable; difficulty of skill, omitted skills. Performance errors.

F. Squad Size
   a. Small Coed; 4 males maximum with a total of 20 competitors on the competition roster (plus 4 alternates). Athletes can be switched out during heats but may not have more than 4 males on the mat at any given time.
   b. All Girl; a total of 20 females on the competition roster

G. Dress Code
   a. Competing teams must be in matching team uniforms. Uniforms must be cheer appropriate top with the choice of shorts or skirt.
   b. If Athletes are designated to be "spotters" during a heat, they must be dressed accordingly in a non-matching uniform to their team.
   c. No stones or embellishments on the uniforms will begin in 2028

Section 6. Judges & Rules

A. All athletes must adhere to the NJCAA sportsmanship policy.

Section 7. Finances

A. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

B. All national invitational expenses shall be paid by the Invitational Host.

C. All invitationals/meets may charge a fee to help pay for judges. Cost to be determined by hosts.

Section 8. Regular Season

A. Refer to 2026-2027 Sports Procedures

Section 9. Post Season Qualification

A. 2026-27 All participating teams who have filed eligibility with the NJCAA, will qualify for the open invitational

11. CROSS COUNTRY – MEN'S & WOMEN'S – DIVISION I, II, and III

Section 1. Meet/Championship Dates

The date of the NJCAA Cross Country Championship shall be the second Saturday in November.

November 14, 2026 at John Hunt Park; Huntsville, AL
November 13, 2027 at Apalachee Regional Park, FL
November 11, 2028, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Meet Responsibilities

The NJCAA Championship course must meet the course standards of the NCAA. The NJCAA Cross Country Chairperson or his/her designee will make a final inspection of the course one day prior to the NJCAA Cross Country Championship. NCAA Cross Country Rulebook and any exceptions must be cleared through the NJCAA Representative/Designee.

Section 3. Qualifications of Teams for Competition

A. All teams will qualify by open invitation and are encouraged to participate in their regional championship if one is being held (entry as a full team in the region championship is not required for national qualification). After a team qualifies for the national championship, they may enter up to 10 eligible athletes from their roster.
B. No contestants shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Cross Country Meet unless accompanied by:
    1. A coach or faculty member of the sending institution, or
    2. A designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college.
        a. The designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and the signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Meet Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the meet and until departure from the site.
C. Entries/Rosters
    1. Regions are to complete region competition 13 days prior to national tournament to allow enough time for meet entry and host logistics. November 1, 2026
        3. All entries (up to 10 runners) must be made by each college by the second Tuesday before the national championship. Competition. (November 3, 2026) All fees paid one day prior to the national meet. Final declarations will be made when the competitors (no more than 7 per college) report to the clerk of the course within 15 minutes of the published race time of the race.

Section 4. Meet/Championship Course

A. The Men's course for the NJCAA Cross Country Championship shall be 8,000 meters. The Women's course shall be 5,000 meters. It should be planned with due consideration for the safety and welfare of the contestants. Any obstacles or hindrance (dangerous ascents, descents, ditches, tight turns) detrimental to the competitors must be avoided. Concrete/hard surfaces must be covered (mulch, rubber mats, etc.). The turf should be of a quality to promote safety and freedom from injury.
B. The course shall be measured by approved surveyor's methods. The course shall be measured along the shortest possible route that a runner may take. It is recommended that the course be four meters wide. The first turn of a course shall be a minimum 200 meters from the start with a preferred distance of 400 meters. The last 100 meters of a course shall be straight and at least four meters wide to the finish.
C. The starting line will be drawn to allow each competitor to line up equal distance from the first turn. It is recommended that the starting line be wide enough to provide a minimum 50-centimeter space for each four front-line team starters. Lane boxes will be numbered left to right facing the running area.
D. It is recommended that the start and finish lines be in close proximity. The finish line will be at the mouth of the finishing chute and be visibly marked (paint, flags). It is recommended that the finishing chute be a minimum 3-4 feet wide if runners are funneled through the chute. Chute may be in as many sections as the meet manager and timer deems desirable.
E. The course must be available for practice on Thursday and Friday prior to the meet on Saturday.

Section 5. Rules and Officials

A. NCAA Cross Country rules shall be followed with whatever changes or modifications deemed necessary by the NJCAA Cross Country Committee.
B. The Meet Host will be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials to satisfactorily conduct the meet as determined by the NJCAA Cross Country Committee. These officials shall not be drawn from coaches who have teams participating in the meet.
C. There shall be a minimum of 30 minutes between races.
D. In the event of cold or inclement weather, meet participants may wear cold weather gear (i.e. running tights, team sweats, rain suits, hats) with the approval of the Meet Director and the NJCAA Representative. If runners choose to wear cold weather gear, it must be of a like color and/or matching team colors.
E. Headphones or similar audio devices may not be worn during the championship competition.
F. Meet results shall be made public as soon as results can be tabulated and confirmed for accuracy. Thirty minutes after the last race results have been posted, the results become official and final, and no protest can be filed.
G. Jury of Appeals: Members are the NJCAA Representative/Designee, the Championship Meet Director and a person appointed by the other two members, not to be a coach in the meet.
H. Tiebreaker for NJCAA regional or national championship is head-to-head competition of the top 5 runners.
I. Men and women will alternate starting times/positions with women running first on even numbered years and men running first on odd numbered years
J. When the three divisions compete at the same location, each division will move up one time slot earlier than the previous year. Whichever division was in the earliest the previous year will then move to the latest time slot the following year. In 2026 DI, DII, and DIII while in 2027 it will be DII, DIII, and then DI and 2028 it will be DIII, DI, and DII.

2026 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE	
TIME	**EVENT**
9:10 AM	National Anthem
9:15 AM	First call Division I Women
9:30 AM	Division I Women's Race
10:15 AM	First call Division I Men
10:30 AM	Division I Men's Race
11:45 AM	First Call Division II Women
12:00 PM	Division II Women's Race
12:45 PM	First Call Division II Men
1:00 PM	Division II Men's Race
2:15 PM	First Call DIII Women
2:30 PM	Division III Women's Race
3:15 PM	First Call Division III Men
3:30 PM	Division III Men's Race
4:30 PM	Awards

K. Any team that participates in a NJCAA Regional Championship that runs four runners or less are only eligible for NJCAA individual regional awards and are not eligible for NJCAA Regional team awards.

NJCAA Severe Weather Rule

1. Women's 5000m-if competition is suspended before the 1,600meter mark, the race may run the same day with a two-hour delay. If competition is suspended after the 1,600 meter mark, the race may be suspended until the next day
2. Women's 6000m-if competition is suspended before the 2,000meter mark, the race may run the same day with a two-hour delay. If competition is suspended after the 2,000 meter mark, the race may be suspended until the next day.
3. Men's 8000m-if competition is suspended before the 3,000meter mark, the race may run the same day with a two-hour delay. If competition is suspended after the 3,000 meter mark, the race may be suspended until the next day.

L. Water may be available to runners during the cross-country championship race.

Section 6. Cross Country Poll

A. The Poll Committee should be comprised of the Poll Coordinator, coach's association President, and volunteer Regional Poll Representatives.
B. Colleges must submit meet results electronically by Sunday, 12:00 midnight EST following each meet to their Region Poll Representatives to be included in the bi-weekly releases and rankings.
C. The Poll Coordinator will submit bi-weekly meet results to Poll Committee members by Monday, 1:00pm EST. Committee members will cast votes for the top 20 teams (20 points for 1st Place, 19 points for 2nd place, 18 points for 3rd place, etc.) to the Poll Coordinator by Tuesday, 11:00am EST. The Poll Coordinator will compile the results and submit the top 20 rankings to the designated website by Tuesday, 1:00pm EST.
D. Member colleges must submit times weekly to their Regional Poll Representatives to be eligible for national rankings.
E. All Cross-Country results must be uploaded to both TFRRS and Athletic NET for the purpose of inclusion in the National Rankings.

Section 7. National Championship Roster size

Participating teams are defined as and limited to a maximum of seven runners with a minimum of five runners in uniform. There should be no delay of a contest to allow a competing institution to conform to this policy. Any violations shall automatically result in the disqualification of the institution(s) in violation. No member institution may run athletes as individuals if they have also entered as a team.

Section 8. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.
B. There shall be a maximum entry fee of $300.00 per team, and a maximum entry fee of $45.00 per individual.
C. Entry fee must be paid at registration. Participation will not be allowed until entry fee is paid.
D. Schools that wish to register or withdraw after the meet deadline may be subject to a fee of $100.00 per team (per gender) and/or an additional $30.00 per individual entry.

Section 9. Athletes shall not be permitted to participate in and receive USA Track & Field money if he/she has remaining eligibility at an NJCAA institution.

14. WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL (Emerging Sport – Year 4 of 5-year window for emerging sports)

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Women's Flag Football Committee and the Tournament Host. Future dates:

May 5-9, 2027 at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL
2028, TBD (First Year of National Championship)
2029, TBD

Section 2. Rules and Procedures

A. The NJCAA Official Rule Book can be found **here**.

B. **Official Ball**

i. The official ball must be a Youth Size 8 football for a competition. The rule dictates a single ball in size and design that may be used for games. This was done for consistency and fairness.

Section 3. Regular Season

A. All games will end when the clock reads 0:00, unless coaches agree to shorten a period prior to the start of that period. This was done to allow coaches to control if a game needs to be shortened rather than a set mercy rule score.
B. Extra Periods, more commonly referred to overtime, will follow the procedures outlined in the NJCAA Official Flag Football rulebook.
C. Each team will be allowed to play a maximum of 16 games and 2 scrimmages.

Section 4. Officials

A. The NJCAA Women's Flag Football Committee recommends that the Tournament Host secure qualified Women's Flag Football rated officials for the National Tournament.

Section 5. Finances

A. An entry fee of $500 shall be paid to the host by the qualifying teams.
B. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

15. FOOTBALL D-I and D-III

Section 1. Important Dates for 2026-2027

August 17	**Pre-season poll release**
August 20	**First game date**
August 24	**Weekly poll release begins**
November 7	**All regular season games must be completed**
November 9	**Final regular season poll released**
November 20-22	**Non-Championship Post Season Bowl Game**
November 20-22	**DI Football Semi-Finals**
December 5	**DIII Football National Championship at College of Dupage; Glen Ellyn, IL**
December 6	**DI Football National Championship at West Texas A&M University; Canyon, TX**

Section 2. Official Game Ball

A. Team Issue is the official football of the NJCAA and will be used exclusively at all sanctioned bowl games.
B. It is recommended that all NJCAA colleges playing football adopt the Team Issue Football as their official football.

Section 3. National Championship Game

A. In Division I, the No. 1 ranked team and the No. 2 ranked team in the final poll of the regular season will host the DI semi-finals. The No. 3 team will play at the No. 2 team and the No. 4 team will play at the No. 1 team. The winners advance to the NJCAA Division I Football Championship. Should any of the top 4 ranked teams decline to participate, the next highest ranked team(s) will be invited to participate.
B. In Division III, the No. 1 ranked team and the No. 2 ranked team in the final poll will play for the NJCAA Division III Football Championship. Should either of the top two teams decline to participate, the next highest team(s) will be invited.
C. The official replay system will be in place for the National Championship game in both DI and DIII and in the semi-finals for DI. It may used by Region's and Conferences during the regular season at their discretion. For use in inter-region play, the use of replay should be determined in advance by the participating teams.

Section 4. Postseason Bowl Games

A. All Bowl Game Hosts must fill out the NJCAA Bowl Host form and send a Certificate of Insurance that would meet the NJCAA insurance policy requirements prior to August 15 of each year. Requirements for the Certificate of Insurance are as follows:
   1. ***Name of Bowl Host*** *shall be responsible for procuring and maintaining comprehensive general public liability insurance covering the NJCAA and the* ***Name of Bowl or Host****, against claims for bodily injury and property damage with a minimum of $1,000,000.00 LSL. The policy shall name the NJCAA as an additional insured.* ***Host*** *further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the NJCAA from and against all claims of liability to third parties for injury to or death of persons or loss or damage to property arising out of or in connection with the performance of this contract and Bowl Game.*
   2. *All Bowl Game Hosts must identify and submit direct contact information for its organized bowl committee and head event director to the NJCAA prior to August 15 of eachyear.*
B. Teams not selected for the NJCAA Division I Football Semifinals may be selected and announced at any time after the official NJCAA announcement of semifinal participants. Inquiries and contacts may be made to interested colleges by bowl game representatives prior to November of the current season. Bowl Games can enter negotiations with teams that are not in consideration for the NJCAA semifinals – including verbal agreements – following the final game played by each team. No public bowl announcement can be made until after the final poll is released.
C. All dates for postseason bowl games must be finalized no later than August 1 of the year in which the game is to be played. Any request for date changes after June 1 shall be directed to the NJCAA National Office with appropriate rationale.
D. Selection procedures and criteria for determining bowl game participants, financial arrangements and all special requirements for participating colleges must be on file with the NJCAA National Office by August 1 of eachyear.
E. It is recommended that Bowl Committees try to select At-Large Teams from among the top 15 teams listed in the final regular season poll.
F. A team may play only one postseason bowl game.
G. A **Sanction Fee of $500** is assessed for the host of any postseason football game and for any All-Star Football Game not sponsored by the NJCAA. Fees are payable to the NJCAA National Office no later than 30 days prior to the date of the contest.
H. Division I
   1. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the bench and sideline is 113 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers, and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
I. Division III
   1. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the bench and sideline is 119 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers, and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

Section 5. NJCAA Football Poll –

A. To be ranked in the weekly ratings, the college must have filed a Certification of Eligibility of its squad members with the Office of Eligibility and the Regional Director.
B. The Division I Football Poll Committee will consist of twelve (12) individuals: six (6) members of the NJCAA Division I Football Committee and one coach from each of the six (6) represented areas – ICCAC, KJCCC, MACCC, NFC, SWJCFC, independents. The Division III Football Poll Committee will consist of the six (6) members of the NJCAA Division III Football Committee.
C. The highest and lowest votes will be eliminated each week.
D. The rating is accomplished as follows:
   1. Division I - Each member of the Division I Football Poll Committee casts one ballot for the top 15 teams in the country each poll week. Points are awarded for the 15 picks based on 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1. The tabulation of these ballots constitutes the **'Top 15'** in the weekly NJCAA Division I Football Poll.
   2. Division III - Each member of the Division III Football Poll Committee casts one ballot for the top 5 teams in the country each poll week. Points are awarded for the 5 picks based on 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1. The tabulation of these ballots constitutes the **'Top 5'** in the weekly NJCAA Division III Football Poll.

E. In the event of a tie for the No. 1 position in the poll, the number of overall first place votes from all members of the voting panel will be used to break the tie. If a tie should still exist, all football panel members shall be immediately polled again by NJCAA National Office and asked to rank only the teams that were tied.
Final Regular Season Poll
1. Division I
   i. The members of the Division I Football Poll Committee shall vote to determine the final regular season poll. If a committee member is a direct representative (athletic director, head coach, sports information director, etc.) of a member college who will be considered for selection into the NJCAA Division I Football Playoff, the committee member shall be permitted to participate during the weekly poll call to provide input and insight from their district but will not be permitted to vote on the final poll.
2. Division III
   ii. The members of the Division III Football Committee shall vote to determine the final regular season poll. *If a committee member is a direct representative (AD, Coach, SID, etc) of a member college who will be considered for selection the committee member shall be allowed to participate to provide input and insight but will not be permitted to vote or be present during the voting on the final call.*

F. Team and individual statistics will be submitted by the college to the NJCAA StatsSystem.
G. Poll Dates: Poll Dates: Aug. 17^, Aug. 24, Aug. 31, Sep. 8*, Sep. 14, Sep. 21, Sep 29**, Oct. 5, Oct. 13*, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

Section 6. **General Rules**

A. In the sport of football, a team must meet the following criteria to be bowl eligible:
1. Overall record must be at .500 (eliminating ties)
2. At least 50 percent (50%) of a team's schedule must be against NJCAA member colleges.
3. Play a minimum of nine (9) games.

B. All practice and play shall be conducted according to the NCAA Rules of Football with exceptions only as noted in this section. **NOTE: This is inclusive of the elimination of football two-a-day practices duringthe preseason**.

2026 Fall Schedule:

- August 1 – Allow camp to start. (Regardless of Start date the acclimation period below must be followed.)
- During the first two days of activity- helmets and spider pads shall be the only pieces of protective equipment student athletes may wear.
  - Allowable Activities: weights, conditioning, position drills, walk-throughs, meetings
- During the next three days of activity- helmets, spider pads and shoulder pads shall be the only pieces of protective equipment student athletes may wear.
  - Allowable Activities: All above, plus adding on-field installation full team
- On the sixth day of activity- student-athletes may practice in full pads.
  - Allowable Activities: Full practice
- An institution is required to provide student-athletes with one day off during the seven-day acclimatization period. The required day off may occur as early as the second day or as late as the seventh day, at the institution's discretion.

C. All teams must have a minimum of 10 practice days prior to a game or scrimmage with another team. The first three days of these 10 shall be non-contact. These three days are to be a conditioning period with no contact between players and the players will be allowed to wear only t-shirts/jersey, shorts, shoes, helmets, and shoulder pads. During this three-day period, only one three-hour practice may be held.
1. After the three-day period, institutions may practice in fullpads.
2. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of on-field practiceactivities.
3. On-field walk-throughs are not considered to be an on-field activity provided protective equipment (e.g., helmets, shoulder pads) is not worn and equipment related to football (e.g., footballs, blocking sleds) is not used and conditioning activities do not occur.

D. It is recommended that colleges cease all football activities for a minimum of one day perweek.
E. All physical exams shall have been completed prior to the first practice of the individual.
F. The visually enhanced football shall be an accepted ball.
G. Games played on high school fields will be allowed to use the wider high school goal posts.
H. Use of the 25-second field clock will be required for all football games during all regular and post-season games.
I. Football jerseys must be full-length and tucked into the pants as stated in the current NCAA Football Rules and Interpretations.
J. Adhere and follow the NCAA Fight Rule (Rule 2 and 9) and the following addition for players leaving their designated bench area:
1. No player may leave their designated bench area to participate in any on or off the field altercations and/or fights. If such player or players are involved in this altercation, they will be disqualified for the remainder of the game and will serve a two-game suspension to be served during the next two regularly scheduled or postseason contests. Suspension at the end of a season of play shall carry over to the following season. If a player is disqualified for fighting a second time during that season, he shall be disqualified for that game and suspended for the remainder of the season.
2. The home team is required to film/video the entire game and the post-game until all players and coaches have left the playing area to assist in obtaining the specific jersey number(s) of the player or players involved.

Section 7. **Football Signing Date – Recruiting Dead Period**

The *signing date* for football each year will be 8:00 a.m. ET on the *first Wednesday in February*. The dead period begins Monday 12:01 am (local time) prior to the first Wednesday in February and ends Friday 12:01 am (local time) following the national signing day. The dead period is that period of time when it is not permissible to make in person recruiting contacts or evaluations on or off the member institution's campus or to permit official or unofficial visits by prospects to the institution's campus.
The provision of complimentary admissions to a prospect during such a dead period is prohibited. During the dead period, a coaching staff member may not serve as a speaker at or attend a meeting or banquet at which prospects are in attendance and may not visit the prospects' educational institutions. It remains permissible, however, for an institutional staff member to write or telephone prospects during such a dead period.

16. GOLF - MEN (DIVISION I, II, III) & WOMEN (Division I,II III)

Section 1. Tournament Dates (Competition Rounds) - Men (Division I)

A. The NJCAA Division I Championship Golf Tournament shall conclude no later than the end of May.
May 10-14, 2027 at Hardscrabble Country Club - Ft. Smith, AR
May 15-19, 2028 at Sand Creek Station - Newton, KS
May 15-18, 2029 at Hardscrabble Country Club - Ft. Smith, AR
May 13-17, 2030 at Sand Creek Station - Newton, KS
Note: The two days prior to the start may be scheduled as optional practice rounds.
B. All District qualifying will be completed by April 29, 2027. April 30 will be a selection of at-large teams.
C. It is the responsibility of the District Directors to send entries to the NJCAA National Office by email and the NJCAA Tournament Director by email, no later than April 30.
D. The NJCAA Tournament Director shall send entry blanks to the District Directors and general information on the tournament to all NJCAA golf colleges by **April 1**.

Tournament Dates (Competition Rounds) - Men (Division II)

A. The NJCAA Division II Championship Golf Tournament shall conclude no later than the end of May.
May 17-21, 2027 at Swan Lake Resort, Plymouth, IN
May 22-26, 2028 at Swan Lake Resort, Plymouth, IN
May 22-25, 2029 at Swan Lake Resort, Plymouth, IN
May 20-24, 2030 at TBD
Note: The two days prior to the start may be scheduled as optional practice rounds.
B. All District qualifying must be completed by May 6, 2027. At large selected on May 7, 2027.
It is the responsibility of the District Directors to send entries to the NJCAA National Office by email and the NJCAA Tournament Director by email, no later than one week prior to the start of the National Tournament.
C. The NJCAA Tournament Director shall send entry blanks to the Regional Directors and general information on the tournament to all NJCAA golf colleges by **April 1.**

Tournament Dates (Competition Rounds) – Men & Women (Division III)

A. The NJCAA Division III Championship Golf Tournament shall conclude prior to the second full week of June.
June 1-4, 2027 at Chautauqua Golf Course; Chautauqua, NY
June 5-9, 2028 at Chautauqua Golf Course; Chautauqua, NY
June 5-8, 2029, TBD
Note: Sunday prior to tournament may be used as an optional practice round.
B. All regional qualifying must be completed by May 23, 2027
It is the responsibility of the District Directors to send entries to the NJCAA National Office by email and the NJCAA Tournament Director by email, no later than one week prior to the start of the National Tournament.
C. The NJCAA Tournament Director shall send entry blanks to the Regional Directors and general information on the tournament to all NJCAA golf colleges by **April 1.**

Tournament Dates (Competition Rounds) - Women (Division I and II)

A. The Women's (DI) National Championship Golf Tournament shall be held:
May 10-14, 2027 at New New Mexico JC. Hobbs NM.
May 8-12, 2028 at Distinctly Fayetteville & Gates Four Golf & Country Club; Fayetteville, NC
May 14-18, 2029 at TBD
May 6-10, 2030 at TBD

The Women's DII National Championship Golf Tournament shall be held:
May 11-14, 2027 at Tuscaloosa AL
May 16-19, 2028 at Tuscaloosa AL
May 14-18, 2029, TBD

All entries must be received by the Tournament Director 10 days prior to the tournament.
B. It is the responsibility of the District Directors to send entries to the NJCAA National Office by email within 24 hours of the completion of the District. DI Women must be completed no later than April 29, 2027. At large selected on April 30, 2027. DII Women must be completed no later than April 29, 2027 and at-large selected on April 30, 2027.
C. The NJCAA Tournament Director shall send entry blanks to the Regional Directors and general information on the tournament to all NJCAA golf colleges by **April 1**.

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)

A. The Director of the Tournament shall send entry blanks to those colleges that have filed eligibility with the National Office and shall notify these teams of the time schedules and program details pertinent to the tournament. The Director of the Tournament shall also advise colleges entering that they should file a Certificate of Responsibility listing the person responsible for the team while at the tournament. Students may not assume this responsibility.
B. No contestant shall be permitted to enter the NJCAA Championship Golf Tournament unless accompanied by:
1. A coach or faculty member of the sending institution or
2. A designated supervisor, coach, or faculty member from an NJCAA member college.
i. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. Written notification shall include the signature of the Athletic Director and the President or Dean of the sending institution. Notification shall be sent via email to the Tournament Director and NJCAA National Office. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or designated supervisor throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams and Individuals for Competition - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I,II, III)

A. During postseason play through the National Championship stroke play or match play, a team may substitute a sixth player for any member of the team, provided that:
1. The NJCAA Golf Tournament Director and/or the NJCAA Representative is notified of the substitution at least 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time.

2. The sixth player is an eligible member of the institution's team.
   Note: When a team has substituted a sixth player, the substitution becomes final, 10 minutes prior to that team member's starting time and no further changes may be made by the team for that round. However, prior to the 10-minute mark, the team may withdraw the substitution by notifying the NJCAA Golf Tournament Director and/or the NJCAA Representative and may substitute for another player as provided above. The team member that was substituted for becomes the sixth player and the team is limited to that player, if the team wishes to substitute for a player prior to any subsequent Championship round.
3. Teams with only a single head coach and no other assistants may designate a student athlete from their team to act as an assistant coach during the post season.
   - If using a student athlete team member (7th man), this individual may not compete in the event.
   - If a team wishes to use their 6th man in an assistant coach capacity, at which point they act as an assistant for any round they then become ineligible at that point to participate further in the event and would not be able to be substituted into the lineup. (Ex. 6th man plays round 2 and coaches round 3, they would be ineligible to play round 4)
   - If the 6th man does not play in rounds 1-2-3, they could be used as the assistant in the 4th round if not selected to play.

Qualification of Teams and Individuals for Competition – Men (Division I)

A. Districts:

2027 NJCAA DI MEN'S GOLF DISTRICTS			
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	6, 11, 16, 24	South Central	5, 14
Southeast	7, 8, 10, 22	West	1, 9

.

B. After district qualifying is completed, 3 teams will qualify from each of the four districts listed above. There will be an additional 8 at-large teams selected. At-large teams will be selected on April 30, 2027 and will be identified by the highest-ranking teams in the final NJCAA/Clippd poll not already qualified. Teams must participate in the district qualifying tournament to be considered for at- large berths to the NJCAA National Tournament.
C. Individual qualifiers will be 3 from the South Central, and 2 each from Central, Southeast, and West. Must finish in the top 10 or top 25% of the number of individuals entered in the District, whichever is greater.

Qualifications of Team and Individuals for Competition – Men (Division II)

A. If the Medalist in a District Tournament is not part of the winning team, he will automatically qualify for the National Tournament. 1 individual, not from a qualifying team will also qualify. Individuals must place in the top 10. In the event a district does not have an individual, committee may select the highest ranked individual (from any district) form the Scoreboard/
B. Clippd rankings).

2027 NJCAA DII MEN'S GOLF DISTRICT TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS		
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**QUALIFIERS**
Midwest	4	2 teams and 1 individual
South	8, 22	2 teams and 1 individual
Great Lakes	12	2 teams and 1 individual
South Central	2, 14, 16	2 teams and 1 individual
North Central	9, 11, 13	2 teams and 1 individual
Central	24	2 teams and 1 individual
Southeast	7, 10, 20	2 teams and 1 Individual
West	1	2 teams and 1 individual
Gulf South	23	2 teams and 1 individual
At-Large	n/a	6 teams

For 2027, there will be 18 automatic qualifiers from 9 districts and an additional 6 at-large teams chosen based on the Scoreboard/Clippd rankings There will be 9 individuals for a total of a maximum of 129 golfers.

C. Division II Tournament rules and recommendations:
   i. District Tournament to be completed by May 6, 2027
   ii. Provide 2-3 rules officials at the National Championship and at least 1 for the District Tournament.
   iii. Schedule a golf course that is a minimum of 6,600 yards in length.
   iv. Requiring 36 qualifying holes, recommend 54 qualifying holes.

Qualification of Teams and Individuals for Competition – Men (DIII)

A. For Regions with 1-2 teams declared, one team plus the top individual not on a champion team.
B. For Regions with 3-4 teams declared, one team plus the top two individuals not on a championship team.
C. For Regions with 5-9 teams, two teams plus the next 5 individuals not on a championship team.
D. For Regions with 10 or more teams, two teams and the next 10 individuals that are not on a championship team. There are currently no Regions with 10 or more teams.
E. Returning NJCAA All-American's are automatic qualifiers for the tournament.
F. When a member institution qualifies four or more individuals, the college may also be scored as a team. The players qualified as individuals; therefore, the tournament should treat them as individuals for seeding and tee times. They will be scored as individuals and as a team, however no substitutions may be made since they qualified as individuals.
G. Numbers above will be confirmed no later than May 1, 2027

Qualification of Teams and Individuals for Competition – Women (DIII)

A. All teams can attend the tournament, and teams are encouraged to participate in their regional championship if one is being held.
B. No individual contestants shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Golf Meet unless accompanied by a coach or faculty member of the sending institution

Qualifications of Teams and Individuals for Competition – Women (Division I)

A. 10 teams automatically qualify via District and 5 additional teams would be selected as at-large entries.
B. All Women's DI Districts must be completed no later than April 29, 2027.
C. At-large chosen by the committee based on final Scoreboard/Clippd rankings, committee discussion, district performance and season resume.
D. Each District, except Central, will qualify two individuals who must place in the top 12 of their districts and are not on one of the qualifying or at-large teams. Number will be decided based on the full teams entered who have filed eligibility 30 days prior to the National Championship
E. This will make the national tournament 75 individuals from teams and up to10 individuals for a total of 85. In the case where there are not two individuals who qualify, the committee may choose individuals from the individual rankings to move the total to the maximum of 90. If there is a tie for an individual spot, that tie shall be broken by the individual who had the lowest scored round. If still tied, a scorecard play-off shall occur using USGA rules.

2027 NJCAA DI WOMEN'S GOLF DISTRICTS		
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**QUALIFICATIONS**
Midwest	11, 16	2 teams and 2 individuals
Southwest	5	2 teams and 2 individuals
Plains	6, 9	2 teams and 2 individuals
Central	2,14, 24	2 teams and 1 individual
South	8, 10	2 teams and 2 individuals

Qualifications of Teams and Individuals for Competition – Women (Division II)

F. 12 teams will automatically qualify via District and 3 additional teams will be selected as at-large.
G. All Women's DII Districts must be completed no later than April 30, 2027.
H. At-large chosen by the committee based on final Scoreboard/Clippd rankings, committee discussion, district performance and season resume.
I. Each District will qualify the number of individuals listed above. They must place in the top 12 of their districts and are not on one of the qualifying or at-large teams. The number will be decided based on the full teams entered who have filed eligibility 30 days prior to the National Championship.
J. This will make the national tournament up to 75 individuals from teams and up to 9 individuals for a total of 84 participants. In a case where there are no qualified individuals from the list above, the committee may choose individuals from the rankings to move the total number to the maximum of 84. If there is a tie for an individual spot, that tie shall be broken by the individual who had the lowest scored round, if still tied, a scorecard play-off shall occur using USGA rules,

2027 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S GOLF DISTRICTS		
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**QUALIFICATIONS**
West	1	1 Team and 1 individual
South	14. 22, 23	4 Teams and 3 individuals
Southeast	7 ,8, 17, 20	2 Team and 1 individual
Central	2, 4, 12, 24	3 Teams and 2 individuals
North Plains	9, 11, 13	2 Teams and 2 individuals

Section 4. **Tournament Rules and Procedures - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)**

A. It is the Tournament Director, along with the respective sport chair and NJCAA representative's responsibility to run the National Tournament by the policies of the NJCAA and USGA.
B. The Tournament shall be scheduled on a course which will permit any eligible participant to compete.
C. (Men DI, DII Women DI)
- The top 8 teams will qualify and be seeded based on their finishes in the 54 hole stroke play portion of the tournament.
- Team ties for seeding will be broken using the current NCAA method

The match play bracket will be as follows: (will play out to 3rd place)

Match Play First Round: (1) vs (8); (2) vs (7); (3) vs (6); (4) vs (5)

Match Play Second Round: (Semi Finals)
1-8 winner vs 4-5 winner
2-7 winner vs 3-6 winner

Match Play Final Round:
Consolation Match Losers of Round 2 Semi Finals
Championship Match Winners of Round 2 Semi Finals

D. The Men's course shall be a minimum of 6,600 yards while the Women's minimum length is 5800 yards.
E. Teams shall consist of a minimum of four players and a maximum of six. A maximum of five players may play in any one round. No more than six players may compete for a college (refer to guidelines for use of sixth golfer).
F. (DII, DIII Women and DIII Men) The team scores for the day shall consist of the total of the four lowest players on the team. The team with the lowest four-day total shall be the champion.
G. The Tournament shall be decided by the last completed round in the event of inclement weather.
H. (DII, DIII Women and DIII Men) Every attempt should be made to complete 72 holes by playing 36 holes in one day or completing the unfinished round the next morning, with the tournament ending on the fourth day. In DI and DII Men along with DI Women, every attempt must be made to play 54 holes.
I. Players may be penalized for failure to observe the rules of etiquette of golf.
J. Improper behavior by tournament participants, as determined by the NJCAA Code of Conduct may result in disqualification. Appropriate attire will be required as defined by the host course. This applies to everyone representing a college at all official tournament functions.
K. At the discretion of the Tournament Director and the Golf Chairperson/Designee, when tournament course conditions permit, the committee will have the ability to adjust the format and number of teams participating in order to complete the championship.
L. In the event of a tie for first place with respect to individual competition, there shall be a sudden death playoff. All other ties in the top 18 shall be decided by the USGA tie-breaking recommendation: compare the last nine holes on the scorecard, last six holes, last three holes or last one hole. If a tie still exists: The same formula will be applied to the Front Nine.
M. No players or teams will be permitted to play on the district or national championship course 14 calendar days prior to the first official practice round. Schools whose home course is also the tournament site are exempt from this rule. The penalty for violation of this rule is expulsion from the national tournament.
N. Competing players are allowed back onto the course after their round is completed to support teammates still finishing. These players must act in spectator capacity only and have no contact with players still competing. If found providing advice, appropriate penalties may occur.
O. (Men DIII, Women DII, DIII) For initial pairings, individuals will be paired together and have the first tee times. Teams will be paired together and follow the individuals. On the second day, the pairings shall remain the same with the tee times reversed. On the third and following days, pairings will be based on team standings and teams paired together according to tournament scores. Individuals who make the cut will be paired based on scores in the tournament and paired between teams of equal score (i.e. the number one player, based on tournament scores, from the top three teams will be paired together, and the number two players from those three teams will be paired together, etc.). Pairings will be made in threesomes for all tournament rounds. **Note:** The Tournament Director will decide the tournament format for the first two rounds. For subsequent rounds the Tournament Director, Golf Chairperson, and NJCAA representative reserve the right as needed to alter pairings and starting holes to allow for a better opportunity to complete the full tournament.
P. In the event of a missed tee time, USGA rules will be followed.
Q. Scorecard procedures should follow USGA stroke play rules.
There will be no advice exchanged between competitors, or among teammates during their round. Two designated coaches may provide advice. These coaches must be designated prior to the beginning of the event. The penalty for breaking this rule will be a two-stroke penalty added to the score for the day. A student-athlete is allowed to attend and represent an institution as an assistant coach if that program does not have a second coach in place, A golfer who is participating in the event (5 golfers and the alternate) are not allowed to serve in that capacity.
R. Players shall not use electronic devices, except range finders (elevation and/or wind device is illegal), on the course during NJCAA post-season tournament play (including cell phones). Violation will be disqualification for that round. If live scoring is not being provided by hole volunteers during the event, then one student-athlete per group may be allowed to access a cell phone for the purposes of scoring their respective group. This scoring must occur after the group leaves the green and must finish prior to the next tee box. For regular season play, "paperless" scoring is allowed. In these instances, it is permissible for all playing members to access their cell phone for scoring purposes only.
S. Use of a medical electronic/battery operated device may be used with medical documentation from a doctor prior to play of that day. Documentation must be presented to the Tournament Chair and/or NJCAA National Office.

Section 5. **Officials - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)**

A. The Tournament Host and the Chair of the NJCAA Golf Committee will be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials and committee members to satisfactorily conduct the tournament, as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Golf. This includes the use of local citizens and coaches of participants. It will be required for the host site to provide a minimum of two on-site USGA trained rules officials.

Section 6. **Finances - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)**

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.
B. The entry fee shall be $1500 per team and $250 per individual. (This entry fee covers all championship and practice rounds).
C. Any additional fees will be optional fees and must be included in the tournament bid.

Section 7. **Motorized Assistance - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)**

A. Non-motorized pull carts will be allowed in the NJCAA Golf Championships without medical documentation.
B. A player may not use a motorized cart during a tournament round because of an injury. Use of a motorized cart would be permitted only if a player meets the definition of a disability as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act and has presented medical documentation upon filing eligibility.

Section 8. **Hall of Fame - Men (Division I, II, III) & Women (Division I, II, III)**

The Association seeks to recognize the accomplishments of its veteran coaches, outstanding golfers, and contributors by establishing an NJCAA Golf Coaches Hall of Fame. Coaches shall be eligible for consideration upon completion of ten years of community college service and will be considered by the Awards Committee upon completion of the Hall of Fame application. Golfers nominated by coaches on a similar form to be submitted to the Awards Committee. Contributors to community college golf may also be nominated. Applicants who are not selected upon their first nomination will remain on the ballot each year following.

Section 9. **National Poll Procedures** -

A. Member colleges must enter statistics weekly on the Clippd/Scoreboard website to be eligible for national rankings in that sport.
B. The Committee shall use Clippd/Scoreboard rankings as its official poll and the Coaches' Advisory Poll for assistance in selecting at-large teams.
    i. Coaches Association Polls may be conducted under coaches' association guidelines and be posted on social media and/or the CA website.
C. The National Poll will be conducted weekly during the fall and spring using Scoreboard by Clippd. The final poll of the year will be conducted after all post season competition has been complete

17. HALF MARATHON – MEN'S WOMEN'S HALF MARATHON

Section 1. Meet/Championship Date and Site:

The date for the Half Marathon will be the **Tuesday following the Division I/II Cross Country Championships at the same location.**
November 16, 2027 at Apalachee Regional Park, FL
November 14, 2028, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Meet Responsibilities

A. The NJCAA Cross Country Chairperson or his/her designee will make a final inspection of the course one day prior to the NJCAA Cross Country Championship. The NCAA Cross Country Rulebook and any exceptions must be cleared through the NJCAA Representative/Designee.

Section 3. Participation Requirements:

A. Invitations to participate open to all member colleges of the NJCAA who have filed HM eligibility
B. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Half Marathon Tournament unless accompanied by
   1. A coach or faculty member of the institution, or a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college.
   2. A designation of a supervisory person in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and the signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the meet director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or designated supervisory person throughout the meet and until departure from the site.

Section 4. Meet/Championship Course

A. The men's and women's course shall be 13.1 miles (21.082.41 meters). It should be planned with due consideration for the safety and welfare of the contestants. Any obstacles or hindrance (dangerous ascents, descents, ditches, tight turns) detrimental to the competitors must be avoided. It is recommended that traversing of roadways be avoided. The turf should be of a quality to promote safety and freedom from injury.
B. The course shall be measured along the shortest possible route that a runner may take. It is recommended that the course be a minimum of two meters wide.
C. The start of the race and location of the runners will be determined in advance of the meet based on the number of runners and will be determined in combination with the Host, NJCAA National Staff, and Sport Chair.
D. It is recommended that the start and finish lines be in close proximity. Both the starting and finish lines shall be marked 24 hours prior to the race. The finish line will be at the mouth of the finishing chute and be visibly marked (paint, flags).

Section 5. Rules and Officials

A. USA Track & Field, Marathon or Half Marathon rules shall be followed with whatever modifications deemed necessary by the NJCAA Chairperson.
B. The Meet Host will be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials to satisfactorily conduct the meet as determined by the NJCAA Cross Country Committee. These officials shall not be drawn from coaches who have teams participating in the meet.
C. In the event of cold or inclement weather, meet participants may wear cold weather gear (i.e. running tights, team sweats, rain suits, hats) with the approval of the Meet Director and the NJCAA Representative. If runners choose to wear cold weather gear, it must be of like color and/or matching team colors.
D. Headphones or similar audio devices may not be worn during the championship competition.
E. Meet results shall be made public as soon as results can be tabulated and confirmed for accuracy.
   Thirty minutes after the race results have been posted, the results become official, and no final protest can be filed.
F. Jury of Appeals: Members are the NJCAA Representative/Designee, the Championship Meet Director and a person appointed by the other two members, not to be a coach in the meet.
G. The men's and women's championship race shall have a staggered start. It is recommended that they are 15 minutes apart with the women starting first. The Host and NJCAA will assist in determining.
H. Half marathon race schedule is dependent upon site selection and weather conditions. Race shall not start before 7:00am.

Sample half marathon race schedule:

TIME	EVENT
8:40AM	**National Anthem**
8:50AM	**First Call Women**
9:00AM	**Women's Race**
9:05AM	**First Call Men**
9:15AM	**Men's Race**
11:00AM	**Awards**

I. Half-Marathon tiebreaker for all places of finish; First tiebreaker is highest 4th place finisher, if only one team enters a 4th place finisher, the team with the 4th place finisher claims the higher place of finish. The second tiebreaker is a head-to-head competition of the top three finishers.
J. Team standings to be determined by scoring the first three finishers from each team. A minimum of three finishers from each college is required to receive a team score. A maximum of five runners makes up a team. Fourth and fifth runners will be displaced. There is no limitation on individual entries.
K. **Separate eligibility (from cross country) must be filed with the NJCAA to participate in the Half Marathon.**
L. Female runner(s) may run and score for her college's men's team if the Tournament Director is notified in writing upon entry.
M. Pacing by any individual (coach, spectator, parent, etc.) by any means (running, biking, motorized vehicle, etc.) is subject to athlete disqualification.
N. For safety and race integrity, any runner that has not finished the half marathon course within two hours of the official start time may be removed from the course.
O. Coaches may leave appropriate items (water, sports drinks, gel, etc.) on available aid tables for their athletes or hand them directly to them within 100 meters before or after each aid station.

Section 6. **Squad Size**

A. Participating teams are defined as unlimited individual entries with the top three finishers scoring with the next two finishers displacing. There should be no delay of a contest to allow an institution to conform to this policy. Any violations shall automatically result in the disqualification of the institution(s) in violation. No member institution may run athletes as individuals if they have also entered as a team.

Section 7 **Finances**

A. The entry fee shall be $50 per runner.

18. LACROSSE - MEN'S

Section 1. Tournament Dates

A. The NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Semifinals will commence on the second Saturday in May.

B. The dates for the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Tournament are as follows:

The quarterfinals will be conducted at the highest seeded team on the Saturday prior to the National Tournament Semifinals weekend. Game times will be 1:00 PM local time.

Semifinals Dates:
May 8-9, 2027 at Harford Community College; Bel Air, MD
May 13-14, 2028 at Harford Community College; Bel Air, MD
May 12-13, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Tournament Qualifying and Selection Process

A. Current NJCAA Eligibility Rules shall apply.

B. Minimum of eight (8) NJCAA contests for a program to quality for postseason.

C. All regional/district competition must be completed two weeks prior to the National Tournament Semifinals weekend (April 25, 2027).

D. Participating teams are chosen using the following format:

1. Six qualifying teams come from the following four districts and two at-large selections:

2027 NJCAA MEN'S LACROSSE DISTRICTS					
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Mid-Atlantic	20	North	3	North Atlantic	4, 15, 19
At-Large (3 bids)					

E. The NJCAA Lacrosse Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding and at-large selection.

F. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – April 26, 2027

G. The At-Large Selection/Seeding Committee will use the following criteria, in no specific order, to select the At-Large Teams and seed the six teams.

1. NJCAA record vs. common opponents
2. Head-to-head competition unless teams are tied
3. Overall NJCAA Record
4. Strength of schedule
5. Overall win-loss record

Section 3. Tournament Events

The NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Tournament shall be conducted as a single-elimination event. On the weekend prior to the national championship weekend, the number six seed will play at the number three seed, and the number five seed will play at the number four seed. The two quarterfinal winners then join the top two seeds at the National Championship semifinals site. The lowest remaining seeded team will play the number one seed.

Section 4. Rules and Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

B. Once postseason tournament play begins, games will be played under NCAA rules.

C. The shot clock is a 80-second period that stops and starts in sync with the game clock. The synchronization can be done automatically, or by a separate manual device. For stopping and starting rules please see page 42 of the NCAA Lacrosse Rule book.

Acceptable forms of shot clocks include permanent shot clocks located on both ends of the field, portable shot clocks located on both ends of the field, portable shot clock located at the scorers' table at midfield, or the use of existing scoreboard and stop watch, should the shot clock time be kept at the scorers' table at midfield, event staff must count down out loud the last 15 seconds of the shot clock. A horn will need to be sounded at the expiration of the shot clock if synchronization with the scoreboard/game-horn is not possible.

D. For each game of the tournament, the team with higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored jerseys/uniform. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark coloredjerseys/uniform.

Section 5. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

B. The host of the quarterfinal games shall pay all game expenses.

C. The entry fee shall be $200.

Section 6. NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Poll

A. The NJCAA Lacrosse Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Criteria

1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents

C. Poll Dates: Feb 8^, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, Apr. 14**, Apr. 20

^ Preseason Poll

**Released on Wednesday due to NJCAA Convention

SOCCER – MEN'S – DIVISION I & DIVISION II

Section 1. Tournament Dates and Sites

The Tournament Host shall set the exact dates of the tournament in keeping with the recommendations of the NJCAA Division I and II Men's Soccer Committee.

Division I

November 15-21, 2026 at Stryker Sports Complex; Wichita, KS
November 14-20, 2027 at Stryker Sports Complex; Wichita, KS
November 12-18, 2028, TBD

Division II

November 15-21, 2026 at Huntsville/Madison County CVB at John Hunt Park
November 14-20, 2027 at Advanced Soccer Complex in Enid, OK
November 12-18, 2028, TBD

Section 2. Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host or organization shall be responsible for sending entry blanks to qualifying teams and shall notify them of the time schedule and other information pertinent to the tournament by **October 1** annually.
B. The Tournament Host shall have jurisdiction over promotions, advertising, and ticket sales. The host shall secure the playing sites and make all necessary arrangements for the proper management of spectators.
C. Practice sessions may be arranged two days preceding the tournament.
D. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary sports medicine, security, game day workers, ball shaggers, announcers, media, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Soccer.
E. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition (12 Teams)

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following eight districts plus four at-large selections:

2026 NJCAA DI MEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS									
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
East	3, 8, 10, 17, 19, 20	Gulf South	14, 23	Mid-South	2, 5	Midwest	4,11, 24	Northwest Plains	9
		Plains	6, 16	Rocky Mountain	18	West	1		

2026 NJCAA DII MEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Southeast	7,10, 17, 22	Central	2,16, 24	Northeast	12,19	Gulf South	23
Mid-Atlantic	20	Midwest	4	Plains	6, 9, 11, 13	West	1

B. The NJCAA Division I and Division II Men's Soccer Committees, along with the NJCAA Director of Championships, will have the authority to make substitutions for last minute withdrawals from the tournament.
C. Representatives must be determined NO LATER THAN November 7, 2026.
D. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
E. Colleges whose players receive red cards during postseason play must notify the NJCAA Soccer Chair prior to the next tournament contest.
F. District Playoff Policies and Procedures
   1. All Region and District Playoff games must be played on natural or artificial turf that measures at least 110 yards by 70 yards, with a visible clock. Artificial turf fields must be a rubber infill surface, consistent with current FIFA approved fields.
   2. The Tournament Director, or his/her designee, must arrange for officials, three game balls, one official timer, one official scorekeeper and four ball persons.
   3. All post-season games must use a four-person crew. At the National Championship, it will be required that all crew use head-sets. The headsets will be purchased by the Coaches Association, shipped and stored at the National office and then sent to the respective host site.
   4. District playoff sites may be rotated among participating regions according to a schedule developed by the NJCAA Director of Championships
   5. Districts may agree to play at a central site chosen by the District Director.
   6. District Champions and/or Representatives must send all card accumulations to the respective soccer chairs prior to the start of the National Tournament. This should be submitted on the official NJCAA Game Roster form.
G. District Playoffs
   1. Each district shall determine its own method for qualification of team.
   2. For Division I and II, At-Large bids will be determined by the NJCAA Division I and Division II Men's Soccer Committees.
H. National Tournament Seeding
   1. The NJCAA DI and DII Men's Soccer Committees adhere to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament at-large selection and seeding.
   2. Seeding will be completed no later than– November 9, 2026.

Section 4. Yellow Card Accumulation

A. Regular Season Enforcement
   1. 30 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   2. 40 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director, College President, and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   3. 50 Yellow Cards: Mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach.
   4. 60 Yellow Cards: Mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach.

B. Post-Season Enforcement:
   1. If a team's cumulative yellow card total for the regular season is under 50, the team will be permitted to accumulate an additional 10 yellow cards during post-season play without a suspension of the Head Coach.
   2. The combined Regular Season plus Post-Season Yellow Card threshold will be 60 before a mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach and 70 before a mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach are triggered.
   3. Any suspension earned due to yellow card accumulation in the final match of the post-season will carry over to the first match of the following season.

C. Ejections
   1. Each ejection carries its own penalty, but additional games will not be added for each subsequent ejection beyond the first.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. All regular season, regional, district and national tournament games will be played under the current NCAA Soccer rules with the following exceptions:
   1. Unlimited substitutions apply with a stoppage of the game clock during substitutions by the leading team or if the game is tied at any time in the last five minutes of the game.
   2. In regular season matches, if two teams are tied after regulation, no overtime will be played. The game is recorded as a tie.
   3. For all Region, District, and National Tournament matches, the overtime rule will be two 10 minutes sudden/victory/golden goal overtimes. If still tied, it will be followed by penalty kicks. Games that go to PKs in post-season are recorded as ties except in the National Championship match
   4. If a team has a 5+ goal differential in the last 5 minutes of the second half, the clock will not stop except for injury, cards, or at the discretion of the referee. If the score differential is 8+ goals and you have played 25 minutes into the 2nd half (70 total) then the game will be concluded and considered an official game and result. This rule is in place for ALL regular season and post-season games. Only the National Championship match will be played without this rule.
   5. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball shall be the official regular season and post-season game ball of the NJCAA.
   6. All games should have a minimum of 5 game balls (1 in play, 1 each for the ball shagger) and 1 placed on the side of each goal. It is required that each game has a minimum of two ball persons, and it is recommended to have 4.If this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible for handling the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand."
   7. An official NJCAA game roster, including the names, numbers and total number of cautions and ejections of all players, coaches and other bench personnel, shall be submitted to the official scorekeeper and each coach not later than 15 minutes before game time. The roster submitted to the official scorekeeper and the opposing coach shall include each player's total number of cautions and ejections in the columns beside the player's name. In addition, the roster shall include the name(s) and number(s) of the suspended player(s) and date(s) of the suspension.

B. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the designated bench area is 32 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

C. Roster numbers and jerseys must be checked and verified prior to the start of the tournament. Players found wearing incorrect numbers will be removed from the game until the problem is corrected. Players not listed on the roster, found to be participating in the game, will be removed at that point and will not be allowed to participate in any subsequent games.

D. In the event of darkness, inclement weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Director that prevent games from being completed on a given day, the suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension on the following day and the game and time schedule will adjust accordingly. If for any reason, a team must play more than 90 minutes after a suspended game is resumed, they will not be required to play again that day.

E. For each game of the tournament, the team with the highest seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored uniforms and have choice of bench. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark-colored uniforms.

F. NJCAA and NCAA rules govern all Regional, District and National competition.

G. Tights and undergarments that extend below game pants must be the same color as gamepants.

H. TOURNAMENT FORMAT / STRUCTURE

2026 NJCAA DI MEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT FORMAT / STRUCTURE							
POOL PLAY – *DAYS 1, 2, 3* | REST DAY – *DAY 4* | SEMIFINALS – *DAY 5* | REST DAY- DAY 6 | FINALS – *DAY 7*							
POOL	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**
A	1, 8, 12	B	2, 7, 11	C	3, 6, 10	D	4, 5, 9

2026 NJCAA DII MEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT FORMAT / STRUCTURE							
POOL PLAY – *DAYS 1, 2, 3* | REST DAY – *DAY 4* | SEMIFINALS – *DAY 5* | REST DAY- DAY 6 | FINALS – *DAY 7*							
POOL	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**
A	1, 8, 12	B	2, 7, 11	C	3, 6, 10	D	4, 5, 9

2026 NJCAA DI/II MEN'S SOCCER POOL PLAY GAME SCHEDULE (Section 4.E above may apply)				
DAY	**GAME 1**	**GAME 2**	**GAME 3**	**GAME 4**
1	1 vs. 12	2 vs. 11	3 vs. 10	4 vs. 9
2	8 vs. 12	7 vs. 11	6 vs. 10	5 vs. 9
3	1 vs. 8	2 vs. 7	3 vs. 6	4 vs. 5

I. Pool Play Standings

1. Team points will be awarded in each game in pool play in the following manner:
   3 Points – Victory
   0 Points – Loss
   After pool play, the team in each pool with the most points will advance to the Semifinals.

2 TEAM TIEBREAKING PROCEDURES
If after pool play, teams are tied for the most points in any pool, the following will apply, in order;
3 TEAM TIES
Goal differential in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
Note: There is a cap on the + or – for goal differential of either +5 or -5.
Example if the final score is 9-1, it will be recorded as +5 for the winning team and -5 for the losing team.
Goals scored in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
Goals against in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
**If at any point in applying the above criteria:
A single team gains an advantage over the other two teams, it advances
A single team is eliminated, and two teams remain tied, then immediately revert to head-to-head competition in pool play between the two tied teams. The team that earned three points in pool play advances.

3 UNBREAKABLE TIES (3 team)
If all three teams remain tied after the above criteria are applied, two "tiebreaking games" will be held on day four of the tournament. Immediately after conclusion of play in any pool, all tied teams will flip coins to determine which team receives the bye to the second "tiebreaking game." The odd coin receives the bye. The other two teams will play a "tiebreaking game" beginning at the start of overtime (two 10-minute sudden-victory overtime periods will be played, if no goal is scored, the NCAA procedure for penalty kicks will be used to determine the winner) Following a 20-minute break, the winning team advances to the second "tiebreaking game" to play the team that received the bye. Any such tiebreaking games are a continuation of pool play and are considered individual games. Any card(s) issued will carry the same penalty(ies) as in any other tournament game.

2026 NJCAA DI/II MEN'S SOCCER SEMIFINALS & FINALS SCHEDULE	
GAME	**MATCHUP**
13 (Semifinals)	Highest Remaining Seed vs. Lowest Remaining Seed
14 (Semifinals)	Second Highest Remaining Seed vs. Second Lowest Remaining Seed
15 (Finals)	Semifinal 1 Winner vs. Semifinal 2 Winner

Section 6. **Officials Only NISOA approved officials may be used in the tournament.**

A. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for securing the field officials. The NJCAA Soccer Committee Chair/designee will communicate with all officials assigned to the tournament explaining the differences between the NCAA Rules and NJCAA playing regulations.
B. Once the game has begun, it is in the hands of the field officials.
C. The four-person crew for officiating will be used in the post-season.
D. No referee may officiate a contest in which his/her own region is participating at the national level.
E. National tournament official's assignor, or designee, must be present at all tournament games.

Section 7. **Finances**

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

Section 8. **NJCAA Division I and II Men's Soccer Poll**

A. The NJCAA DI and DII Men's Soccer Committees adhere to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Dates: Aug. 10^, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 29**, Oct. 5, Oct. 13*, Oct.19, Oct. 26

^Preseason Poll

*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday

*Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

21. SOCCER – MEN'S – DIVISION III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

A. The dates for the NJCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament will commence on the second Wednesday in November.

B. The dates for the NJCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament are as follows:
November 12-15, 2026 - Dallas College Mountain View- Dallas, TX
November 11-14, 2027 - Genesee Community College- Batavia, NY
November 9-12, 2028 - TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for sending entry blanks to qualifying teams and shall notify them of the time schedule and other information pertinent to the tournament, by **October 1** annually.

B. The Tournament Host shall have jurisdiction over all promotions, advertising, tickets, schedules, etc. The host shall secure the playing sites and make all necessary arrangements for the proper management of spectators.

C. Practice sessions may be arranged the day preceding the tournament.

D. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary sports medicine, security, game day workers, ball shaggers, announcers, media, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Soccer.

E. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

F. The Tournament Director, in conjunction with the NJCAA Director of Championships, will set game times. If a college acting as the host of the championship qualifies, their first contest/game can be moved into primetime evening slot to increase attendance. Consultation with the NJCAA Sport Chair and NJCAA National Office is required to ensure integrity of bracket/schedule for the championship.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. Eight teams participate in the National Tournament.

B. The NJCAA DIII Men's Soccer Committee will have the authority to make substitutions for last minute withdrawals from the tournament.

C. Division III District Champions must be decided by November 1, 2026

D. Districts:

2026 NJCAA DIII MEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
East A	19A	East B	19B	Great Lakes	4, 12, 13	North A	3A
North B	3B	North Atlantic	15	Northeast	21	South	5

E. In multiple region districts, each region should confirm their intent to participate to the host of the district no later than October 1. Once committed, any region who would later cancel, could be held liable and responsible for any expenses incurred by the host. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.

Note: Colleges whose players receive red cards during postseason play must notify the NJCAA Soccer Chair prior to the next contest.

1. All District and National Tournament games must be played on a natural or artificial turf field that measures at least 110-yards by 70-yards. Artificial turf fields must be a rubber infill surface, consistent with current FIFA approved fields. This field must also have a visible clock.
2. The director must arrange for officials, five game balls, one official timer, one official scorekeeper and four ball persons.
3. District playoff sites may be rotated among participating regions according to a schedule developed by the director.
4. Districts may agree to play at a central site chosen by the District Director.
5. Region Champions must certify their yellow card accumulations with the district and/or National Tournament Director, using the official NJCAA Game Roster form.
6. All-Region Tournament games must have visible game clocks at fields.

Section 4. Yellow Card Accumulation

A. Regular Season Enforcement
1. 30 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
2. 40 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director, College President, and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
3. 50 Yellow Cards: Mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach.
4. 60 Yellow Cards: Mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach.

B. Post-Season Enforcement:
1. If a team's cumulative yellow card total for the regular season is under 50, the team will be permitted to accumulate an additional 10 yellow cards during post-season play without a suspension of the Head Coach.
2. The combined Regular Season plus Post-Season Yellow Card threshold will be 60 before a mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach and 70 before a mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach are triggered.
3. Any suspension earned due to yellow card accumulation in the final match of the post-season will carry over to the first match of the following season.

C. Ejections
1. Each ejection carries its own penalty, but additional games will not be added for each subsequent ejection beyond the first.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. All regular season, regional, district and national tournament games shall be played under current NCAA Soccer Rules with the following exceptions:
1. Unlimited substitutions apply with a stoppage of game clock during substitutions made by the leading team or if the game is tied at any time" in the last five minutes of the game.
2. In regular season matches, if two teams are tied after regulation, no overtime will be played. The game is recorded as a tie.

3. For all Region, District, and National Tournament matches, the overtime rule will be two 10 minutes sudden/victory/golden goal overtimes. If still tied, it will be followed by penalty kicks. Games that go to PKs in post-season are recorded as ties except in the National Championship match
4. If a team has a 5+ goal differential in the last 5 minutes of the second half, the clock will not stop except for injury, cards, or at the discretion of the referee. If the score differential is 8+ goals and you have played 25 minutes into the 2nd half (70 total) then the game will be concluded and considered an official game and result. This rule is in place for ALL regular season and post-season games. Only the National Championship match will be played without this rule.

B. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the designated bench area is 34 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

C. Roster numbers and game jerseys must be checked and verified prior to the start of the tournament. Players found wearing incorrect numbers will be removed from the game until the problem is corrected. Players not listed on the roster, found to be participating in the game, will be removed at that point and will not be allowed to participate in any subsequent games.

D. In the event of darkness, inclement weather, or other circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Director that prevent games from being completed on a given day, the suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension on the following day and the game and time schedule will be adjusted accordingly. If for any reason, a team must play more than 90 minutes after a suspended game is resumed, they shall not be required to play again that day.

E. For each game of the tournament, the team with a higher seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored uniforms and have choice of bench. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark-colored uniforms.

F. NJCAA rules govern all Regional, District and National competition.

G. All post-season games must use a four-person crew. At the National Championship, It will be required that all crews use headsets. The headsets will be purchased by the Coaches Association, shipped and stored at the National Office, and then sent to the respective host sites.

H. The NJCAA Soccer Committee Chair shall appoint a committee to assist the NJCAA Representative with the operation of the championship.

I. The Tournament Director shall designate team bench and assign home/away uniform color prior to each game.

J. Tournament Format
1. Seeding Process
   i. The eight teams in the tournament will be seeded.
   ii. The NJCAA DIII Men's Soccer Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament at-large selection and seeding.
   iii. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – November 2, 2026
   iv. Matchups: #1 vs. #8 - #2 vs. #7 - #3 vs. #6 - #4 vs. #5
2. Seeding Criteria
   i. Most recent rankings.
   ii. Game-by-game results that must be entered into the NJCAA Stats System.
   iii. Strength of District – defined as placement in the national tournament in the past three years.
3. Tournament Schedule:
   i. The tournament will conduct games on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday with no games on Saturday.

2026 NJCAA DIII SOCCER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
Thursday - DAY 1	
11:00 AM	Men's Quarterfinal Game #1
1:30 PM	Men's Quarterfinal Game #2
4:00 PM	Men's Quarterfinal Game #3
6:30 PM	Men's Quarterfinal Game #4
Friday - DAY 2	
11:00 AM	Men's Consolation Game Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2
1:30 PM	Men's Consolation Game Loser Game 3 vs Loser Game 4
4:00 PM	Men's Semi-Final Game Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2
6:30 PM	Men's Semi-Final Game Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4
Saturday - OFF	
Sunday - DAY 4	
12:00 PM	Men's 3rd Place Game
3:00 PM	Men's Championship

4. Assign point system to determine places 5-8 as follows:
    i. First round winners will play for places 1-4 while first round losers places 5-8.
    ii. 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie
    iii. Tie Breaker
        a. Shut Outs
        b. Goals Against
        c. Goals For

K. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball shall be the official regular season and post-season game ball of the NJCAA.

L. All games should have a minimum of 5 game balls (1 in play, 1 each for the ball shagger) and 1 placed on the side of each goal. It is required that each game has a minimum of two ball persons, and it is recommended to have 4. If this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible for handling the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand.

M. During the post-season, five official game balls must be provided by the host team to begin play. If this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible for handling the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand.

N. An official NJCAA game roster, including the names, numbers and total number of cautions and ejections of all players, coaches, and other bench personnel, shall be submitted to the official scorekeeper and each coach no later than 15 minutes before game time. The roster submitted to the official scorekeeper and the opposing coach shall include each player's total number of cautions and ejections in the columns beside the player's name. In addition, the roster shall include the name(s) and number(s) of the suspended player(s) and date(s) of the suspension.

Section 5. Officials

A. Only NISOA approved officials may be used in the tournament.

B. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

C. A game once begun is in the hands of the field officials.

D. The four-person system of officiating shall be used during postseason play.

E. No referee may officiate a contest in which his/her own region is participating.

F. National tournament official's assignor, or designee, must be present at all tournament games.

Section 6. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

B. The entry fee shall be $350 and shall be paid by the eight teams involved in the national play.

Section 7. NJCAA Division III Men's Soccer Poll

A. The NJCAA DIII Men's Soccer Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Dates: Aug. 10^, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept 29**, Oct 5, Oct. 13*, Oct. 19, Oct. 26
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
*Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

22. SOCCER – WOMEN'S – DIVISION I & II

Section 1. Tournament Dates and Sites

The Tournament Host shall set the exact dates of the tournament in keeping with the recommendations of the NJCAA Division I and II Women's Soccer Committee.

Division I

November 15-21, 2026 at Blanchard Woods Park; Evans, GA
November 14-20, 2027 at Daytona State College; Daytona Beach, FL
November 12-18, 2028, TBD

Division II

November 15-21, 2026 at Huntsville/Madison County CVB at John Hunt Park
November 14-20, 2027 at Advanced Soccer Complex in Enid, OK
November 12-18, 2028, TBD

Section 2. Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host or organization shall be responsible for sending entry blanks to qualifying teams and shall notify them of the time schedule and other information pertinent to the tournament by **October 1** annually.
B. The Tournament Host shall have jurisdiction over promotions, advertising, and ticket sales. The host shall secure the playing sites and make all necessary arrangements for the proper management of spectators.
C. Practice sessions may be arranged two days preceding the tournament.
D. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary sports medicine, security, game day workers, ball shaggers, announcers, media, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Soccer.
E. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition (12 Teams)

A. Division I Districts: Eight districts and four at-large teams will participate in the 2026 NJCAA Tournament.
B. Division II Districts: Eight districts and four at-large teams will participate in the 2026 NJCAA Tournament

2026 NJCAA DI WOMEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	11,24	East	3, 7, 19, 20	West	1,18	NW Plains	9
Plains	6	Central Plains	2, 16	South Central	5, 14, 23	Southeast	8, 10, 17

2026 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	2, 16	East	19, 20	Great Lakes	12, 24	Gulf South	23
Midwest	4	North Plains	6, 9, 11, 13	South	8, 10, 17, 22	West	1

C. Eight districts will receive automatic bids: The women's soccer at-large selection committee will consist of the NJCAA Division I and II Women's Soccer Committee. The at-large committee will make the at-large selection no later than the day after the district cutoff date. Criteria for at- large to include the following, but not limited to (in no particular order):
   1. National Ranking
   2. Strength of Schedule (Record vs. ranked opponents)
   3. History of Success by District at National Tournament
   4. Head-to-Head
   5. Record in Last Five Games
   6. Record vs Common Opponents
   7. All games played after the final poll will be considered for at-large and seeding.
   8. No more than three (3) teams from any District through championship and at-large may qualify
D. In the event there is a last-minute withdrawal from the tournament, the Women's Soccer Committee shall fill the opening using the following criteria:
   1. District runner-up of the district whose champion is unable to attend
   2. Next selected at-large team.
E. District representatives must be determined NO LATER THAN November 8, 2026. Seeding done November 9, 2026.
F. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
G. Colleges whose players receive red cards during postseason play must notify the NJCAA Soccer Chair prior to the next tournament contest.
H. District Playoff Policies and Procedures
   1. All Region and District Playoff games must be played on a natural or artificial turf that measures at least 110 yards by 70 yards, with a visible clock. Artificial turf fields must be a rubber infill surface, consistent with current FIFA approved fields.
   2. The director, or his/her designee, must arrange for officials, three game balls, one official timer, one official scorekeeper and four ball persons.
   3. District playoff sites may be rotated among participating regions according to a schedule developed by the director.

4. Districts may agree to play at a central site chosen by the District Director.

I. District Champions and/or Representatives must send all card accumulations, signed by the Regional Director, to the National Soccer Chair, by the Sunday prior to the National Tournament. They must be sent on the official NJCAA Game Roster form.
   1. Each district shall determine its own method for qualification of team(s).

J. Seeding – The soccer committee will seed the 12 teams that qualify for the tournament, using the following procedure:
   1. The committee will use the most recent poll, as well as game-by-game results, utilizing the NJCAA school site, which will be a requirement for a team to be seeded.
   2. The Soccer Chair will use composite point totals to rank the 12 teams.
   3. In case of a tie, the team with the highest number of higher ranked points will be given the higher seed.
      NOTE: The National Tournament Seeding should be done strictly on teams resume and seeding criteria.

Section 4. Yellow Card Accumulation

A. Regular Season Enforcement
   1. 30 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   2. 40 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director, College President, and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   3. 50 Yellow Cards: Mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach.
   4. 60 Yellow Cards: Mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach.

B. Post-Season Enforcement:
   1. If a team's cumulative yellow card total for the regular season is under 50, the team will be permitted to accumulate an additional 10 yellow cards during post-season play without a suspension of the Head Coach.
   2. The combined Regular Season plus Post-Season Yellow Card threshold will be 60 before a mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach and 70 before a mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach are triggered.
   3. Any suspension earned due to yellow card accumulation in the final match of the post-season will carry over to the first match of the following season.

C. Ejections
   1. Each ejection carries its own penalty, but additional games will not be added for each subsequent ejection beyond the first.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. All regular season, regional, district and national tournament games will be played under the current NCAA Soccer rules with the following exceptions:
   1. Unlimited substitutions apply with a stoppage of game clock during substitutions from the leading team, or if the game is tied, in the last five minutes of the game.
   2. In regular season matches, if two teams are tied after regulation, no overtime will be played. The game is recorded as a tie.
   3. For all Region, District, and National Tournament matches, the overtime rule will be two 10 minutes sudden/victory/golden goal overtimes. If still tied, it will be followed by penalty kicks. Games that go to PKs in post-season are recorded as ties except in the National Championship match.
   4. If a team has a 5+ goal differential in the last 5 minutes of the second half, the clock will not stop except for injury, cards, or at the discretion of the referee. If a score differential is 8+ goals and you have played 25 minutes into the 2nd half (70 minutes total), then the game will be concluded and considered an official game and result. This rule will be in effect for ALL regular and post-season games. Only the National Championship game will be played without the Mercy Rule.
   5. An official NJCAA game roster, including the names and numbers of all players, coaches and other bench personnel, shall be submitted to the referee, official scorekeeper and opposing coach no later than 30 minutes before time. The roster submitted to the official scorekeeper and the opposing coach shall include each player's total number of cautions and ejections in the columns beside the player's name. In addition, the roster shall include the name(s) and number(s) of the suspended player(s) and date(s) of the suspension. The copy submitted to the referee shall not include records of cautions and ejections.
   6. The National Tournament Semifinals and Finals are single elimination.

B. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the designated bench area is 32 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

C. Roster numbers and jerseys must be checked and verified prior to the start of the tournament. Players found wearing incorrect numbers will be removed from the game until the problem is corrected. Players not listed on the roster, found to be participating in the game, will be removed at that point and will not be allowed to participate in any subsequent games.

D. In the event of darkness, inclement weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Director that prevent games from being completed on a given day, the suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension on the following day and the game and time schedule will adjust accordingly. If for any reason, a team must play more than 90 minutes after a suspended game is resumed, they will not be required to play again that day.

E. For each game of the tournament, the team with the highest seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored uniforms and have choice of bench. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark colored uniforms.

F. NJCAA and NCAA rules govern all Regional, District and National competition.

G. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball shall be the official regular season game ball of the NJCAA. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball shall be used at NJCAA Championships and during the post-season.

H. All games should have a minimum of 5 game balls (1 in play, 1 each for the ball shagger) and 1 placed on the side of each goal. It is required that each game has a minimum of two ball persons, and it is recommended to have 4. If this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible for handling the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand.

I. Tights and undergarments that extend below game pants must be the same color as game pants.

J. Tournament Format / Structure:

2026 NJCAA DI WOMEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT FORMAT / STRUCTURE							
POOL PLAY – *DAYS 1, 2, 3* | REST DAY – *DAY 4* | SEMIFINALS – *DAY 5* | REST DAY- DAY 6 |FINALS – *DAY 7*							
POOL	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**
A	1, 8, 12	B	2, 7, 11	C	3, 6, 10	D	4, 5, 9

2026 NJCAA DII WOMEN'S SOCCER TOURNAMENT FORMAT / STRUCTURE							
POOL PLAY – *DAYS 1, 2, 3* | REST DAY – *DAY 4* | SEMIFINALS – *DAY 5* | REST DAY- DAY 6 |FINALS – *DAY 7*							
POOL	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**	**POOL**	**SEEDS**
A	1, 8, 12	B	2, 7, 11	C	3, 6, 10	D	4, 5, 9

2026 NJCAA DI/DII WOMEN'S SOCCER POOL PLAY GAME SCHEDULE				
DAY	**GAME 1**	**GAME 2**	**GAME 3**	**GAME 4**
1	1 vs.12	2 vs. 11	3 vs. 10	4 vs.9
2	8 vs. 12	7 vs. 11	6 vs. 10	5 vs. 9
3	1 vs.8	2 vs 7	3 vs. 6	4 vs. 5

K. Pool Play Standings

1. Team points will be awarded in each game in pool play in the following manner:
   3 Points – Victory
   0 Points – Loss
   After pool play, the team in each pool with the most points will advance to the Semifinals.
2. TEAM TIEBREAKING PROCEDURES
   If after pool play, teams are tied for the most points in any pool, the following will apply, in order;
   3 TEAM TIES
   Goal differential in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
   Note: There is a cap on the + or – for goal differential of either +5 or -5. Example if the final score is 9-1, it will be recorded as +5 for the winning team and -5 for the losing team.
   Goals scored in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
   Goals against in all pool play games in regulation and OT periods.
   **If at any point in applying the above criteria:
   A single team gains an advantage over the other two teams, it advances
   A single team is eliminated, and two teams remain tied, then immediately revert to head-to-head competition in pool play between the two tied teams. The team that earned three points in pool play advances.
3. UNBREAKABLE TIES (3 team)
   If all three teams remain tied after the above criteria are applied, two "tiebreaking games" will be held on day four of the tournament. Immediately after conclusion of play in any pool, all tied teams will flip coins to determine which team receives the bye to the second "tiebreaking game." The odd coin receives the bye. The other two teams will play a "tiebreaking game" beginning at the start of overtime (two 10-minute sudden-victory overtime periods will be played, if no goal is scored, the NCAA procedure for penalty kicks will be used to determine the winner) Following a 20-minute break, the winning team advances to the second "tiebreaking game" to play the team that received the bye. Any such tiebreaking games are a continuation of pool play and are considered individual games. Any card(s) issued will carry the same penalty(ies) as in any other tournament game.

2026 NJCAA DI/DII WOMEN'S SOCCER SEMIFINALS & FINALS SCHEDULE	
GAME	**MATCHUP**
13 (Semifinals)	Highest Remaining Seed vs. Lowest Remaining Seed (10:00 AM local time)
14 (Semifinals)	Second Highest Remaining Seed vs. Second Lowest Remaining Seed (1:00 PM local time)
15 (Finals)	Semifinal 1 Winner vs. Semifinal 2 Winner (4:00 PM local time)

L. The official tournament ball for will be the Select Super NJCAA match ball. The Select "Super" or "Brilliant Super" ball shall be the official regular season game ball of the NJCAA.
   1. Penalty for non-compliance of using the NJCAA Official Ball: "(Exception to NCAA Rule 2 "The Ball") - Four official game balls must be provided by the host team, in order to begin play. In the event this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible to handle the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand."
      Note: Region Directors shall collect and report any violations and then submit them to the NJCAA National Office at the conclusion of the season.

Section 6. **Officials**

A. Only NISOA approved officials may be used in the tournament.
B. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
C. Once the game has begun, it is in the hand of the field officials.
D. The four-person system of refereeing shall be used in all postseason tournament play.
E. No referee may officiate a contest in which his/her own region is participating at the national level.
F. National tournament official's assignor, or designee, must be present at all tournament games.

Section 7. **Finances**

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

Section 8. **NJCAA Division I and II Women's Soccer Poll**

A. The NJCAA DI and DII Women's Soccer Committees adhere to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Dates: Aug. 10^, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 29**, Oct. 5, Oct. 13*, Oct.19, Oct. 26
   ^Preseason poll
   *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
   *Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

23. SOCCER – WOMEN'S – DIVISION III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

November 12-15, 2026 - Genesee Community College - Batavia, NY
November 12-15, 2027 – Dallas College Mountain View - Dallas, TX
November 9-12, 2028 - TBD

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host or organization shall be responsible for sending entry blanks to qualifying teams and shall notify them of the time schedule and other information pertinent to the tournament by **October 1** annually.
B. The Tournament Host shall have jurisdiction over promotions, advertising, and ticket sales. The host shall secure the playing sites and make all necessary arrangements for the proper management of spectators.
C. Practice sessions may be arranged two days preceding the tournament.
D. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary sports medicine, security, game day workers, ball shaggers, announcers, media, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Soccer.
E. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. Eight teams participate in the National Tournament.
B. The NJCAA Committee on Soccer will have the authority to make substitutions for last minute withdrawals from the tournament.
C. All District Representatives must be determined on or before November 1, 2026
D. Districts:

2026 NJCAA DIII WOMEN'S SOCCER DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	REGION(S)	DISTRICT	REGION(S)	DISTRICT	REGION(S)	DISTRICT	REGION(S)
East A	19A	East B	19B	Midwest	4, 12, 13	Mid-Atlantic	15
South	5	North A	3A	North B	3B	Northeast	21

E. In multiple region districts, each region should confirm their intent to participate to the host of the district no later than October 1. Once committed, any region who would later cancel, could be held liable and responsible for any expenses incurred by the host. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.

Note: Colleges whose players receive red cards during postseason play must notify the NJCAA Soccer Chair prior to the next contest.

1. All District and National Tournament games must be played on a natural or artificial turf field that measures at least 110-yards by 70-yards. Artificial turf fields must be a rubber infill surface, consistent with current FIFA approved fields. This field must also have a visible clock.
2. The director must arrange for officials, three game balls, one official timer, one official scorekeeper and four ball persons.
3. District playoff sites may be rotated among participating regions according to a schedule developed by the director.
4. Districts may agree to play at a central site chosen by the District Director.
5. Region Champions must certify their yellow card accumulations with the district and/or National Tournament Director, using the official NJCAA Game Roster form.
6. All-Region Tournament games must have visible game clocks at fields.

Section 4. Yellow Card Accumulation

A. Regular Season Enforcement
   1. 30 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   2. 40 Yellow Cards: Written letter of warning to the institution's Athletic Director, College President, and Regional Director and/or Commissioner.
   3. 50 Yellow Cards: Mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach.
   4. 60 Yellow Cards: Mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach.

B. Post-Season Enforcement:
   1. If a team's cumulative yellow card total for the regular season is under 50, the team will be permitted to accumulate an additional 10 yellow cards during post-season play without a suspension of the Head Coach.
   2. The combined Regular Season plus Post-Season Yellow Card threshold will be 60 before a mandatory one (1) game suspension of the Head Coach and 70 before a mandatory two (2) game suspension of the Head Coach are triggered.
   3. Any suspension earned due to yellow card accumulation in the final match of the post-season will carry over to the first match of the following season.

C. Ejections
   1. Each ejection carries its own penalty, but additional games will not be added for each subsequent ejection beyond the first.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. All regular season, regional, district and national tournament games shall be played under current NCAA Soccer Rules with the following exceptions:
   1. Unlimited substitutions apply with a stoppage of game clock during substitutions made by the leading team, of if the game is tied, at any time" in the last five minutes of the game.
   2. In regular season matches, if two teams are tied after regulation, no overtime will be played. The game is recorded as a tie.
   3. For all Region, District, and National Tournament matches, the overtime rule will be two 10 minutes sudden/victory/golden goal overtime. If still tied, it will be followed by penalty kicks. Games that go to PKs in post-season are recorded as ties except in the National Championship match.
   4. All post-season games must use the four-person crew. At the National Championship, It will be required that all crews use headsets. The headsets will be purchased by the Coaches Association, shipped and stored at the National Office, and then sent to the respective host sites.
   5. If a team has a 5+ goal differential in the last 5 minutes of the second half, the clock will not stop except for injury, cards, or at the discretion of the referee. If the score differential is 8+ goals, and you have played 25 minutes into the 2nd half (70 total) then the game will be concluded and considered an official game and result. This rule is in place for ALL regular season and post-season games. Only the National Championship match will be played without this rule.

B. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the designated bench area is 34 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
C. Roster numbers and game jerseys must be checked and verified prior to the start of the tournament. Players found wearing incorrect numbers will be removed from the game until the problem is corrected. Players not listed on the roster, found to be participating in the game, will be removed at that point and will not be allowed to participate in any subsequent games.
D. In the event of darkness, inclement weather, or other circumstances beyond the control of the Tournament Director that prevent games from being completed on a given day, the suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension on the following day and the game and time schedule will be adjusted accordingly. If for any reason, a team must play more than 90 minutes after a suspended game is resumed, they shall not be required to play again that day.
E. For each game of the tournament, the team with the highest seed (lower number) in each game will be the HOME TEAM and wear light-colored uniforms and have choice of bench. The lower seed (higher number) will be the VISITOR TEAM and wear dark-colored uniforms.
F. NJCAA rules govern all Regional, District and National competition.
G. The NJCAA Soccer Committee Chair shall appoint a committee to assist the NJCAA Representative with the operation of the championship.
H. The Tournament Director shall designate team bench and assign home/away uniform color prior to each contest.
I. Tournament Format
    1. Seeding Process
        i. The eight teams in the tournament will be seeded.
        ii. The NJCAA DIII Women's Soccer Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament at-large selection and seeding.
        iii. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – November 2, 2026
        iv. Matchups: #1 vs. #8 - #2 vs. #7 - #3 vs. #6 - #4 vs. #5
    2. Seeding Criteria
        i. Most recent rankings.
        ii. Game-by-game results that must be entered into the NJCAA Stats System.
        iii. Strength of District – defined as placement in the national tournament in the past three years.
    3. Tournament Schedule:
        i. The tournament will conduct games on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday with no games on Saturday.

2026 NJCAA DIII SOCCER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE	
Thursday - DAY 1	
11:00 AM	Women's Quarterfinal Game #1
1:30 PM	Women's Quarterfinal Game #2
4:00 PM	Women's Quarterfinal Game #3
6:30 PM	Women's Quarterfinal Game #4
Friday - DAY 2	
11:00 AM	Women's Consolation Game Loser Game 1 vs Loser Game 2
1:30 PM	Women's Consolation Game Loser Game 3 vs Loser Game 4
4:00 PM	Women's Semi-Final Game Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2
6:30 PM	Women's Semi-Final Game Winner Game 3 vs Winner Game 4
Saturday - OFF	
Sunday - DAY 4	
12:00 PM	Women's 3rd Place Game
3:00 PM	Women's Championship

4. Assign point system to determine places 5-8 as follows:
    i. First round winners will play for places 1-4 while first round losers places 5-8.
    ii. 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie
    iii. Tie Breaker
        a. Shut Outs
        b. Goals Against
        c. Goals For

J. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball shall be the official regular season game ball of the NJCAA. The Select "Brilliant Super" ball will be used at NJCAA Championships and during the post-season.
    1. All games should have a minimum of 5 game balls (1 in play, 1 each for the ball shagger) and 1 placed on the side of each goal. It is required that each game has a minimum of two ball persons, and it is recommended to have 4. If this stipulation is not met, the game shall be played with the offending head coach receiving a yellow card and the host Region being responsible for handling the infraction which includes sending the athletic director of the offending school a letter of reprimand.

K. An official NJCAA game roster, including the names, numbers and total number of cautions and ejections of all players, coaches, and other bench personnel, shall be submitted to the official scorekeeper and each coach no later than 15 minutes before game time. The roster submitted to the official scorekeeper and the opposing coach shall include each player's total number of cautions and ejections in the columns beside the player's name. In addition, the roster shall include the name(s) and number(s) of the suspended player(s) and date(s) of the suspension.

Section 5. **Officials**

A. Only NISOA approved officials may be used in the tournament.
B. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
C. A game once begun is in the hands of the field officials.
D. The four-person system of officiating shall be used during postseason play.
E. No referee may officiate a contest in which his/her own region is participating.
F. National tournament official's assignor, or designee, must be present at all tournament games.

Section 6. **Finances**

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.
B. The entry fee shall be $350 and shall be paid by the eight teams involved in the national play.

Section 7. **NJCAA Division III Women's Soccer Poll**

A. The NJCAA DIII Women's Soccer Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Dates: Aug. 10^, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept 29**, Oct 5, Oct. 13*, Oct. 19, Oct. 26
    ^Preseason poll
    *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
    *Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

24. SOFTBALL – DIVISION I

Section 1. World Series Dates

May 24-29, 2027 at Choccolocco Park; Oxford, AL
May 23-27, 2028 at Choccolocco Park; Oxford, AL
May 22-26, 2029 at Choccolocco Park/Jacksonville State University; Oxford, AL

Section 2. World Series Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. Pre-Tournament information shall be sent by the National office to each coach and Athletic Director.
B. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
C. The World Series Host shall notify the participating teams of time schedules, hotel assignments, confirmed room rates, team host information and other pertinent materials including a coaches and officials' pre-tournament meeting.
D. The World Series Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising, and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of the spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. Districts:

2027 NJCAA DI SOFTBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Appalachian	7	Central	24	Mid-Atlantic	10, 17, 20	Mid-South A	14A
Mid-South B	14B	Midwest	11, 16	Plains	6	Rocky Mountain	18
South	22	South Atlantic A	8A	South Atlantic B	8B	South Central	2, 23
NW Plains	9	Southwest A	5A	Southwest B	5B	West	1

B. **District and Region play must be completed on or before May 16, 2027**
C. District Tournaments must be double elimination.
D. District Directors shall be responsible for the following:
   1. Meet with Region Director for all regions involved in the District Playoff to determine:
      i. Playoff format, dates, sites, and financial responsibilities.
      ii. Submit the completed and signed District Playoff Championship Contract to the Division I Softball Chair at the NJCAA Annual Meeting.
   2. Notify the World Series Director and National Office when district results are complete
E. Substitution Process
   1. In the event the district representative cannot attend, the district runner-up will take their place
   2. If the runner-up cannot attend, the DI softball committee will select the replacement based on the same selection process used for at-large selections.

Section 4. World Series Seeding

A. The World Series shall consist of 16 District Representatives with 4 At-Larges
B. The NJCAA DI Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to World Series seeding.
C. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 17, 2027
D. Seeds 13-20 will play an opening round game, with the winners moving on to face the 5-8 seeds in the second round of play, and the losers moving into consolation play.
E. All teams will be seeded, and at-large bids will be chosen by the following criteria, listed in no particular order:
   1. Overall, Body of Work/Record
   2. Final regular season poll results.
   3. Results of Region/District playoffs.
   4. Strength of Schedule (to include when teams have traveled outside their Region as well as contests played at neutral sites).
   5. Quality Wins/Quality Losses/Bad Losses/teams in poll/teams in respective World Series
   6. Record against NJCAA Division I top 20 teams for the season
   7. Record against NJCAA Division I opponents
   8. Record against NJCAA Division II, NJCAA Division III, NWAC and CCCAA.
   9. Participation and placement in respective Region/District Tournament.
   10. Strength of Region/District.
F. Only games vs. NJCAA, NWAC, and CCCAA will be considered.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. NCAA rules will be used with the following exceptions:
   1. The halted game rule will be in effect for all World Series play.
   2. The international tiebreaker will not be used in World Series play.
   3. The eight-run rule WILL be in effect for all post-season games.
B. The World Series shall be conducted as a double-elimination tournament by NJCAA.
C. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 32 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

D. All region/district hosts will use and be provided with the official tournament ball in all postseason play except for regions within a district, which will receive balls only for a district tournament.
E. The official tournament ball is the Rawlings NJCAAFP
F. For the World Series, it is the responsibility of the visiting team to ensure its jersey is of a contrasting color to that selected by the home team. If the jerseys don't contrast enough, the visiting team must change their jerseys.
G. The Protest Committee will be made up of the World Series Director, NJCAA Representative, Umpire-In-Chief and the Division I Softball Chair.
H. Weather/Suspended Game(s)
When a game is underway and it starts to rain/snow, only the umpire can suspend the game. Suspended games are continued from the point of when the play was suspended. The official scorebook should have the point of suspension, outs, etc. recorded. The official NCAA Rules will be followed regarding weather conditions and suspended play. It is recommended that no games start before 9 am and no games should begin after 11:00 pm. It is recommended that streaming takes place for all games but in the instance weather or unforeseeable circumstances, this may not always be possible. Games should not be held up due to this. It is recommended additional fields be used if needed to get the games in due to weather. The 6-day World Series will have an option to use a 7th day in cases of significant inclement weather. All final decisions will be made by the Tournament Director, Sports Chair in attendance, and the NJCAA representative, in consultation with the NJCAA Office.
I. Game Balls:
For all Region, District and National Tournaments there will need to be five game balls per game with at least two balls being new.
J. Bat testing will be conducted by an NJCAA representative prior to the start of the World Series in accordance with the NCAA bat testing protocols. The process for bat testing at the World Series will be clearly spelled out in the pre-tournament information packet.
K. The home team will utilize the 1st base dugout.
L. At the World Series, in any game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team is undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. If both teams have a loss, then there will be a coin flip to determine the home team.
M. In District play, the districts shall determine how the home team is determined. However, it is recommended that if it is a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip
N. In the event the "if necessary" game is needed, a minimum of a 30-minute break shall take place between games on the final day of championship play.
O. An exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout to the field for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call is permitted. The use of an in-ear communication device shall be limited to the defensive position of the catcher.
P. Reminder: The use of a double base at first base is required. It must be 15x30 inches with the fair position in white and the foul portion in a contrasting color.
Q. Reminder: All home run and sideline fences constructed of hard materials (like wood, concrete, or brick) are required to be padded. The padding must begin no higher than 1 foot off the ground and extend to the top of the hard material or 6 feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.

Section 6. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
B. No umpire will be allowed to work more than two consecutive years at the World Series. Each year a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out of the tournament. Whenever possible no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the region they are from is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the Tournament Executive Committee (including the NJCAA Representative).

Section 7. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the World Series Host.
B. Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 8. NJCAA DI Softball Poll

A. The NJCAA DI Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Criteria
1. Overall record
2. Record since last poll
3. Last 10 games
4. Record vs. District opponents
5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents
C. Poll Dates: Jan 19^*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, Apr. 13**, Apr. 19, Apr. 26, May 3
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention

25. SOFTBALL – DIVISION II

Section 1. World Series Dates

The NJCAA Division II Softball World Series will be held during the fourth week in May.

May 31-June 5, 2027 at Choccolocco Park; Oxford, AL
May 23-27, 2028 at Choccolocco Park/Jacksonville State University; Oxford, AL
May 22-26, 2029 at Choccolocco Park/Jacksonville State University; Oxford, AL

Section 2. World Series Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The World Series Host shall notify the participating teams of time schedules and other pertinent tournament information, including coaches and officials' pre-tournament meeting.
B. The World Series Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of the spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. Districts:

2027 NJCAA DII SOFTBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Central	16, 24	Great Lakes A	12A	Great Lakes B	12B	Gulf A	23A
Gulf B	23B	Mid-Atlantic	20	Midwest A	4A	Midwest B	4B
Atlantic A	10, 19	Atlantic B	10, 19	North Plains A	11, 13	North Plains B	11, 13
South Plains	2	Plains	6	South	8, 22	West	1

B. District and Region play must be complete on or before May 23, 2027
C. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
D. District Tournaments must be double elimination.
E. District Directors shall be responsible for the following:
   1. Determining date of their respective District Tournaments and notifying the World Series Director in writing by Jan. 1
   2. Determining the playoff format, dates, sites and financial responsibility**.**
   3. Complete and submit district playoff contract to the Division II Softball Chair at the Annual Meeting:
   4. Notify the NJCAA National Office when the results of that tournament are known.
F. Substitution Process
G. 1. If a District champion cannot attend, the district runner-up will replace them
H. 2. If the District runner-up cannot attend, then the DII SB Committee will select a replacement based on the at-large criteria

Section 4. World Series Seeding

A. The World Series shall consist of 16 District Representatives with 4 At-Larges
B. The NJCAA DII Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to World Series seeding.
C. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 24, 2027
D. Seeding will be based on, in no order:
   1. Over-all body of work
   2. Final regular season poll
   3. Results of post-season play (Region and District)
   4. Strength of Schedule (to include neutral site and out of region consideration)
   5. Quality wins and losses, bad losses. Looking at polls/teams who have qualified for WS
   6. Record against NJCAA DII, DI, and DIII ranked teams
   7. Record against NJCAA DII opponents
   8. Record against all other NJCAA opponents as well as NWAC and CCCAA.
   9. Participation and placement in respective post-season tournaments
   10. Strength of Region/District
   11. Only games against NJCAA, NWAC, and CCCAA will be considered in rankings and seeding
   12. Regions/Districts cannot have more than three total World Series Bids.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. NCAA rules will be used with the following exceptions:
   1. The halted game rule will be in effect for all World Series play.
   2. The international tiebreaker will not be used in World Series play.
   3. The eight-run rule will be in effect for all games including the national championship game.
B. The World Series shall be conducted as a double elimination softball tournament by NJCAA.
C. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 32 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
D. All region/district hosts will use and be provided with the official tournament ball in all post season play with the exception of regions within a district, which will receive balls only for a district tournament.
E. The official tournament ball is NJCAAFP Rawlings.
F. At the World Series, in any game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team in undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. If both teams have a loss, then there will be a coin flip to determine the home team.

G. In District play, the districts shall determine how the home team is determined, however it is recommended that If it a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip
H. The Protest Committee will be made up of the World Series Director, NJCAA Representative and the Umpire-In-Chief.
I. Weather/Suspended Game(s): When a game is underway and it starts to rain/snow, only the umpire can suspend the game. Suspended games are continued from the point of when the play was suspended. The official scorebook should have the point of suspension, outs, etc. recorded.
The official NCAA Rules will be followed regarding weather conditions and suspended play.
J. In the event of unavoidable delays due to either weather or unforeseen causes, the World Series Director and the NJCAA Representative reserves the right to re-schedule game times or make other arrangements as necessary. The 6-day World Series will have an option for a 7th day in case of significant inclement weather.
K. It is recommended that no games start before 9 am or begin after 11:00 pm.
L. It is recommended that streaming take place for all games but if weather or unforeseeable circumstances occur, this may not take place. Games should not be held up for this. It is recommended to use an additional field to get games in due to the weather. A final decision will be made by the Tournament Director. Attending sports chair, and the NJCAA representative in consultation with the NJCAA office.
M. An exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout to the field for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call is permitted. The use of an in-ear communication device shall be limited to the defensive position of the catcher.
N. Reminder: The use of a double base at first base is required. It must be 15x30 inches with the fair position in white and the foul portion in a contrasting color.
O. Reminder: All home run and sideline fences constructed of hard materials (like wood, concrete, or brick) are required to be padded. The padding must begin no higher than 1 foot off the ground and extend to the top of the hard material or 6 feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.

Section 6. **Officials**

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
B. No umpire will be allowed to work more than two consecutive years at the World Series. Each year a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out of the tournament. Whenever possible no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the region they are from is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the Tournament Executive Committee (including the NJCAA Representative).

Section 7. **Finances**

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the World Series Host.
B. Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 8. **NJCAA DII Softball Poll**

A. The NJCAA DII Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Criteria
    1. Overall record
    2. Record since last poll
    3. Last 10 games
    4. Record vs. District opponents
    5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponent
C. Poll Dates: Jan 19^*, Feb 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 13**, April 19, April 26, May 3
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention





NJCAA DIVISION I AND II SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL POSTSEASON MODEL

Effective Spring 2028

Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Guiding Principles & Common Framework
3. Proposed Postseason Structure Overview
4. Softball Postseason Model
    - Timeline & Format
    - Automatic Qualifiers & At-Large Bids
5. Baseball Postseason Model
    - Timeline & Format
    - Automatic Qualifiers & At-Large Bids
6. Super Regional Hosting & Bid Requirements
7. Rankings & Postseason Seeding Protocols
8. Conclusion

Appendices

Appendix A – Softball Super Regional Schedule
Appendix B – Softball World Series Bracket Format
Appendix C – Baseball Super Regional Schedule
Appendix D – Baseball World Series Bracket Format

NJCAA Division I & II Softball and Baseball Postseason Model Proposal

Implementation: Spring 2028

Guiding Principles & Common Framework

- Improve the student-athlete postseason experience
- Align NJCAA championships with national best practices
- Ensure equitable geographic and regional representation
- Maintain fiscal and logistical responsibility
- Provide predictable timelines for host institutions

Postseason Structure

Regional / District → Super Regional → World Series

- 32 total teams
- 8 Super Regional sites
- 4 teams per site

Softball Postseason Model

Division I & II

- Regional completion: May 7, 2028

- Qualifier notification: May 8, 2028

- Bracket reveal: May 9, 2028

- Super Regionals: May 13–15, 2028 *See Appendix A for schedule

- World Series: Tuesday, May 23 – Saturday, May 27, 2028

- 4-team pods with best of 3 championship series (5 days) *See Appendix B for bracket

Automatic Qualifiers (AQs) & At-Large Bids

The Division 1 and Division 2 Softball Committees approved adjustments to the AQ system to support equitable representation across the country.

Automatic Qualifier Structure

Region Size	**New AQ Allocation**
1–2 teams	**Combine with another region**
3–12 teams	**1 automatic bid**
13+ teams	**2 automatic bids**

Regions with automatic qualifiers may be combined with regions that do not have automatic qualifiers based on geography.

Softball Regional Team Counts & AQ Distribution

Division I Softball Summary

- Total Teams: 140
- Total AQs: 18
- AQ Ratio: 13%
- At Large Bids: 14
- Total: 32

Division II Softball Summary

- Total Teams: 166
- Total AQs: 19
- AQ Ratio: 11%
- At Large Bids: 13
- Total: 32

Regional Breakdown: Team Counts & Auto Qualifiers Distribution

Division I & Division II Summary Table

Region	D1 Teams	D1 Bids	D2 Teams	D2 Bids
1	6	1	8	1
2	7	1	12	1
3	–	–	–	–
4	–	–	22	2
5	17	2	–	–
6	9	1	11	1
7	11	1	–	–
8	15	2	8	1
9	9	1	–	–
10	5	0.75	11	1
11	5	1	10	1
12	–	–	21	2
13	–	–	5	1
14	14	2	–	–
15	-	-		
16	8	1	4	1
17	6	1	–	–
18	5	1	–	–
19	–	–	7	1
20	1	0.25	14	2
21	–	–	–	–
22	9	0.75	10	1
23	1	0.25	16	2
24	12	1	7	1
Total	**140**	**18**	**166**	**19**

Notes:

- Division I: Regions **10 & 20** combine; Regions **22 & 23** combine
- Summary table will be evaluated on an annual basis

Baseball Postseason Model

Division I & II

- Regional completion: May 9, 2028

- Qualifier notification: May 10, 2028

- Bracket reveal: May 11, 2028

- Super Regionals: May 16–19, 2028 *See Appendix C for schedule

- World Series: Saturday, May 27 – Saturday, June 3, 2028

- 8-Team Double-Elimination Bracket *See Appendix D for bracket

Automatic Qualifiers (AQs) & At-Large Bids

The Division 1 and Division 2 Baseball Committees approved adjustments to the AQ system to support equitable representation across the country.

Automatic Qualifier Structure

Region Size	New AQ Allocation
1–2 teams	**Combine with another region**
3–12 teams	**1 automatic bid**
13+ teams	**2 automatic bids**

Regions with automatic qualifiers may be combined with regions that do not have automatic qualifiers based on geography.

Baseball Regional Team Counts & AQ Distribution

Division I Baseball Summary

- **Total Teams:** 155
- **Total AQs:** 20
- **AQ Ratio:** 13%
- **At Large Bids:** 12
- **Total:** 32

Division II Baseball Summary

- **Total Teams:** 163
- **Total AQs:** 20
- **AQ Ratio:** 12%
- **At Large Bids:** 12
- **Total:** 32

Regional Breakdown: Team Counts & Auto Qualifiers Distribution

Region	D1 Teams	D1 Bids	D2 Teams	D2 Bids
1	7	1	9	1
2	6	1	15	2
3	-	-	1	0.25
4	5	0.67	17	2
5	19	2	-	-
6	18	2	-	-
7	11	1	-	-
8	16	2	7	1
9	8	1	-	-
10	6	0.67	15	2
11	2	0.33	11	1
12	-	-	22	2
13	-	-	6	1
14	13	2	-	-
15	-	-	-	-
16	8	1	4	1
17	5	1	-	-
18	4	1	-	-
19	-	-	6	0.5
20	2	0.33	15	2
21	-	-	1	0.25
22	10	1	10	1
23	4	1	15	2
24	11	1	9	1
Total	**155**	**20**	**163**	**20**

Notes:

- Division I: Regions **4 & 11** combine; Regions **10 & 20** combine
- Division II: Regions **3 & 19 & 21** combine
- Summary table will be evaluated on an annual basis

Super Regional Hosting & Bid Requirements

-Super Regional sites will be geographically placed across the country with no more than two sites being awarded to one region

-All games will be broadcasted on the NJCAA Network

-Streaming capabilities (minimum one camera, score/inning display)

-Neutral broadcast standards when applicable

-Facility signage packages

-Staffing: Public Address individual, Scoreboard Operator, Live Stats/Official Scorer, Athletic Trainer, Security, Grounds Team, Concession (preferred), Onsite Administrator (cannot be directly affiliated with institution hosting)

-Umpire crews (3-person crews+ UIC)

-Field and facility standards must meet with NCAA postseason requirements

-Facilities with field tarps, artificial turf and lights will be given preference during bid process with build in consideration for average precipitation during the month of May

-Hotel room blocks for participating teams

Bid Hosting Timeline-

<u>Softball:</u>

Bid Document Available: October 15, 2027

Bid Document Submission Deadline: April 8, 2028

Host Sites Awarded: April 24, 2028

<u>Baseball:</u>

Bid Document Available: October 15, 2027

Bid Document Submission Deadline: April 15, 2028

Host Sites Awarded: May 1, 2028

DI & DII Baseball and Softball Regular Season Rankings & Post Season Seeding Protocols

1. Overall Body of Work

    a. Overall Record, only to include games vs. NJCAA, NWAC, CCCAA, and Military Preparatory Schools will be considered.

    b. Strength of Schedule

        i. Record vs. teams ranked in the poll in your division

        ii. Record vs. teams ranked in the poll outside your division

        iii. Record vs. region/conference opponents

        iv. Record against non-region/non-conference opponents

        v. Overall record on the road, at a neutral site, and at home

    c. Overall record for last 20 games to include post season competition

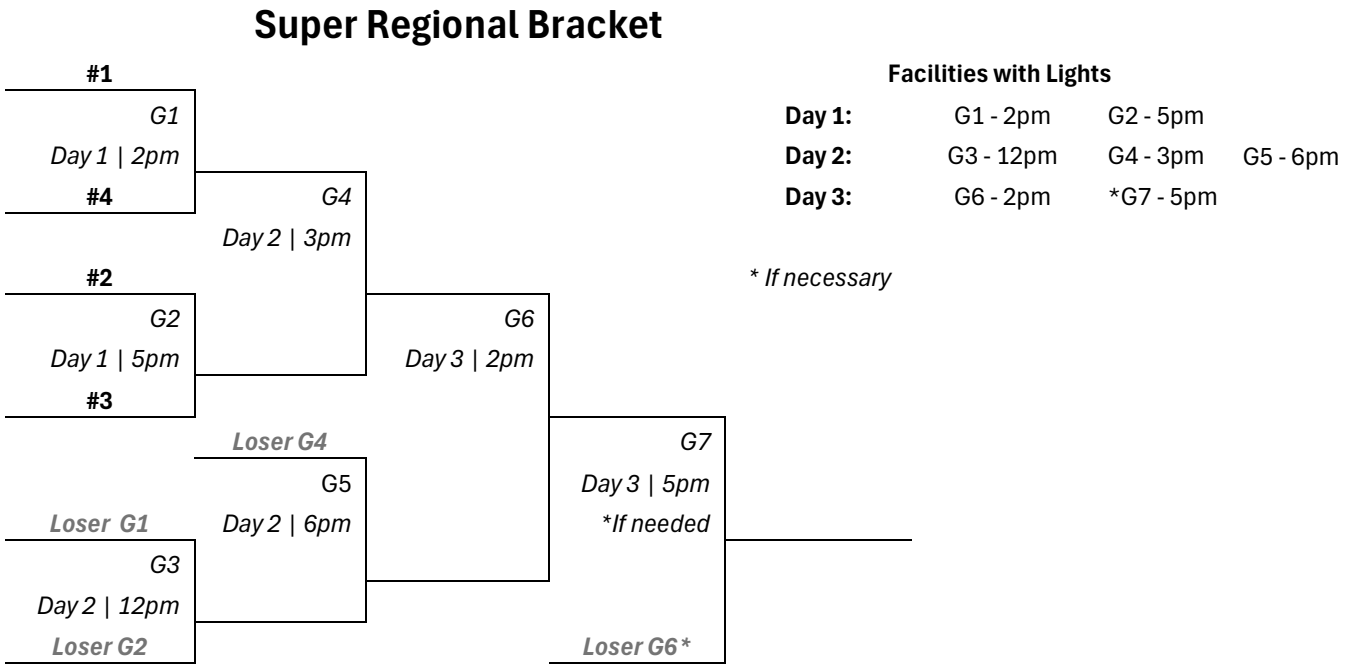
    d. Massey Ratings

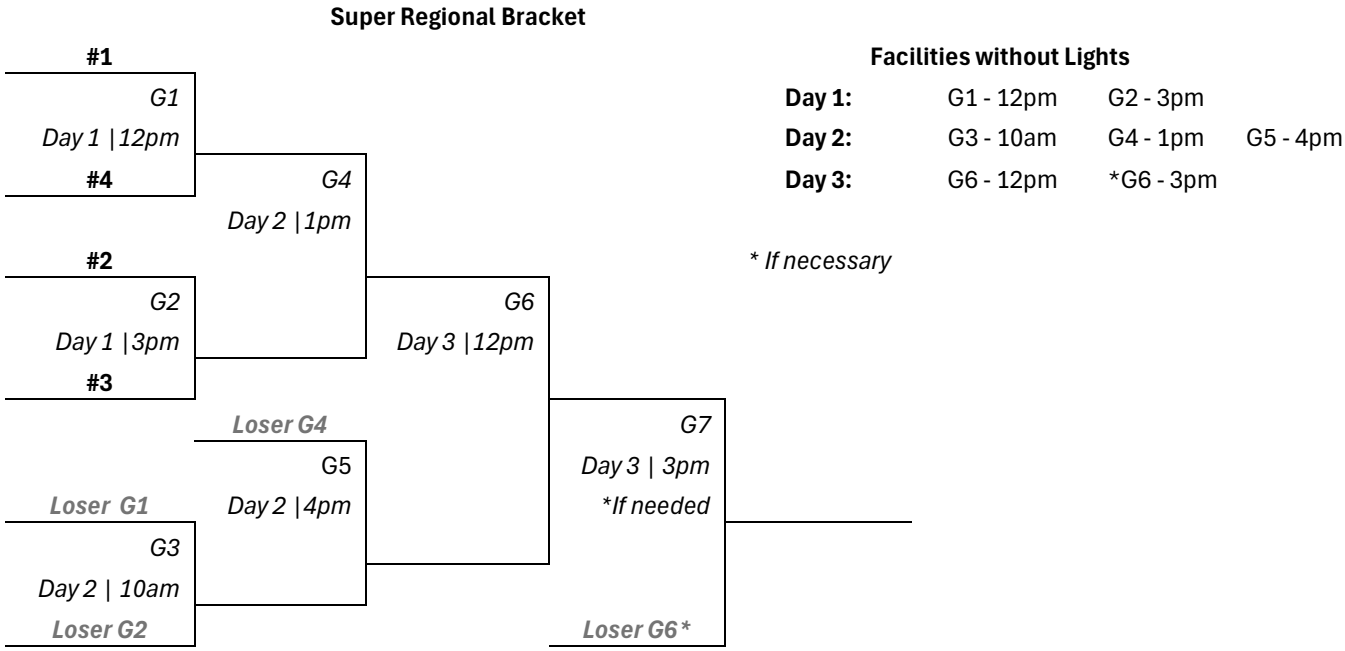
2. Strength of Region

    a. Historical success of region, district, team at the national tournament over the previous 3 seasons

Appendices

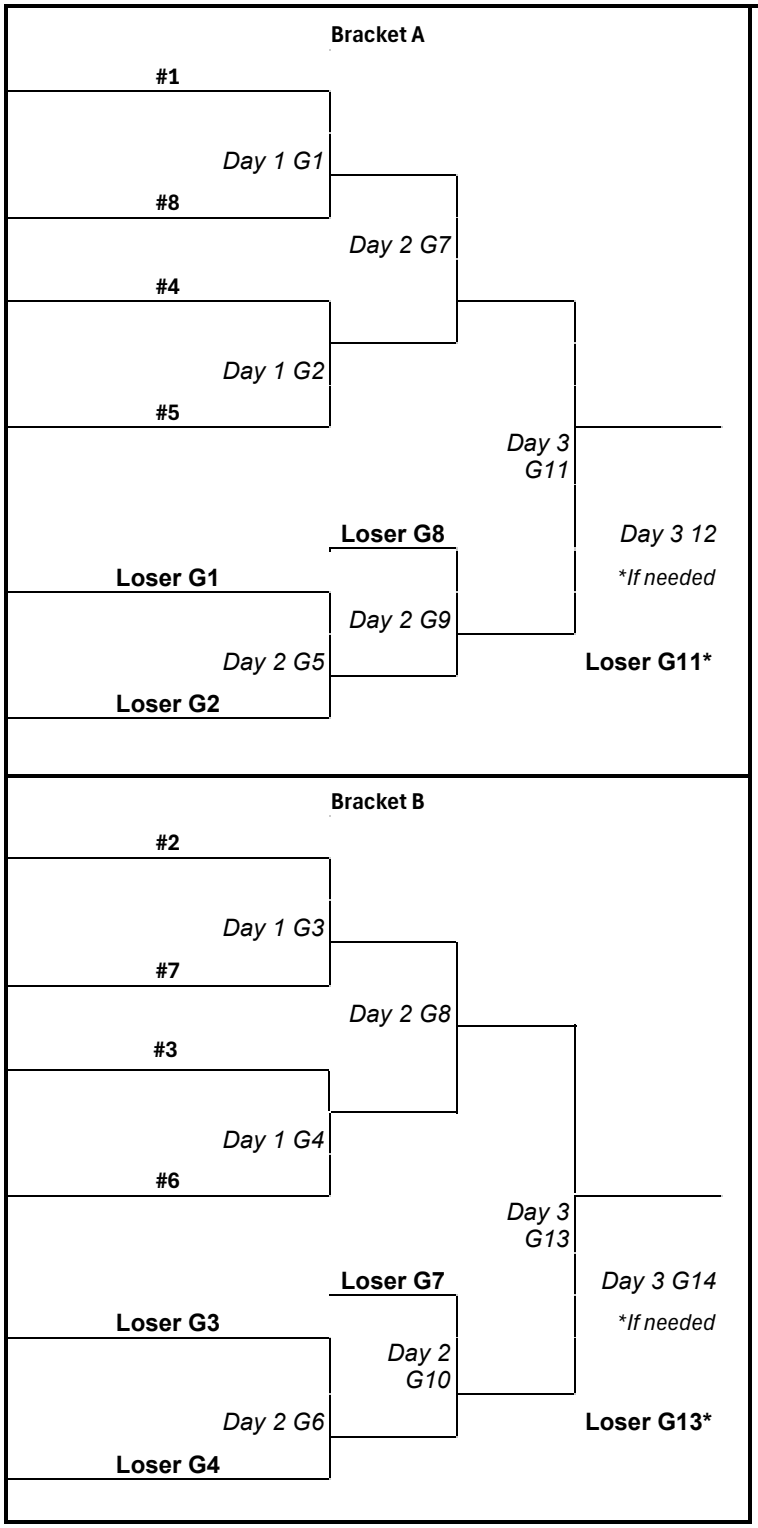
Appendix A – Softball Super Regional Schedule





Appendix B – Softball World Series Bracket Format

Two 4-Team Double Elimination Brackets



Option 1

Day 1: G1, G2, G3, G4

Day 2: G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G10

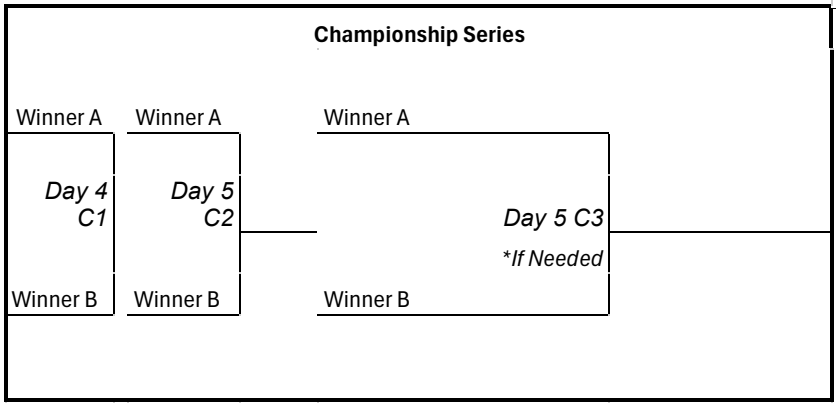
Day 3: G11, G12*, G13, G14*

Day 4: C1

Day 5: C2

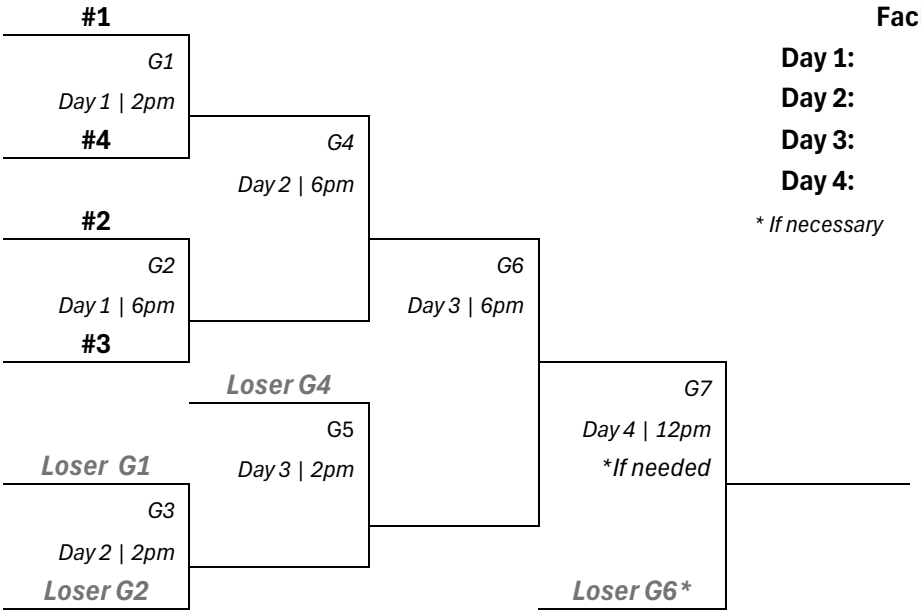
C3* If necessary

** If necessary*



Appendix C – Baseball Super Regional Schedule

Super Regional Bracket

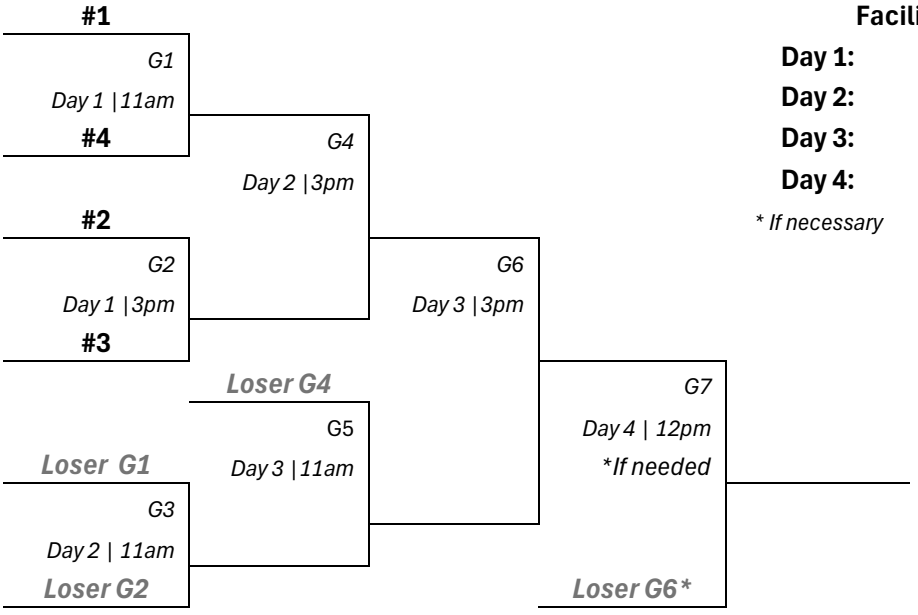


Facilities with Lights

Day 1:	G1 - 2pm	G2 - 6pm
Day 2:	G3 - 2pm	G4 - 6pm
Day 3:	G5 - 2pm	G6 - 6pm
Day 4:	*G7 - 12pm	

** If necessary*

Super Regional Bracket



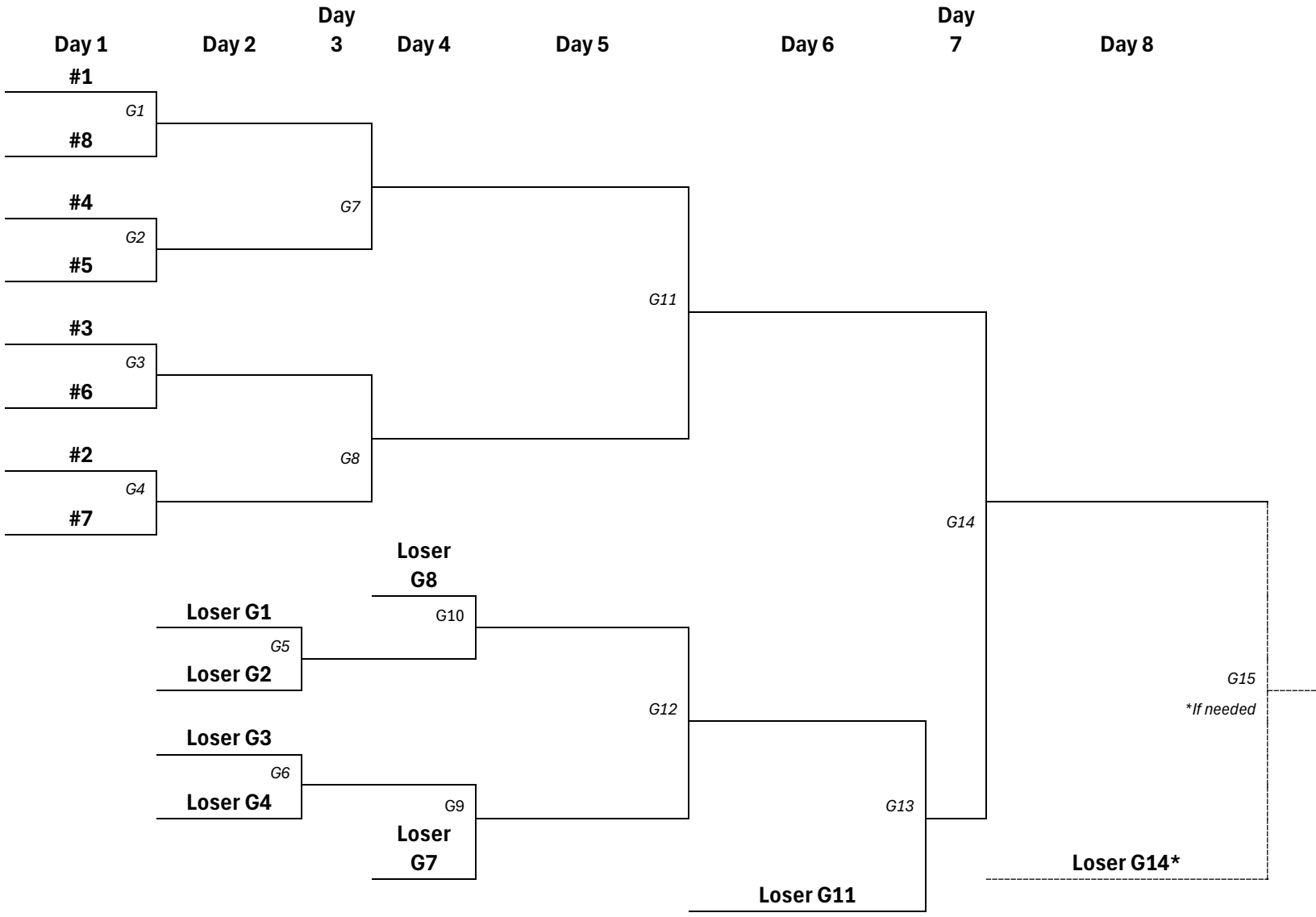
Facilities without Lights

Day 1:	G1 - 11am	G2 - 3pm
Day 2:	G3 - 11am	G4 - 3pm
Day 3:	G5 - 11am	G6 - 3pm
Day 4:	*G7 - 12pm	

** If necessary*

Appendix D – Baseball World Series Bracket Format

8-Team Double Elimination Bracket



Day 1: G 1-4
Day 2: G 5-6
Day 3: G 7-8
Day 4: G 9-10
Day 5: G 11-12
Day 6: G 13
Day 7: G 14
Day 8: G 15*

** If necessary*

SOFTBALL - DIVISION III

Section 1. World Series Dates

May 26-29, 2027 at Carrier Park; East Syracuse, NY
May 24-27, 2028 at Carrier Park; East Syracuse, NY
May 23-26, 2029, TBD
In case of significant inclement weather, Sunday may be used as a rain date.

Section 2. World Series Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. Pre-tournament information shall be sent by **April 1** by the World Series Director.
B. The World Series Host shall notify the participating teams of time schedules and other pertinent tournament information, including coaches and officials' pre-tournament meeting.
C. The World Series Host shall be responsible for the promotion, advertising and ticket sales of the contest. They shall secure the playing site and make all the arrangements for the handling of the spectators.

Section 3. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. District qualifications shall take place as follows:

2027 NJCAA DIII SOFTBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
North A	3A	North B	3B	North Plains A	13A	North Plains B	4, 13B
Appalachian	10, 12	Northeast	15, 21	North Atlantic	19	1 At-Large	TBD

B. District play must be completed by May 16, 2027
C. District Tournaments must be double elimination tournaments. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.
D. District Directors shall be responsible for the following:
   1. Determining date of their respective district Tournaments and notifying the World Series Director in writing by **January 1.**
   2. Developing a financial plan for handling the District Tournament subject to approval by Regional Directors involved.
   3. Notify the World Series Director and NJCAA National Office when the district site has been determined and again when the results of that tournament are known.

Section 4 World Series Seeding

The NJCAA DIII Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to World Series seeding.

A. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – May 17, 2027.
   Seeding will be based on, in no order:
   1. Overall body of work
   2. Results from Post-season (region and district)
   3. Final Regular season Poll
   4. Strength of schedule to include neutral site and out of region consideration
   5. Qualify wins and losses, bad wins and losses, Record against teams who have made the respective WS
   6. Record against NJCAA DIII, DII, and DI ranked opponents
   7. Record against NJCAA DIII opponents
   8. Records against all NJCAA, NWAC, and CCCAA programs
   9. Participation and placement in respective post-season tournaments
   10. Strength of Region/District
   11. Region/District cannot have more than 3 combined bids.

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. All postseason tournament play shall follow the NCAA Rules with the following exceptions:
   1. The halted game rule will be in effect for all World Series play.
   2. The international tiebreaker will not be used in World Series play.
   3. The eight-run rule will be in effect for the entire post-season including the World Series championship game.
B. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have on the field, including the practice field, bullpen, bench, and dugout is 34 which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
C. The World Series shall be conducted as a double elimination Softball Tournament.
D. All Region/District Hosts will use and be furnished the official tournament ball in all post season play with the exception of regions within a district, which will receive balls only for a District Tournament.
E. The official tournament ball is the Rawlings NJCAA FP.
F. Weather/Suspended Game(s): When a game is underway and it starts to rain/snow, only the umpire can suspend the game. Suspended games are continued from the point of when the play was suspended. The official scorebook should have the point of suspension, outs, etc. recorded.
G. The official NCAA Rules will be followed regarding weather conditions and suspended play.
H. Bat testing will be conducted by an NJCAA representative prior to the start of the World Series in accordance with NCAA bat testing protocols. The process for bat testing at the World Series will be clearly spelled out in the pre-tournament information packet
I. In the event of unavoidable delays due to either weather or unforeseen causes, the World Series Director and the NJCAA Representative reserves the right to re-schedule game times or make other arrangements as necessary. The 4-day World Series may be extended to a 5th day in cases of significant inclement weather. Although it is recommended that all games are streamed, in the event of weather delays, the tournament committee of Tournament Director, on sight sport representative, and NJCAA staff representative, in consultation with the National office, may play on an additional filed which may or may not be streamed.
J. At the World Series, in any game where there are two undefeated teams, the highest seed team will be the home team. Where one team is undefeated and another team has a loss, the undefeated team will be the home team, regardless of who was the highest seed. If both teams have a loss, then there will be a coin flip to determine the home team.

K. In District play, the districts shall determine how the home team is determined, however it is recommended that if it a best 2 out of 3 between two teams, then the host would be the home team in game 1, the guest the home team in game 2, and if game 3 is needed, the home team would be determined by a coin-flip
L. An exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout to the field for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call is permitted. The use of an in-ear communication device shall be limited to the defensive position of the catcher.
M. Reminder: The use of a double base at first base is required. It must be 15x30 inches with the fair position in white and the foul portion in a contrasting color.
N. Reminder: All home run and sideline fences constructed of hard materials (like wood, concrete, or brick) are required to be padded. The padding must begin no higher than 1 foot off the ground and extend to the top of the hard material or 6 feet from the ground, whichever is shorter.

Section 6. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
B. No umpire will be allowed to work more than two consecutive years at the World Series. Each year a minimum of two umpires will be rotated out of the tournament. Whenever possible no umpire will be allowed to work behind the plate while the region they are from is playing. The assignment for the final two games will be at the discretion of the Tournament Executive Committee (including the NJCAA Representative).

Section 7. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the World Series Host.
B. Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 8. NJCAA DIII Softball Poll

A. The NJCAA DIII Softball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Criteria
    1. Overall record
    2. Record since last poll
    3. Last 10 games
    4. Record vs. District opponents
    5. Record vs. DI, DII, DIII opponents
C. Only games against NJCAA, NWAC, and CCCAA will be considered for rankings and seedings
D. Poll Dates: Jan 19^, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, Apr. 13**, Apr. 19, Apr. 26, May. 3
    ^Preseason poll
    *Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
    **Released on Tuesday due to NJCAA Convention

27. SWIMMING AND DIVING – MEN'S & WOMEN'S

Section 1. Meet/Championship Dates

The NJCAA Championship Swimming and Diving Meet shall begin the **first Wednesday in March** and shall be concluded the consecutive Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

March 3-6, 2027 at Deaconess Aquatic Center; Evansville, IN
March 1-4, 2028 at Indian River State Aquatics Center; Fort Pierce, FL
March 7-10, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Participation Requirements

A. Colleges are required to submit entries via Team Manager "HyTek" electronic file to the Tournament Host by Tuesday of the week before the NJCAA National Championship Meet.
B. Colleges will be financially responsible for all entries on their official entryblank.
C. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Swimming and Diving Meet unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signature of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Meet Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the meet and until departure from the site.
D. Meet results must be forwarded to the coach's representative. Failure to do so can result in an appropriate fine as per the Coaches Association bylaws.

Section 3. Meet/Championship Events and Standards

A. All national swimming and diving entries must be registered in the national swimming and diving database.
   1. All meet results must be submitted electronically to the designated database coordinator within seven calendar days upon completion of the final day/session of the meet to be official. Results submitted past the seventh calendar day mark will not be accepted or recognized in the national swimming and diving database. Any appeal needs to be made to the NJCAA Swimming and Diving Committee within seven days of notification of the late submission.
      i. Coaches are encouraged to verify all meets with a Meet Verification form signed by a meet referee.
      ii. Coaches are encouraged to verify all diving scores with a matching diving sheet signed by a meet referee.
      iii. All meets must be completed and submitted one week prior to the national meet entry date to be considered for national meet entry.
   2. Coaches must produce proof from a meet referee verifying the meet and entry time/diving score if asked by the national meet director. If the national entry time/diving score is not provable by the meet referee, then the next provable entry time/diving score for that athlete registered in the national database will be used. In the case that a second time is not registered in the national database, the athlete will be removed from that event.

Section 4. Rules Governing NJCAA National Swimming and Diving Championship

A. The NJCAA Championship shall be conducted in accordance with the current NCAA guidelines in the following sections: pool dimensions & equipment, description of events and procedures, officials and their duties, lanes, seeding and diving competition.
B. A competitor is permitted to enter in a maximum of eight events, of which no more than four may be individual events.
C. The maximum number of competitors allowed per team is 18 each for men and women. They will be counted as follows:
   1. An entrant who swims will be counted as 1 competitor
   2. An entrant who swims and dives will be counted as 1 competitor
   3. An entrant who only dives will be counted as one-fourth of a competitor towards the total of the team limit.
D. The NJCAA National Championship Order & Schedule of Events is outlined at the end of the Swimming and Diving Sport Section.
   1. 2026-27 National Meet Qualifying Times

2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL MEET QUALIFYING TIMES

EVENT	MEN'S CUT TIME	WOMEN'S CUT TIME	EVENT	MEN'S CUT TIME	WOMEN'S CUT TIME
50 Freestyle	26.99	30.29	**100 Butterfly**	1:05.79	1:23.99
100 Freestyle	58.99	1:12.49	**200 Butterfly**	2:31.79	3:09.39
200 Freestyle	2:11.99	2:47.29	**100 IM**	1:07.99	1:24.69
500 Freestyle	6:05.99	7:17.99	**200 IM**	2:22.09	3:00.09
1000 Freestyle	13:20.99	14:59.99	**400 IM**	5:31.09	6:21.49
1650 Freestyle	22:26.99	24:49.99	**200 Free Relay**	1:58.99	2:14.99
50 Backstroke	32.89	36.29	**400 Free Relay**	4:10.49	4:46.99
100 Backstroke	1:09.69	1:16.99	**800 Free Relay**	8:48.99	10:50.19
200 Backstroke	2:31.79	2:57.59	**200 Medley Relay**	2:07.49	2:19.09
50 Breaststroke	39:09	42.79	**400 Medley Relay**	4:42.99	5:14.19
100 Breaststroke	1:20.99	1:30.79	**1-Meter Diving**	6 Dives – 155.00 11 Dives – 265.00	6 Dives – 145.00 11 Dives – 245.00
200 Breaststroke	2:51.89	3:35.49	**3-Meter Diving**	6 Dives – 165.00 11 Dives – 275.00	6 Dives – 155.00 11 Dives – 255.00
50 Butterfly	31.19	38.89			

E. The top 16 places will be scored in the championship meet using the following scoring format:
   1. Relays: 40-34-32-30-28-26-24-22-18-14-12-10-8-6-4-2
   2. Individual Events: 20-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-9-7-6-5-4-3-2-1
F. In the prelims of the 1650, the heats will be swam fastest to slowest.
G. Diving
   1. The diving order of events will be:

2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL MEET DIVING ORDER OF EVENTS		
	DAY	**EVENT**
DAY 1	Wednesday	**Women's 1M: All divers will do six optional dives.**
	Wednesday Evening	**Women's 1M: Top-8 divers from the prelims will do their six optional dives.**
DAY 2	Thursday	**Men's 3M: All divers will do six optional dives.**
	Thursday Evening	**Men's 3M Finals: Top-8 divers from the prelims will do their six optional dives.**
DAY 3	Friday	**Women's 3M Prelims: All divers will do six optional dives.**
	Friday Evening	**Women's 3M Finals: Top-8 divers from the prelims will do their six optional dives.**
DAY 4	Saturday	**Men's 1M Prelims: All divers will do six optional dives.**
	Saturday Evening	**Men's 1M Finals: Top-8 divers from the prelims will do their six optional dives.**

i. The diving order of events will follow the schedule above on odd national championship years. On even national championship years the women will dive on day 1 & 3 and the men on day 2 & 4. For all national championship years, the board order will remain the same.
ii. In the Prelims each diver shall perform 6 optional dives, including one from each of the five groups plus an additional dive selected from any group. The dives will be performed in any order without limit on the degree of difficulty.
iii. Divers may not repeat dives. Scores on all dives performed by each diver in the Prelims shall be used to determine placing at the conclusion of the Prelims. The top 8 (eight) divers will go to the Finals.
iv. In the Finals divers will start with a score of zero. Divers shall perform 6 optional dives, including one from each of the five groups plus an additional dive selected from any group. The dives may be performed in any order without limit on the degree of difficulty.
v. Divers may not repeat dives. Divers will dive in reverse order of their finish in Prelims. Scores on all dives performed by each diver in the Finals shall be used to determine Finals placing. The divers score in the finals ONLY will be used for determination of All-American.
vi. Sheets may be changed up to one hour before the event. After the allotted hour, all dive changes need to be made on the board during the event.
vii. New sheets must be submitted for finals within 30 minutes after prelims have completed. Dives may be changed for finals (from those performed in prelims) provided the minimum degree of difficulty requirement is met.
viii. Points for places 9-24 will be determined by the order of finish from the prelim scores.
ix. Points for places 1-8 will be determined by the order of finish from the finals score.
x. As to new NJCAA diving records, there will only be individual records established. Existing combination records will still be honored.

2. The championship host institution can combine men's and women's diving events if the participant numbers allow for this, with:

2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL MEET DIVING ORDER OF EVENTS		
	DAY	**EVENT**
DAY 1	Wednesday	**Open Practice**
	Wednesday Evening	**Open Practice**
DAY 2	Thursday	**Men's 3M Prelims and Women's 1M Prelims: All divers will perform their six optional dives.**
	Thursday Evening	**Men's 3M Finals and Women's 1M Finals: Top-8 divers from the prelims will perform their six optional dives.**
DAY 3	Friday	**Open Practice**
	Friday Evening	**Open Practice**
DAY 4	Saturday	**Women's 3M Prelims and Men's 1M Prelims: All divers will perform six optional dives.**
	Saturday Evening	**Women's 3M Finals and Men's 1M Finals: Top-8 divers from the prelims will perform their six optional dives.**

Diving Deadlines
Preliminaries Thursday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of the diving preliminaries. The diving list will consist of 6 optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Thursday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Thursday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.
Preliminaries Saturday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of the diving preliminaries. The diving list will consist of 6 optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Saturday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Saturday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.

3. Diving Score Qualifying:

2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL MEET DIVING SCORE QUALIFYING				
	MEN		WOMEN	
	1-METER	3-METER	1-METER	3-METER
6 Dive Score	155.00	165.00	145.00	155.00
11 Dive Score	265.00	275.00	245.00	255.00

H. **Diving Deadlines**
Preliminaries Wednesday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of the diving preliminaries. Dive list will consist of six (6) optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Wednesday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Wednesday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.
Preliminaries Thursday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of the diving preliminaries. Dive list will consist of six (6) optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Thursday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Thursday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.
Preliminaries Friday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of diving preliminaries. Dive list will consist of six (6) optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Friday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Friday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.
Preliminaries Saturday
Sheets are due two (2) hours prior to the start of diving preliminaries. Dive list will consist of six optional dives including one from each of the five groups plus one additional dive selected from any group with no limit on degree of difficulty. The top eight finishers will advance to the finals on Saturday evening. SHEETS FOR FINALS ARE DUE 30 MINUTES AFTER PRELIMS HAVE COMPLETED. Any qualifier not turning in a sheet by this deadline will be disqualified and no team points awarded.
Finals Saturday Evening
The top eight divers return and start with a score of zero.

I. The Tournament Host shall attempt to have professional judges other than NJCAA diving coaches for the diving competition. However, the Diving Referee may not be an NJCAA diving coach.
J. All athletes and coaches must wear official college purchased warm-ups and shirts during the championship meet.

Section 6. **Rules governing NJCAA Dual Meet Competition**
A. Follow the current NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules & Regulations.

Section 7. **Finances**
1. Each competing college shall pay its own expenses.
2. All championship expenses shall be paid by the Tournament Host.
3. The Tournament Host will assess a $500 entry fee per team with five or more athletes (Men and Women). The Tournament Host will assess a $100 entry fee per athlete for teams with four or less athletes per team (Men and Women).

Section 8. **Criteria for National Records**
A. Must be set during an NJCAA, USA, Dual, Regional, State or National Meet that appears on the published schedule.
B. Must be officiated by a certified NCAA or USS referee (signature must appear on results).
C. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
D. Must be timed by automatic timing device with backup button and one watch time. Times must be read out to the one-hundredth of a second.
E. No conversion times will be accepted.

F. Lead-off swims on relays will be accepted, provided the coach makes arrangement in advance, with the meet referee.
G. Must fill out and complete "Application for NJCAA National Record" and submit within two weeks of the date of performance to the Coaches Association Records Chairperson.
H. Athletes must be NJCAA eligible and be representing an NJCAA institution.
I. Championship meet records will be kept for the NJCAA Swimming & Diving Meet. These records can only be set at the NJCAA Swimming & Diving Meet.

2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL MEET DIVING ORDER OF EVENTS	
DAY ONE	
	EVENT
1-2	50-yard Breaststroke
3-4	1000-yard Freestyle*
5-6	200-yard Individual Medley
7-8	50-yard Freestyle
9**	Women's 1-Meter Diving (Even ending championship years)
10**	Men's 3-Meter Diving (Odd ending championship years)
11-12	800-yard Freestyle Relay (Timed final event)
DAY TWO	
13-14	200-yard Freestyle Relay
	*20-minute break
15-16	50-yard Backstroke
17-18	400-yard Individual Medley
19-20	100-yard Butterfly
21-22	200-yard Freestyle
10*	Men's 3-Meter Diving (Even Ending Championship Years)
9*	Women's 1-Meter Diving (Odd ending championship years)
23-24	400-yard Medley Relay (Timed Final Event)
DAY THREE	
25-26	100-yard Individual Medley
27-28	500-yard Freestyle
29-30	100-yard Backstroke
31-32	100-yard Breaststroke
33-34	200-yard Butterfly
35**	Women's 3-Meter Diving (Even ending championship years)
36**	Men's 1-Meter Diving (Odd ending championship years)
37-38	200-yard Medley Relay (Timed final event)
DAY FOUR	
39-40	50-yard Butterfly
41-42	1650-yard Freestyle*
43-44	100-yard Freestyle
45-46	200-yard Backstroke
47-48	200-yard Breaststroke
36**	Men's 1-Meter Diving (Even ending championship years
35**	Women's 3-Meter Diving (Odd ending championship years)
49-50	400-yard Freestyle Relay (Time final event)
* The 1000-yard & 1650-yard Freestyle is a timed final event. The fastest eight women and the fastest eight men will swim during the evening finals session on the corresponding day of the event. Competitors 9-16 will swim in the prelim session on the corresponding day of the event. Competitors 17 and higher will swim following the conclusion of prelims on the corresponding day of the event.	

28. TENNIS – Men's and Women's DI and II

Section 1. A. Tournament Dates (Women)

Division I and Division II

May 1-5, 2027 at Joann Medlock Murphy Tennis Center; Tyler, TX
May 6-10, 2028 at Palmetto Tennis Center; Sumter, SC
May 5-9, 2029 at Palmetto Tennis Center; Sumter, SC

B. Tournament Dates (Men)

Division I and DII

May 17-21, 2027 at Joann Medlock Murphy Tennis Center; Tyler, TX
May 15-19, 2028 at Collin College Tennis Facility; Plano, TX
May 14-18, 2029 at Collin College Tennis Facility; Plano, TX

Section 2. Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Host will send official entry blanks to the qualifying teams and will notify them of the events, their order, the time schedule, the deadline for entries and other pertinent tournament information including records and pictures.
B. The Tournament Host shall be responsible for the promotion and advertising of tournament play. The Tournament Host will be responsible for securing the services of a computer and software for the tournament draw and scoring procedures.
C. The Tournament Host shall provide score cards for all tournament matches.
D. The Tournament Director will conduct a pre-tournament orientation to introduce officials, discuss sportsmanship and anything else pertinent to the operation of the tournament. This will take place the day prior to or on the morning the competition begins.
E. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for securing the services of all necessary officials, judges, etc. to satisfactorily conduct the tournament as determined by the NJCAA Committee on Tennis. It is recommended that chair umpires be provided for all matches from the quarterfinals through the finals. For all matches prior to the quarterfinals, it is recommended that there be a minimum of one official per three courts at the National Tournament.

Section 3. Participation Requirements

A. No contestant shall be permitted to enter a NJCAA Championship Tennis Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from a NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. All the contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.
B. The official college tennis uniform or official NJCAA shirt must be worn during the matches.
C. Appropriate tennis attire must be worn by all team personnel during the tournament at the tournament site. This attire should abide by the dress code of the host facility and/or the NJCAA Tournament.

Section 4. Declaration of Status

Men's and women's tennis is limited to nine scholarships. A maximum of three full scholarships to include tuition and books, room and board, course related books, transportation costs one time per academic year, to and from the college by direct route, and six partial scholarships limited to tuition, course related books and fees.

Section 5. Qualification of Teams – Divisions I and DII

A. All Divisions will follow the following formula in determining the number of qualifying teams per Region:
1-3 teams (1 team)
4-8 teams (2 teams)
9 plus teams (3 teams)

Final numbers will be determined by NJCAA based on eligibility filed by April 1.

B. All ties should be resolved at the regional level. Should the first, second, or third place teams be unable to attend the national tournament, the Region may designate a substitute team.
C. The number one singles champion and runner-up and the number one doubles champion and runner-up from each region qualify regardless of their team's standing.
D. If a doubles team qualifies for participation in the tournament, the individuals may compete for the #1 and #2 singles flight competition. If a #1 singles player qualifies for participation in the tournament, his or her doubles partner can compete with him or her at the #1 doubles flight and the #2 singles flight.
E. After completion of regional qualification for the National Men's & Women's Tennis Tournament (Division 1) at-large team(s) will be selected to fill a full field. A full draw will be defined as 24 for DII and 10 for DI. After flight 1 singles and flight 1 doubles draws are full there will be no more at-large positions offered. Eligible teams will be identified as the highest-ranking teams in the final national top 25 NJCAA poll not already qualified for the tournament. Selection will start with the highest-ranking team not qualified and end when the field is full.
F. All regular season and/or regional play must be completed one week prior to the start of national play. If a problem exists, such as a rainout, the National Office should be notified.
G. Lineups from the Regional Tournament to the National Tournament remain the same. All lineups are considered official on the date of the entry for the National Tournament for teams with only one team in their Region. Extenuating circumstances must be presented to the Tournament Committee upon arrival at the tournament.
H. **Within a 24-hour period following the Fall/Spring Regional Tournament, Regional Directors shall send to the National Tournament Director and the NJCAA National Office by electronic mail, the teams that have qualified from each region and their rosters by flights. The names of individual winners and finalists at No. 1 Singles and No. 1 Doubles, whose teams did not qualify shall also be sent**.
I. It is strongly recommended that Regional qualifying competition follow the National Tournament format of three doubles and six singles.
J. The deadline for participants to enter the NJCAA Tournament will be set by the Tournament Director. And the NJCAA Staff.

Section 6. Rules and Procedures

A. The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Rules and point penalty system shall be followed in the tournament with the following exception: Coaches are allowed to coach during the tournament.
B. A three-person committee at the NJCAA Tournament, consisting of the NJCAA Representative, the President of the NJCAA Tennis Coaches Association and the attending Sport Chair shall handle any unusual circumstances. In case a committee member's own player is involved, the tournament referee would replace that committee member.

C. Tournament Seeding and Draw:
   1. The host will schedule the seeding meeting on the day prior to the start of the National Tournament for Divisions I & II.
   2. Tournament seeding structure.
      i. Seeding will be based on merit alone. Regional winners will not get an automatic seed in this tournament.
      ii. Division I and II Women: The NJCAA Representative will appoint a group of three coaches to serve as the seeding committee. The NJCAA Representative will vote only in case of a tie.
      iii. Division I and II Men: The draw seeding committee will be comprised of coaches from geographic regions of the country to seed each geographic region. One representative from each geographic region will then meet to seed the tournament. The committee of four will be chosen by the NJCAA Coaches Association President.
      iv. The following exception to the UTSA seeding rule will apply. The DI tournament will seed 6 for each flight. The DII tournament will seed 8 for each flight. Further, seeds 1, 4, 5, and 8 will be on the top half of the bracket and seeds 2, 3, 6, and 7 will be in the bottom.
      v. Wilson is the official regular and post-season ball for the NJCAA.
      vi. Coaches or their proxy must be physically present at the seeding meeting to have their players/team considered for seeding and participation in the tournament. In the event of extenuating circumstances, a ruling will be made by the NJCAA Tournament Committee.
   3. At the conclusion of the draw the Tournament Director will assign court sites for each flight.
   4. The evening before the tournament starts, the Tournament Director will distribute typed draw sheets with the names and colleges of all contestants listed.
   5. At the conclusion of the tournament, the Tournament Director will send a copy of the complete draw sheet and point total to each participating college.

D. Tournament Format:
   1. A flighted tournament with a back draw will be played for singles and doubles.
   2. The main draw tournament format will consist of two-out-of-three sets regular scoring. At the discretion of the NJCAA National Tennis Tournament Committee (as outlined in the NJCAA Handbook), the back draw can be changed to pro sets or amended sets to accommodate the host facility or weather conditions.
   3. To accommodate the host facility and/or weather conditions the playing format will be determined by the NJCAA Tournament Committee.
   4. No team will play another from its own region in the first round, regardless of whether the respective teams or players have competed against each other.
   5. No entry shall play more than three two-out-of-three set main draw matches per day (2 singles/1 doubles or 2 doubles/1 singles).
   6. A strict 15-minute default time will be observed. It is the responsibility of each coach to make sure their players are at the court sites on time.

E. Tournament Scoring:
   1. The first round of the “main draw” will be worth two points. A bye followed by a win is three points. One point will be awarded for each additional win in the “main draw” in singles and doubles.
   2. Scoring in the back draw will be worth one-half point for each round. A win following a bye will be awarded one point. Back draw total points should not exceed the number of points available in the first round of the main draw.
   3. Regardless of the draw size each flight will have equal total points.

F. The Tournament Director or their proxy shall be responsible for the official point totals for the tournament.

Substitution Policy for National Tournament:
   1. In singles play, the coach of a player incapable of participating in the National Tournament after qualifying in the Region Tournament has the option of substituting for that player at the highest position with everyone else remaining in their respective positions or substituting at the bottom of the ladder with everyone else moving up the ladder to fill all open positions. A player “incapable of participating” refers to an eligible student-athlete who due to family, medical, or other extenuating circumstances cannot participate in the National Tournament and does not refer to a student-athlete who is ineligible or who has been ruled ineligible. If the team has no substitute, the coach may forfeit the open position(s) allowing players to remain at the positions in which they qualified.
   2. In doubles play, the coach of a player incapable of participating in the National Tournament after qualifying in the Region Tournament has the option of substituting for that player at the highest position with everyone else remaining in their respective positions or substituting at the bottom of the ladder with everyone else moving up the ladder to fill all open positions. A player “incapable of participating” refers to an eligible student-athlete who due to family, medical, or other extenuating circumstances cannot participate in the National Tournament and does not refer to a student-athlete who is ineligible or who has been ruled ineligible. If the team has no substitute, the coach may forfeit the open position(s) allowing players to remain at the positions in which they qualified. No player may move down in the doubles lineup due to a substitution.
   3. In the event of an injury in singles play and prior to the start of doubles play, a lower player in doubles may be substituted prior to their first doubles match.

Section 7. Finances

Each college shall pay its teams’ expenses.
The amount of the entry fee will be set by the tournament and must accompany the official entry form.
Women’s Division I and II tournament fees: $60.00 per player per event
Men’s Division I and II tournament fees: $60.00 per player per event
No tournament fee may exceed $60.00 per player per event.

Section 8. National Poll

To be conducted by the designated NJCAA Tennis Committee in accordance with UTR Rankings.

Section 9. Statistics

The NJCAA will use http://www.utrsports.net for stat collection and rankings.

29. TRACK AND FIELD – MEN'S & WOMEN'S – DIVISION I & III

Section 1. Tournament Dates

A. The Tournament Host shall set the exact date for the meet with the approval of the NJCAA Track & Field Committee

B. The NJCAA Indoor Track and Field season officially ends with the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship Meet. All competitions in track and field after that meet will be considered a part of the outdoor season schedule.

C. The indoor championship will be a two-day event. The outdoor championship will be a three-day event.

Indoor Track & Field
March 5-6, 2027 at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
March 3-4, 2028 at Washburn University, Topeka, KS
March 2-3, 2029, TBD

Outdoor Track & Field – DIII
May 6-8, 2027 at Mohawk Valley Community College; Utica, NY
May 11-13, 2028 at Mohawk Valley Community College; Utica, NY
May 10-12, 2029, TBD

Outdoor Track & Field – DI
May 13-15, 2027 at Hutchinson Community College; Hutchinson, KS
May 18-20, 2028 at New Mexico Junior College; Hobbs, NM
May 17-19, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Entries, Eligibility

A. Institutions may enter a team or individuals in an NJCAA Track & Field Championship. Individuals entered in an NJCAA Track & Field Championship Meet must be qualified for entry by:
1. Meeting the performance standard for all events entered; or,
2. Be a white card entry for a single event. (Section 4 for details).

B. All teams and individuals must be entered before the entry deadline and be declared for entry according to the NJCAA Handbook.

C. Performance standards used for entry to an NJCAA Track & Field Championship must be made at a scheduled legal meet during the current season.
1. Wind gauges are required for sprints and horizontal jumps for all NJCAA Division I Outdoor competitions as well as indoor competitions run outdoors. "(NCAA rule states that performances <= 4.0 m/s are acceptable for qualification purposes.)

D. To be entered into the NJCAA National Championship Meet, the athlete and their mark must be entered into TFRRS (www.tfrrs.org). (see Procedures in Section 4)

E. Region Champion does not automatically qualify for the National Meet.

F. Top 16 ranked athletes in each event on Direct Athletics as of 2 Mondays before Nationals to be Automatic Qualifiers into Nationals regardless of Standards for Indoor, DI and DIII Outdoor. If more than 3 athletes are from a school in the top 16 performance list for an event. Athletes will be moved up in order on the list to fill the list with 16 athletes that could be entered. (Limit of only 3 per event per school does not allow for a 4th qualifier to be entered)

G. Schools may pay for student-athletes and coaches to attend a qualifying meet for World Championships and Olympic teams.

Section 3. A. Responsibilities for Meet Organization

1. Follow the following schedule unless facility and/or climate is cause for change.
2. Any changes to the schedule must be approved by the Chair of the NJCAA Track and Field Committee and the Coaches Association President prior to bid being accepted.
3. Any accepted changes will need to be sent to all NJCAA track colleges prior to the start of the track season.
4. National Championship Schedule of Events (Indoor, Outdoor I, Outdoor III)- Below is the preferred schedule but the schedule can be changed to accommodate the host facility.

2027 NJCAA INDOOR TRACK & FIELD PREFERRED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS			
DAY ONE		DAY TWO	
TIME	**EVENT**	**TIME**	**EVENT**
9:00 AM	60H Pentathlon (W)	9:30 AM	60H Heptathlon (M)
9:15 AM	60m Heptathlon (M)	10:30 AM	Pole Vault Heptathlon (M)
10:00 AM	High Jump Pentathlon (W)	2:30 PM	1000m Heptathlon (M)
10:00 AM	Long Jump Heptathlon (M)	*Field Events*	
11:30 AM	Shot Put Heptathlon (M)	10:30 AM	High Jump (W)
12:30 PM	Shot Put Pentathlon (W)	11:00 AM	Weight Throw (M)
1:00 PM	High Jump Heptathlon (M)	11:00 AM	Triple Jump (M)
1:45 PM	Long Jump Pentathlon (W)	1:45 PM	Triple Jump (W)
3:00 PM	800m Pentathlon (M)	2:00 PM	Weight Throw (W)
Field Events		*Running Events*	
11:30 AM	Pole Vault (W)	12:00 PM	*Opening Ceremonies*
2:00 PM	Pole Vault (M)	12:30 PM	4x800m Relay (W)
2:30 PM	Shot Put (M)	12:45 PM	4x800m Relay (M)
3:30 PM	Long Jump (M)	1:05 PM	60H (W)
5:30 PM	Long Jump (W)	1:15 PM	60H (M)
6:00 PM	High Jump (M)	1:25 PM	60m (W)
6:00 PM	Shot Put (W)	1:35 PM	60m (M)
Running Events (Finals)*		1:45 PM	600m (W)
1:30 PM	Distance Medley Relay (W)*	1:55 PM	600m (M)
1:50 PM	Distance Medley Relay (M)*	2:05 PM	Mile (W)
2:30 PM	5000m (W)*	2:20 PM	Mile (M)
3:15 PM	5000m (M)*	2:35 PM	400m (W)
3:50 PM	60h (W)	2:45 PM	400m (M)
4:05 PM	60H (M)	2:55 PM	800m (W)
4:20 PM	600m (W)	3:05 PM	800m (M)
4:35 PM	600m (M)	3:15 PM	200m (W)
5:00 PM	60m (W)	3:25 PM	200m (M)
5:10 PM	60m (M)	3:35 PM	1000m (W)

5:25 PM	400m (W)	3:45 PM	1000m (M)
		3:55 PM	3000 m (W)
		4:15 PM	3000 m (M)
5:40 PM	400m (M)	4:35 PM	4x400m Relay (W)
6:05 PM	800m (W)	4:55 PM	4x400m Relay (M)
6:20 PM	800m (M)	5:15 PM	Team Awards
6:35 PM	200m (W)		
6:55 PM	200m (M)		
7:20 PM	1000m (W)		
7:35 PM	1000m (M)		

2027 NJCAA DIVISION I OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD PREFERRED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY ONE		DAY TWO		DAY THREE	
TIME	**EVENT**	**TIME**	**EVENT**	**TIME**	**EVENT**
9:00 AM	Women's Combined Events (100m hurdles, HJ, SP, 200m)	9:00 AM	Men's Combined Events (110m Hurdles, Discus, Pole Vault, Javelin, 1500m)	10:00 AM	Men's Javelin Trial & Final
9:15 AM	Men's Combined Events (100m, LJ, SP, HJ, 400m)	9:30 AM	Women's Combined Events (Long Jump, Javelin, 800m)	11:00 AM	Women's Discus Trial & Final
Field Events		*Field Events*		11:00 AM	Women's Triple Jump Trial & Final
11:00 AM	Women's Hammer Trial & Final	11:00 AM	Men's Shot Put Trials & Final	1:00 PM	Women's Javelin Trial & Final
11:00 AM	Men's Long Jump Trial & Final	12:00 PM	Men's HJ Final	1:00 PM	Men's Discus Trial & Final
1:00 PM	Women's Pole Vault Final	2:00 PM	Women's Shot Put Trials & Final	1:30 PM	Men's Triple Jump Trial & Final
2:00 PM	Men's Hammer Trial & Final	2:00 PM	Women's HJ Final	*Running Events*	
2:00 PM	Women's Long Jump Trial & Final	*Running Events*		12:00 PM	*National Anthem/Recognitions*
5:00 PM	Men's Pole Vault Final	1:00 PM	Women's 1500m Preliminary	12:30 PM	Women's 4x100m Relay Final
Running Events		*1:15 PM*	Men's 1500m Preliminary	12:40 PM	Men's 4x100m Relay Final
5:00 PM	Women's 4x800m Relay Final	1:40 PM	Women's 100m Hurdles Preliminary	12:50 PM	Women's 1500m Final
5:15 PM	Men's 4x800m Relay Final	2:05 PM	Men's 110m Hurdles Preliminary	1:00 PM	Men's 1500m Final
5:30 PM	Women's 4x100m Relay Trials	2:30 PM	Women's 100m Preliminary	1:10 PM	Women's 400m Final
5:45 PM	Men's 4x100m Relay Trials	2:50 PM	Men's 100m Preliminary	1:20 PM	Men's 400m Final
6:00 PM	Women's 400m Hurdles Preliminary	3:10 PM	Women's 800m Preliminary	1:35 PM	Women's 100m Hurdles Final
6:15 PM	Men's 400m Hurdles Preliminary	3:30 PM	Men's 800m Preliminary	1:45 PM	Men's 110m Hurdles Final
6:30 PM	Women's 400m Dash Preliminary	3:50 PM	Women's 200m Preliminary	2:00 PM	Women's 100m Final
6:45 PM	Men's 400m Dash Preliminary	4:05 PM	Men's 200m Preliminary	2:10 PM	Men's 100m Final
7:00 PM	Women's 10,000m Final	4:30 PM	Women's Steeplechase Final	2:20 PM	Women's 800m Final
7:50 PM	Men's 10,000m Final	4:50 PM	Men's Steeplechase Final	2:30 PM	Men's 800m Final
		5:10 PM	Women's 4x400m Relay Preliminary	2:45 PM	Women's 400m Hurdles Final
		5:25 PM	Men's 4x400m Relay Preliminary	2:55 PM	Men's 400m Hurdles Final
				3:10 PM	Women's 200m Final
				3:15 Pm	Men's 200m Final
				3:25 PM	Women's 5000m Final
				3:50 PM	Men's 5000m Final
				4:15 PM	Women's 4x400m Relay Final
				4:25 PM	Men's 4x400 Relay Final

2027 NJCAA DIVISION III OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD PREFERRED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY ONE		DAY TWO		DAY THREE	
TIME	**EVENT**	**TIME**	**EVENT**	**TIME**	**EVENT**
11:00 AM	Men's Combined Events (100m, LJ, SP, HJ, 400m)	9:00 AM	Men's Combined Events (110m Hurdles, Discus, Pole Vault, Javelin, 1500m)	9:30 AM	Women's 100m Semi
		9:15 AM	Women's Steeplechase Finals	9:45 AM	Men's 100m Semi
11:45 AM	Women's Combined Events (100m hurdles, HJ, SP, 200m)	9:30 AM	Women's Combined Events (Long Jump, Javelin, 800m)	10:00 AM	Women's 100H Semi
4:10 PM	Women's 3200m Relay Finals	9:45 AM	Men's Steeplechase Finals	10:15 AM	Men's 110HH Semi
4:25 PM	Men's 3200m Relay Finals	10:30 AM	Awards for 10K & Steeplechase (W&M)	10:30 AM	Women's 200m Semi
4:40 PM	Women's 400m Relay Trials	2:00 PM	Women's 1500m Trials	10:45 AM	Men's 200m Semi
4:55 PM	Men's 400m Relay Trials	2:20 PM	Men's 1500m Trials	10:55 AM	Women's 1500m Finals
5:10 PM	Women's 10K Finals	2:35 PM	Women's 400m Trials	11:05 AM	Men's 1500m Finals
5:40 PM	Awards for 3200m Relay (W&M)	2:50 PM	Men's 400m Trials	11:30 AM	Women's 400m Relay Finals
6:10 PM	Men's 10K Finals	3:05 PM	Women's 100m Trials	11:40 AM	Men's 400m Relay Finals
Field Events		3:20 PM	Men's 100m Trials	11:45 AM	Awards for 1500m (W&M)
11:00 AM	Women's Pole Vault Finals	3:35 PM	Women's 100Mh Trials	12:15 PM	Women's 400m Finals
11:00 AM	Men's Hammer Finals	3:50 PM	Men's 110HH Trials	12:25 PM	Men's 400m Finals
1:00 PM	Women's Hammer Finals	4:00 PM	Awards for Decathlon & Heptathlon	12:40 PM	Women's 100m Finals
1:30 PM	Awards for Hammer (M&W) and Pole Vault (W)	4:30 PM	Women's 800m Trials	12:50 PM	Men's 100m Finals
1:30 PM	Men's Triple Jump Finals	4:45 PM	Men's 800m Trials	1:05 PM	Men's 110HH Finals
2:30 PM	Men's Pole Vault Finals	5:00 PM	Women's 400H Trials	1:15 PM	Women's 100H Finals
3:00 PM	Men's Javelin Finals	5:15 PM	Men's 400H Trials	1:20 PM	Awards for 400mR, 400m, 100m (W&M)

3:45 PM	Women's Triple Jump Finals	5:30 PM	Women's 200m Trials	1:50 PM	Women's 800m Finals
5:15 PM	Awards for Triple Jump (M), Pole Vault (M), Javelin (M)	5:45 PM	Men's 200m Trials	2:00 PM	Men's 800m Finals
6:00 PM	Awards for Triple Jump (W)	6:10 PM	Women's 1600m Relay Trials	2:15 PM	Women's 400mH Finals
		6:25PM	Men's 1600m Relay Trials	2:25 PM	Men's 400mH Finals
		Field Events		2:30 PM	Awards for 100H, 110HH, 800m (W&M)
		11:00 AM	Women's Long Jump Finals	2:55 PM	Women's 200m Finals
		11:00 AM	Men's High Jump Finals	3:05 PM	Men's 200m Finals
		11:00 AM	Women's Shot Put Finals	3:10 PM	Awards for 400mH (W&M)
		1:00 PM	Men's Shot Put Finals	3:20 PM	Women's 5000m Finals
		1:15 PM	Women's High Jump Finals	3:40 PM	Awards for 200m (W&M)
		1:15 PM	Men's Long Jump Finals	3:50 PM	Men's 5000m Finals
		1:30 PM	Awards for Long Jump (W), High Jump (M), Shot Put (W)	4:10 PM	Women's 1600m Relay Finals
		3:00 PM	Women's Javelin Finals	4:20 PM	Men's 1600m Relay Finals
		4:15 PM	Awards for Shot Put (M), High Jump (W), Long Jump (M)	4:45 PM	Awards for 5000m (W&M), 1600mR (W&M)
		5:20 PM	Awards for Javelin (W)	5:00 PM	Team Awards
				Field Events	
				11:00 AM	Women's Discus Finals
				1:00 PM	Men's Discus Finals
				2:05 PM	Awards for Discus (W)
				3:30 PM	Awards for Discus (M)

5. Providing entry forms and information to member institutions four weeks prior to competition. Approach distances for all field events and the distance from long jump and triple jump board to pit will be listed.
6. Meet Information Packet will be made available on NJCAA website under pre-championship packet page.
7. Email a list of entrants in each event arranged in descending order by degree of excellence of performance. This list is to be available after the final declaration of entries.
8. Implementing the mechanics of the meet manual.
9. Providing heat sheets and meet results at a prearranged location before and after each day of the competition (one copy per institution). Heat sheets will be provided online.
10. The NJCAA Indoor and Outdoor National Meets shall be certified by World Athletics.

B. Coaches are Responsible for:
1. Submitting all possible competitors on the alphabetical roster whether they have met the qualifying standards or not, to be received no later than the entry deadline.
2. Making final declarations in the manner determined by the NJCAA Committee on Track & Field and on the date stipulated. Final declarations must include final corrected performance for each athlete in each event entered. Relay-timed individual efforts will not be accepted. Declared times or distances must be the best effort of the current season by each athlete.
   i. Entries will be due at 6:00pm (EST) the Monday prior to the first day of competition
   ii. Entry Fee will be $25.00 for everyone including relay members and alternates.
3. Entry Procedures for Multi Events
   i. All entries will be entered through www.directathletics.com website.
   ii. Entry page will open a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the first day of competition.
   iii. Entries will be due at Noon (EST) the Saturday prior to the first day of competition.
4. Being present at the meeting at which the heat sheets are provided to the coaches.

C. Participation Requirements
1. Current NJCAA Eligibility Rules shall apply.
2. No contestant shall be permitted to enter an NJCAA Championship Track & Field Meet unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Meet Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the meet and until departure from the site.

Section 4. Rules and Procedures

A. Qualifications for Competition
1. Outdoor Track and Field: Meets conducted following the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field National Championship Meet shall be considered outdoor track and field events, for all records and statistics, even if conducted indoors due to weather.
2. See Section 9.B. for information concerning the multiple events.
   i. Indoor qualifying marks set at indoor or outdoor events will qualify for Indoor.
   ii. Outdoor qualifying marks set at indoor or outdoor events after the start date for outdoor competition will qualify for Outdoor
   iii. Top 16 performance list qualifier. (See Sect. 2.F)
3. Division I: Each institution will be permitted **three** events (individual or relay) "white card" entries from each division, male and/or female in the Indoor and/or Outdoor Track and Field Championship. (A white card can't be used for a multi-event participant).
4. Division III: Each institution will be permitted **three** events (individual or relay) “white card” entries from each division, male and/or female, in the Indoor and/or Outdoor Track and Field Championship. (A white card may be used for a multi-event participant). **(Division III only)**.
5. Contestants may compete in any event for which they have qualified except that no college may declare more than three contestants in any event other than relays. No college may enter more than one relay team in any relay event. **If a college declares more athletes or relay teams than allowed, then all athletes or relay teams entered from that college, in that event, will be disqualified.**
   i. An athlete entered in any event will be considered to have made an honest effort if they report and make an attempt or start a race.
   ii. The honest effort rule does not apply to multi events. If an athlete fails to complete all events in the multis they are still eligible to compete in the regular meet. However, if a multi athlete is entered in a regular meet event and fails to make an honest effort in that event they are disqualified for the remaining events in the multis and any other regular meet events including relays.
6. The events contested, their order, and the time schedule shall follow the NCAA National Collegiate Championship Handbook with whatever changes or modifications deemed necessary by the NJCAA Committee on Track and Field.
   Note: For DIII only
   i. A meeting of all coaches of teams and individuals competing in the Championship Meet shall be held to distribute event and heat sheets. The time will be announced by the Meet Director.
   ii. If possible, a visual recording shall be made of the finish of all races and of those portions of races where violations or fouls are most likely to occur.
   iii. A protest concerning entries shall be referred to the Games Committee of the Track & Field Coaches Association at the site of the meet.
   iv. Appeals and Protests
      a. Only coaches may make protests or appeals.
      b. A $**50.00** sincerity fee will be charged for all appeals and protests. The sincerity fee will be returned to the coach if the appeal or protest is upheld. In the event the appeal or protest is disapproved, the fee will be included in the receipts of the meet.
      c. The appeal or protests shall be presented in writing within 30 minutes of final results being posted on an official form, to the Jury of Appeals who will render a final decision. The jury may hear oral comments from the coach and/or meet officials to assist in arriving at its decision.

B. Performance and Entry Procedures
1. NJCAA Performance List – Hosted by TFRRS
   i. To be entered into the NJCAA National Championship Meet, the athletes and their marks must be entered into TFRRS (www.tfrrs.org) and obtain a TRRF registration number.
   ii. All performances that will be used for entry into the NJCAA Indoor and Outdoor National Championships (DI and DIII) must appear on the NJCAA Performance List within 14 calendar days of date of the performance.
2. Championship Declaration Process – Hosted by Direct Athletics: Entry Procedures for all events except Multi Events.
   i. All entries will enter through www.directathletics.com web site (including any White Card entry).
   ii. Entry page will open a minimum of 10 days prior to the first day of competition. All Coaches are encouraged to check entries for accuracy before the deadline.

iii. Entries will be due at 5:00PM (EST) four (4) days prior to the first day of competition
iv. Entry Fee will be $25.00 for everyone including relay members and alternates.

3. Entry Procedures for Multi Events
   i. All entries will enter through www.directathletics.com web site.
   ii. Entry page will open a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the first day of competition.
   iii. Entries will be due at Noon (EST) six (6) days prior to the first day of competition.
   iv. Entry Fee will be $25.00 for each entry accepted.
   v. There will be no late entries for the multi events.
   vi. The accepted multi event athlete list will be emailed by 6:00pm (EST) 2 Mondays before the championship. No multievent results after this date will be accepted for qualification to any national meet.
4. A team using too many white cards will cause all athletes entered from that team on white cards to be disqualified

C. Attending a scheduled meet (two or more teams and ten or more events completed) after the Region Championship is allowed but must count as one of the teams 20 combined events (Indoor/Outdoor).

D. Uniform Rule: the NJCAA does not follow the NCAA Uniform Rule. However, competitors in any NJCAA Championship Event must wear an official school issued uniform during competition. Members of any relay team must have matching primary colors top/bottom when competing in a relay event. These are not protest/disqualifiable offenses after the event, but participants/teams can be prevented from starting/competing in an event if they cannot correct the situation and comply with this uniform rule, if it is addressed by a meet official before or during the event.

Section 5. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

B. The NJCAA Committee on Track & Field recommends that all officials assigned to the championship meet be certified by USA Track and Field.

C. The Tournament Host of the NJCAA National Championship Meet, when both men and women jointly compete, shall provide referees and officials representative of both divisions.

D. Games Committee
Games Committee for national meet will be the Meet Director, the NJCAA Representative or Representatives, the Coaches Association President and the Coaches Association Officers and will meet before the Coaches Association meeting.
The Games Committee will perform tasks as per the NCAA Rulebook.

E. Jury of Appeals: The jury shall be the NJCAA Representative or Designee, the Meet Director and one person appointed by the other two members, not to be a coach in the meet. Any unsportsmanlike behavior directed towards any official, referee, or Jury of Appeals member, shall result in immediate ejection from the meet.

Section 6. Finances

A. The maximum entry fee shall be $25 for each contestant.

B. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

Section 7. Qualifying Standards – 2026-2027

A. The formula for replacing qualifying standards for 2027 is three times the old standard plus the mark of the last scoring place of the previous National Meet divided by four. The NJCAA National Track and Field Committee may stabilize a standard which is felt to be adequate.

B. Adjustments to performances in specific events, for (a) the type of indoor facility and (b) altitude shall be determined by the NCAA Track and Field Committee and found in the NCAA Rule Book. Indoor facility adjustments apply to all oval running events. The standards listed are applicable for performances on Banked/Oversized track; therefore, all performances on undersized tracks will be converted to Banked/Oversized to determine whether times achieved on those track types meet the qualifying standards set for the championship meet. This will be done automatically on Direct Athletics and will be shown on the performance list. The Altitude Adjustment will be done automatically on Direct Athletics and will be shown on the performance list. Altitude adjustments shall not apply to running events used in combined event scoring.

C. Below are the permissible event conversions for the NJCAA indoor track and field. The Standardized Track Event Conversion factors will be used to convert times for the non-championship events listed below to determine what the corresponding times would be for the respective championship events. The conversion will be done automatically through Direct Athletics and will be listed on the performance list. 55 meters to 60 meters; 55m hurdles to 60m hurdles; Mile Relay to 4x400m relay; 500m or 600 yards to 600 meters Distance Medley Relay (DMR) yards to DMR meters; 4x880 Relay yards to 4x800m Relay

D. Below are the permissible event conversions for NJCAA Outdoor Track and Field. The conversion will be done automatically by Direct Athletics and will be on the performance list. Mile to1500m; 4x110 Relay Yards to 4x100m Relay; 4x880 Relay yards to 4x800m Relay

E. To be considered for entry into the National Championships, all institutions must ensure that the electronic submission of results from any competition in which their student athlete is entered is reported by the meet host to the Track and Field Results Reporting System (TFRRS) through the online provider, Direct Athletics.

F. Indoor Track & Field Standards
1. All Divisions
   i. Hand times will be entered as HT into Direct Athletics which will convert to FAT.
   ii. Women DMR not composite - Men DMR not composite
   iii. Pentathlon cannot be contested over the two days (must be a one-day competition).
   iv. Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder.

G. Entries for the multi events will be entered into the NJCAA National Championship Meet, with the athlete and their mark entered into TFRRS (www.tfrrs.org) and obtain a TFRR registration number. The top-16 will be entered into the championship

2026-2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD QUALIFYING STANDARDS

WOMEN				MEN			
EVENT	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**
60-Meter Dash	**7.74**	Shot Put	**12.54**	60-Meter Dash	**6.82**	Shot Put	**15.49**
60-Meter Hurdles	**8.97**	Triple Jump	**11.32**	60-Meter Hurdles	**8.20**	Triple Jump	**14.44**
200-Meter Dash	**24.91**	Long Jump	**5.56**	200-Meter Dash	**21.60**	Long Jump	**7.15**
400-Meter Dash	**57.47**	High Jump (SH)	**1.62 (1.57)**	400-Meter Dash	**48.26**	High Jump (SH)	**1.99 (1.94)**
600-Meter Run	**1:38.94**	Weight Throw	**15.07**	600-Meter Run	**1:20.64**	Weight Throw	**15.79**
800-Meter Run	**2:22.27**	Pole Vault (SH)	**3.05**	800-Meter Run	**1:56.16**	Pole Vault (SH)	**4.33**
1,000-Meter Run	**3:08.26**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**		1,000-Meter Run	**2:25.14**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**	
Mile Run	**5:13.79**			Mile Run	**4:15.81**		
3,000-Meter Run	**10:40.39**			3,000-Meter Run	**8:34.52**		
5,000-Meter Run	**18:48.86**			5,000-Meter Run	**14.53.38**		
4x400-Meter Relay	**3:55.58**			4x400-Meter Relay	**3:16.86**		
4x800-Meter Relay	**9.59.68**			4x800-Meter Relay	**7:54.93**		
Distance Medley Relay (DMR)	**12:57.56**			Distance Medley Relay (DMR)	**10:21.11**		

Nine contestants will qualify for the finals in each field event.
*=composite times for 4x800m relay can be used to compute total time. (no splits, actual timed event)
NOTE: STANDARD MAY BE MET AT INDOOR OR OUTDOOR EVENTS.
The competitive field in the Pentathlon (Women) and Heptathlon (Men) will be fixed at 16 individuals. The top 16 entries listed on Direct Athletics (www.directathletics.com) will be submitted for consideration by the deadline date (Saturday before the meet). Pentathlon scores can be computed from the composite of the individual competition events at a single day event. Should any invited athlete choose not to compete, the next highest entered individual will be invited. This process will continue until the field of 16 is complete.

INDOOR NATIONAL MEET
FORMATION OF HEATS/ASSIGNMENT OF LANES

55 & 60 Meters/55 & 60 Meter Hurdles/200 Meters/400 Meters/600 Meters
Heats and Lanes assignment for incoming performances will be seeded randomly.
This means that the fastest time could be in lane one if the computer picks it that way.
***Top 9 advance to finals (for the 55 & 60 Meters/55 & 60 Meter Hurdles – The number of advancers is based on the number of lanes available (8 for an 8 lane track and 9 for a 9 lane track)**

***In the 200m and 400 m finals, the following procedure will be followed: Heat 1: 9th, 8th, 6th, 3rd, 4th ranked teams in lanes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Heat 2: 7th, 5th, 1st, 2nd in 3, 4, 5, 6. In the 600m finals, there will be a fast hear (4 fastest runners) and the lower heat (next 5 runners). The slow heat will run first and the fast will run immediately after.**
800 Meters
Heats and Lanes are random (See Above)
***Heat Winners Advance plus next fastest times (up to 9 runners). So, if there are 4 heats, there would be 4 heat winners plus the next 5 fastest times.**
***Prelims and finals can be run in alleys, or a waterfall start. The finals will be run in 1 heat.**
1000 Meters
Heats and Lanes are random (See Above)
***Heat Winners Advance plus next fastest times (up to 9 runners). So, if there are 4 heats, there would be 4 heat winners plus the next 5 fastest times.**
***Prelims and finals will be a waterfall start. The finals will be run in 1 heat.**
Mile
This is run as a final only, random assignment within the heat. If there are 15 runners or less, then it will be run as a 1 heat final. If there are more than 15 athletes then it will be run as a multiple heat final (the slow heat(s) first and the fast heat immediately after). If there are more than 15 athletes entered into the race, then the fast heat will be 12 runners and the slow heat(s) will contain the rest of the field with a maximum of 15 and a minimum of 4 in a heat.
***If there are more than 15 athletes entered into the race, then the fast heat will be 12 runners and the slow heat will contain the rest of the field. (Recommended)**
3K & 5K
This is run as a final only, random assignment within the heat. If there are 18 runners or less, then it will be run as a 1 heat final. If there are more than 18 athletes then it will be run as a 2 heat final (a slow heat first and the fast heat immediately after).
***If there are more than 18 athletes entered in the race, then the fast heat will be 14 runners and the slow heat will contain the rest of the field. (Recommended)**

- **NCAA Rules as follows: If more than 16 competitors for the 3K, it is recommended that the event be contested as a timed-section final.**

4X400 or Mile Relay
Heats will be decided by incoming performances. The fastest 4 incoming times will be run in the final heat. The next to last heat will have the next 4-6 (no more than 6 in a heat) fastest times and so on. The lanes within the heat will be assigned by qualifying time, the fastest time being placed in the preferred lane as determined by the Game Committee (places will be determined on time).
***Places will be determined on time**
4X800 Relay/DMR
4x800 Relay The heats will be decided by incoming performances and will be run as a Final Only. The fastest 8 incoming times will be run in the final heat. The next to last heat will have the next 8-10 (no more than 10 in a heat unless approved by the Games Committee) fastest times and so on. The position of the first runner for each team will be assigned by the time using preferred lanes. *The Games Committee will determine if this race is run in lanes, alleys, or a waterfall start for each heat. Each heat must be run the same way.
Field Events
All Field Events will follow NCAA Rules (See Rule 6 Section 4)
***No flights will have more than 16 competitors and no flight will have less than 5 competitors**

***The final preliminary flight will contain the competitors with the best incoming marks, but they will throw in an order that is a random draw. In the finals, all field events (except high jump and pole vault) will be competed in reverse order. Only 9 athletes will advance to the finals. If there is a tie at 9th place, the NCAA tie breaker will be used to determine who advances to the files.**
Pentathlon & Heptathlon
NCAA rules shall be followed for the combined event. See NCAA Rules (Rule 9)
***In all hurdle races for the combined events, there shall be 1 empty lane on each side of the competitor. For example: On an 8-lane track, there can be a maximum of 4 runners per heat (lanes 1,3,5,7 or 2,4,6,8). On a 6-lane track, there can be a maximum of 3 runners per heat (lanes 1,3,5 or 2,4,6).**

ALTITUDE ADJUSTMENT POLICY
To more accurately determine the altitude adjustments for the 2027 NJCAA standards for both Indoor and Outdoor Divisions I & III, refer to the NCAA Track & Field Rulebook, Division I. **(Adjustments will be made automatically by Direct Athletics)**
The time allowance for altitude (in seconds) is in parentheses for the selected sites, events, and divisions. Please use the NCAA Rulebook as to the proper use of the allowance when adjusting the 2027 NJCAA Standards. This procedure allows us to use 2024 adjustments provided by the NCAA and to be more accurate.

Outdoor Track & Field Standards
Hand times will be entered as HT into Direct Athletics which will convert to FAT.
Division I men and women and Division III men and women pole vault progression 15 cm for the first 3 heights and 10 cm for the remainder.

2026-2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISION I OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD QUALIFYING STANDARDS

WOMEN				MEN			
EVENT	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**
100-Meter Dash	**11.92**	High Jump (SH)	**1.63 (1.58)**	100-Meter Dash	**10.48**	High Jump (SH)	**2.02 (1.97)**
200-Meter Dash	**24.41**	Long Jump	**5.70**	200-Meter Dash	**21.28**	Long Jump	**7.27**
400-Meter Dash	**55.98**	Triple Jump	**11.82**	400-Meter Dash	**47.89**	Triple Jump	**14.83**
800-Meter Run	**2:19.08**	Shot Put	**12.88**	800-Meter Run	**1:53.28**	Shot Put	**15.73**
1,500-Meter Run	**4:53.66**	Discus	**41.15**	1,500-Meter Run	**3:58.96**	Discus	**48.21**
3,000-Meter Steep.	**12:00.85**	Hammer	**44.29**	3,000-Meter Steep.	**9:42.16**	Hammer	**49.48**
5,000-Meter Run	**18:45.18**	Javelin	**38.01**	5,000-Meter Run	**15:03.34**	Javelin	**52.19**
10,000-Meter Run	**40:20.07**	Pole Vault (SH)	**3.16**	10,000-Meter Run	**32:09.72**	Pole Vault (SH)	**4.41**
100-Meter Hurdles	**14.61**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**		110-Meter Hurdles	**14.52**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**	
400-Meter Hurdles	**1:05.28**			400-Meter Hurdles	**54.31**		
4x100-Meter Relay	**47.66**			4x100-Meter Relay	**41.14**		
4x400-Meter Relay	**3:54.82**			4x400-Meter Relay	**3:15.55**		
*4x800-Meter Relay	**9:52.00**			*4x800-Meter Relay	**7:51.02**		

Nine contestants will qualify for the finals in each field event
*=composite times for 4x800m and 4x880yd relay can be used to compute total time. (no splits, actual timed event)
NOTE: THE 100, 200, 400, 100H, 110H, 400H, and 4x100 **RELAY WILL QUALIFY TO FINALS BY THE EIGHT FASTEST TIMES.**
Manually operated electronic time devices which record to the hundredth of a second must be rounded to the next tenth. For example: 41.57 becomes 41.6 and 52.91 becomes 53.0.
The competitive field in the Heptathlon (Women) and Decathlon (Men) will be fixed at 16 individuals. The top 16 entries listed on Direct Athletics (www.directathletics.com) will be submitted for consideration by the deadline date. Should any invited athlete choose not to compete, the next highest entered individual will be invited. This process will continue until the field of 16 is complete.

2026-2027 NJCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DIVISION III OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD QUALIFYING STANDARDS

WOMEN				MEN			
EVENT	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**	**EVENT**	**FAT**
100-Meter Dash	**13.66**	High Jump (SH)	**1.39 (1.34)**	100-Meter Dash	**11.52**	High Jump (SH)	**1.78 (1.73)**
200-Meter Dash	**27.92**	Long Jump	**4.66**	200-Meter Dash	**23.47**	Long Jump	**6.21**
400-Meter Dash	**1:08.26**	Triple Jump	**9.24**	400-Meter Dash	**52.19**	Triple Jump	**12.73**
800-Meter Run	**2:40.81**	Shot Put	**9.12**	800-Meter Run	**2:03.95**	Shot Put	**11.68**
1,500-Meter Run	**5:36.75**	Discus	**27.37**	1,500-Meter Run	**4:17.54**	Discus	**35.75**
3,000-Meter Steep.	**16:09.59**	Hammer	**25.45**	3,000-Meter Steep.	**11:26.77**	Hammer	**34.21**
5,000-Meter Run	**21:30.14**	Javelin	**24.89**	5,000-Meter Run	**16:45.14**	Javelin	**37.89**
10,000-Meter Run	**50.19.81**	Pole Vault (SH)	**1.92**	10,000-Meter Run	**37:43.83**	Pole Vault (SH)	**3.62**
100-Meter Hurdles	**19.66**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**		110-Meter Hurdles	**17.77**	**Standards men and women pole vault progression 15cm for the first 3 heights and 10cm for the remainder** **Vertical Jumps starting height, for high jump 5cm below the 16th mark on the performance list. 15cm below the 16th mark on the performance list.**	
400-Meter Hurdles	**1:23.55**			400-Meter Hurdles	**1:03.51**		
4x100-Meter Relay	**57.96**			4x100-Meter Relay	**47.43**		
4x400-Meter Relay	**4:51.55**			4x400-Meter Relay	**3:36.08**		
*4x800-Meter Relay	**12:32.09**			*4x800-Meter Relay	**8:47.56**		

Nine contestants will qualify for the finals in each field event

*=composite times for 4x800m and 4x880yd relay can be used to compute total time. (no splits, actual timed event)

NOTE: THE 100, 200, 400, 100H, 110H, 400H, and 4x100m RELAY WILL QUALIFY TO FINALS BY THE EIGHT FASTEST TIMES.

NOTE: An athlete may be entered as a white card entry heptathlon and decathlon with a score of zero providing the list does not exceed 16 total entries. The meet director will notify the head coaches of entries prior to final declaration. If the number of entries exceed 16 then all white card entries will be void.

Manually operated electronic time devices which record to the hundredth of a second must be rounded to the next tenth. For example: 41.57 becomes 41.6 and 52.91 becomes 53.0.

The competitive field in the Heptathlon (Women) and Decathlon (Men) will be fixed at 16 individuals. The top 16 entries listed on Direct Athletics (www.directathletics.com) will be submitted for consideration by the deadline date. Should any invited athlete choose not to compete, the next highest entered individual will be invited. This process will continue until the field of 16 is complete.

OUTDOOR NATIONAL MEET FORMATION OF HEATS/ASSIGNMENT OF LANES

100/200/400/100H/110H/400H/4X100 Relay -

Heats and Lanes are serpentine random. For example: If there were 4 heats, the following incoming performances would be seeded the following:

Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4
4th fastest	3rd fastest	2nd fastest	Fastest time
5th fastest	6th fastest	7th fastest	8thh fastest

And so on…..

Within each of these heats, the lane draw is completely random. This means that the fastest time could be in lane one if the computer picks it that way.For events ran in lanes, 8 will qualify to finals on an 8 lane track and 9 will qualify on a 9 lane track.

800 Meters

Prelims – Heats and Lanes are serpentine random. (See Above)

***If 3 heats or less, then the top 2 runners in each heat advance plus next fastest times (9 runners advance to finals). If 4 or more heats, then the heat winner advances plus next fastest times (9 runners advance to finals).**

***Prelims can be run in alleys, or a waterfall start. Finals must be run in lanes and break in at the one turn stagger.**

1500

Prelims – Heats and Starting Positions are serpentine random. (See Above)

***If 2 heats, then top 4 runners advance plus next 4 fastest times**
***If 3 heats, then top 3 runners advance plus next 3 fastest times**
***If 4 heats, then top 2 runners advance plus next 4 fastest times**
***And so on…**

If there are 15 runners or less, then it will be run as a 1 heat final.

3K Steeple

This is run as a final only. If there are 18 runners or less, then it will be run as a 1 heat final. If there are more than 18 athletes, then it will be run as a 2-heat final (a slow heat first and the fast heat immediately after).

***If there are more than 18 athletes entered into the race, then the fast heat will be a maximum of 14 runners and the slow heat will contain the rest of the field. If there are 19 entries, then there will be two heats. The first heat will consist of 5 runners (with slowest entry times) and the second heat with the final 14 runners (14 fastest entry times) Per NCAA Rule Book Page 62 – 10.7.d**

5K

This is run as a final only. If there are 18 runners or less, then it will be run as a 1 heat final. If there are more than 18 athletes, then it will be run as a two-heat final (a slow heat first and the fast heat immediately after). Athletes are required to declare for the 5K no later than 90 minutes prior to the start of the race Failure to report before the 90 minute mark, will result in the runner being scratched from the event.

***If there are more than 18 athletes entered into the race, then the fast heat will be a maximum of 16 runners and the slow heat will contain the rest of the field. If there are 19 entries, then there will be two heats. The first heat will consist of 3 runners (with slowest entry times) and the second heat with the final 16 runners (16 fastest entry times) Per NCAA Rule Book**

10K

1 section timedfinal.

4x400 or Mile Relay

Prelims – Heats and Lanes are serpentine random. (See Above)

***If 3 heats or less, then the top 2 teams in each heat advance plus next fastest times (up to 9 runners). If 4 or more heats, then the heat winner advances plus next fastest times.**

***Top 8 or 9 advance to finals (The number of advancers is based on the number of lanes available (8 for an 8-lane track and 9 for a 9-lane track).**

4x800 Relay

The heats will be decided by incoming performances and will be run as a Final Only. The fastest 8 incoming times will be run in the final heat. The next to last heat will have the next 8-10 (no more than 10 in a heat unless approved by the Games Committee) fastest times and so on. The position of the first runner for each team will be assigned by the time using preferred lanes.

***The Games Committee will determine if this race is run in lanes, alleys, or a waterfall start for each heat.**
Each heat must be run the same way.

Field Events

All Field Events will follow NCAA Rules

***No flights will have more than 16 competitors and no flight will have less than 5 competitors.**

***The final preliminary flight will contain the competitors with the best incoming marks, but they will throw in an order that is a random draw. In the finals, all field events (except high jump and pole vault) will be competed in reverse order. Only 9 athletes will advance to the finals.. If there is a tie for 9th placet the NJCAA tie breaker will be used to determine who advances to the finals.**

Decathlon & Heptathlon

NCAA rules shall be followed for the combined event. See NCAA Rules (Rule 9)

***In all hurdle races for the combine events, there shall be 1 empty lane on each side of the competitor. For example: On an 8-lane track, there can be a maximum of 4 runners per heat (lanes 1, 3, 5, 7 or 2, 4, 6, 8). On a 6-lane track, there can be a maximum of 3 runners per heat (lanes 1, 3, 5 or 2, 4, 6).**

ALTITUDE ADJUSTMENT POLICY

To more accurately determine the altitude adjustments for the 2024 NJCAA standards for both Indoor and Outdoor Divisions I & III, refer to the NCAA Track & Field Rulebook, Division I. **(Adjustments will be made automatically by Direct Athletics)**

The time allowance for altitude (in seconds) is in parentheses for the selected sites, events and divisions. Please use the NCAA Rulebook as to the proper use of the allowance when adjusting the 2024 NJCAA Standards. This procedure allows us to use 2024 adjustments provided by the NCAA and to be more accurate.

Section 8. Scoring

A. Indoor

1. The indoor championship will be scored to eight places on the basis of10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

B. Outdoor

1. The outdoor championship will be scored to eight places on the basis of10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

Section 9. National Poll

Will be conducted via the USTFCCCA

33. VOLLEYBALL – BEACH

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Beach Volleyball Committee and the Tournament Host. Future dates:

April 29-May 1, 2027 at John Hunt Park; Huntsville, AL
May 4-6, 2028 at John Hunt Park; Huntsville, AL
May 3-5, 2029, TBD

Section 2. Team Qualification

A. Region Qualification
   a. Teams with 3 or more participating teams in the Region must complete their Regional Championships by April 18, 2027.
      i. An automatic bid will be awarded to Region Champions from Regions with 3 or more teams competing.
      ii. Those colleges that do not win their Region Championship may qualify by completing the Open Qualification Registration.
      iii. Teams must compete in a minimum of 4 duals to qualify for the NJCAA National Championships.

B. Open Qualification Registration
   a. All Colleges (regardless of the number of participating teams in their Region) may complete the Open Qualification Registration to qualify for the National Tournament.
      i. Registration will open Dec 1 of the current academic year.
      ii. If a team registers and is an automatic qualifier, their slot will open.
      iii. Teams must compete in 4 duals to qualify for the NJCAA National Championships.

C. No more than 12 teams will qualify for the NJCAA National Beach Volleyball Championships.

2027 NJCAA BEACH VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS	
Region 10 – A	Region 1, Region 5
Region 10 – B	Region 9
Region 8 - A	Region 18
Region 8 – B	Region 8 - C

D. Substitution Order
   a. If a district representative cannot attend the national championship, then the district runner-up will advance to the national championship.
   b. If an at-large representative cannot attend the national championship, then the next team on the at-large selection list will be the substitute. (at-large list will be 6 teams deep)
   c. In the event a Region with only one participant cannot attend the national championships, then an additional at-large team will be selected.

Section 3. Pairs Exhibition

A. Pairs Open Registration
   a. Pairs registration will open Feb 1 of the current academic year.
   b. The Pairs Exhibition will run simultaneously with the NJCAA Beach National Championships.
   c. Pairs Qualification
      i. Pairs may be from any member colleges even if they do not offer beach volleyball as a recognized sport by the NJCAA National Office.
      ii. Pairs whose team is competing in the National Championships may NOT participate in the Pairs Exhibition, unless they are Pair #6 or Pair #7.

Section 4. Tournament Rules and Procedures

A. Tournament Procedures
   a. The responsibility for crowd control rests with the tournament director. The NCAA rule regarding noise makers will be used.
   b. The official roster submitted must reflect the same number and name for each player regardless of uniform color throughout the tournament.

B. Teams shall abide by all USA Volleyball Beach Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR) and modifications for NCAA Beach Volleyball. Rules can be found at NCAA Playing Rules – Beach Volleyball

Exceptions:

   a. The official ball must be the Molten BV5000-SB
   b. Warm up time can be modified for broadcasting or court maintenance.
   c. Number of allowable coaches exception:
      i. The NJCAA will make a rule adjustment for this event on the NCAA legislation that puts a limit of (3) coaches that can be involved in coaching activities during a competition. This will allow the college to designate up to 5 staff members to help coach and supply hydration to pairs as needed.

C. Warm Up Times
   a. NCAA Formal Warm-Up Protocol will be followed.
      i. -10 Coin toss
      ii. -9 Start eight-minute formal times warm-up (coaches must leave the playing court)
      iii. -1 End warm-up, teams to pre-determined team area, referee(s) to designated location
      iv. Final court grooming procedures
      v. 0 Teams to end-lines (respective to team area)
      vi. First Referee (R1) whistles and signals to invite teams to the net to shake hands with opponent
      vii. First Referee (R1) starts the match
   b. Modifications may be made for court maintenance demands or broadcasting per NCAA rules modification.

D. Roster Challenge
   a. Team Lineup form should be submitted to the NJCAA by 5 p.m. EST on Monday, April 27. Lineup forms must by emailed to assigned NJCAA Sport Operations and Championships Associate
   b. All team lineups will be sent to head coaches by 6 p.m. EST on Monday, April 27.
   c. Lineup challenges will be accepted until noon EST on Tuesday, April 28. Any coach may submit a challenge to the lineup of another team. Completed challenge forms will be sent to assigned NJCAA Sport Operations and Championships Associate. Additional details can be found on the challenge form

E. Pool Play Procedures for Tiebreakers
   a. The following procedures will be followed when determining pool play standings:
      i. Overall win/loss record in pool play
      ii. Set win/loss percentage
      iii. Point differential percentage
      iv. Coin flip
      v. Player Replacement/Substitution Guidelines for NJCAA Beach Volleyball Championships
      vi. Player replacements and lineup substitutions should be communicated to the head official at the tournament headquarters tent as soon as they are determined and, at the latest, one hour before the start of play on a given day, or 15 minutes before a match is to begin if made during the same day. The head referee will share lineup changes with the opposing team as soon as possible.

F. Team Player Replacement/Substitution Guidelines
   a. Player replacements and lineup substitutions should be communicated to the head official at the tournament headquarters tent as soon as they are determined and, at the least, one hour before the start of play on a given day, or 15 minutes before a match is to begin if made during the same day. The head referee will share lineup changes with the opposing team as soon as possible.
   b. No lineup changes allowed in flights #'s 1-4 during the championships except for injury or illness.
   c. If a player playing in flights #'s 1-4 is injured or ill and cannot continue, the team forfeits the rest of that pair's match.
   d. A player who is designated an alternate may replace the injured or ill player in subsequent matches or the coach may change other pairs as long as no player moves down from the flight in which they started the event.
   e. If there is no alternate available to substitute for the injured or ill player, all pairs below the injured player's pair must move up a position for subsequent matches; the forfeited match must be at the #5 position.
   f. The injured or ill player may not return to the competition in any flight during the event.
   g. In flight #5, alternates may replace either individual players or the entire pair from one match to the next
   h. No lineup changes are permitted in flight #5 from 5 pm EST on April 28 when lineups are submitted to the NJCAA for coach vetting through the conclusion of the team's first match. Alternates may replace individual players or the entire pair in flight #5 any time after the team's first match is completed.
   i. A new lineup form must be submitted to the head official if a lineup change is made.

G. Playing to Decision vs Playing to Completion
   a. All matches at the NJCAA Beach Championships will default to a match being concluded at decision when 3 wins are achieved. During pool play only, teams may play to completion if both coaches are agreeable, and the agreement is made prior to the duel. During the coin toss the official will ask a representative from each team to state their intention of whether they plan to play to decision or completion. During bracket and challenge round play, all matches will be played to a decision.

H. All-American Criteria
   a. 1st Team All-Americans shall be the top 3 pairs based on finish at the national tournament.
   b. 2nd Team All-Americans shall be the next 3 pairs based on finish at the national tournament
   c. All-American's will be selected based upon their finish and pair records at the National Tournament.

Section 5. Championship (TBD)

Seeding of the Tournament & At Large Selections.
   a. The Beach Volleyball Committee will meet April 19, 2027 to select at-large teams and seed
      i. Criteria for At-Large Selection
         1. Must have played minimum of 4 matches
         2. Overall Results/Records
         3. Poll results of collegebeachvb.com
            a. Teams must enter scores weekly at collegebeachvb.com
            b. Teams must enter scores weekly on Presto
   b. Seeding will take place after the At Large Selections have been named and the Beach Volleyball Committee will seed the tournament.
   c. The Beach Volleyball Coaches Association Representative will provide information only for the committee and will then leave the call.
   d. The tournament bracket will be announced on April 20, 2027.

Section 6. Officials

A. Beach officials must have a USAV Zonal Beach-rated official.
B. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 7. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the tournament host.
B. Each college shall pay its own expenses.

Section 8. Regular Season

A. **All teams must enter their rosters in volleyballlife.com which will automatically update in collegebeachvb.com. Stats are to be entered into collegebeachvb.com**
B. Teams shall abide by all USA Volleyball Beach Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR) and modifications for NCAA Beach Volleyball. Rules can be found at NCAA Playing Rules – Beach Volleyball
   EXCEPTIONS:
   a. Official ball must be the Molten BW5000-SB
   b. One court can be utilized in regular season play.

30. VOLLEYBALL – WOMEN'S - DIVISION I

Section 1. Tournament Dates

November 18-21, 2026 at Hutchinson Sports Arena; Hutchinson, KS
November 17-20, 2027, TBD
November 15-18, 2028, TBD

Section 2. Team Qualification

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 12 Districts plus four (4) at-large selections:

2026 NJCAA DI VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Mid-South	14	Midwest A	4,11, 16, 24	Midwest B	4,11, 16, 24	Plains	6
Rocky Mountain A	1, 18	Rocky Mountain B	1, 18	Northwest Plains A	9	Northwest Plains B	9
Southwest A	5A	Southwest B	5B	Atlantic A	8, 10, 17	Atlantic B	8, 10, 17
At-Large	*All*	At-Large	*All*	At-Large	*All*	At-Large	*All*

B. If there is an open berth, the standing volleyball committee shall fill the open berth using the following criteria:
   1. District runner-up of the district whose champion is unable to attend.
   2. Selected via the at-large process by the VB Committee.

C. If volleyball is added within a region, or a new region is established, that region would be included in the closest district.

D. In a district comprised of only two regions where one of those regions has but one single participating college, that college must participate in the other region's Regional Tournament. The winner of this tournament will be declared the district champion. The highest finishing team of each region will be declared that region's champion.

E. District Playoffs Through-out Tournament Play
   1. District Directors shall file procedures and dates to the National Office by October 1.
   2. District Directors shall submit a financial plan for handling the District Tournament subject to approval by Regional Directors involved.
   3. All district playoffs shall be completed no later than November 8, 2026
   4. Certified PAVO or USAV rated officials are recommended for all regional and district playoffs.

Section 3. Tournament Rules and Procedures

A. Crowd Control
   1. The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of the tournament. The NCAA rule regarding noise makers will be used. Bands, or any component thereof, are not allowed to play while the competition is in progress. This rule applies to all post season NJCAA Tournament Volleyball matches.

B. Uniforms
   1. For each match of the National Tournament, the competing teams will be required to wear contrasting colored uniforms. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, team colors of light and dark must be determined. If there are questions or conflicts that arise, NJCAA staff attending the tournament will make the final decision.
   2. The official roster must reflect the same number and name for each player regardless of uniform color throughout the tournament.

C. NCAA rules will be used with the following exceptions:
   1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
   2. Challenge Review System may only be utilized during the National Tournament.
   3. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per set is based on the following:
      DI vs DI -- 15 subs

D. District and National Tournaments
   1. The official ball must be the Molten IV58L Super Touch.
   2. Ball pressure shall range from 4.3 to 4.6 lbs.
   3. One visible scoreboard for each court shall be used.
   4. Warm-up times:
      i. 2 minutes shared stretching & coin toss
      ii. 4 minutes visiting team
      iii. 4 minutes home team
      iv. 5 minutes visiting team
      v. 5 minutes home team

E. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the bench area is 19, which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.

F. Championship Bracket – The National Tournament bracket shall be a 16-team consolation–elimination.
   1. All matches shall be three-of-five.
   2. Match time and court as listed below:

2026 NJCAA DI VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE		
DAY ONE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
10:00 AM	Match 1 - #3 vs. #14	Match 2 - #6 vs. #11
1:00 PM	Match 3 - #7 vs. #10	Match 4 - #2 vs. #15
4:00 PM	Match 5 - #1 vs. #16	Match 6 - #8 vs. #9
7:00 PM	Match 7 - #5 vs. #12	Match 8 - #4 vs. #13
DAY TWO	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
10:00 AM	Match 9 – L1 vs. L2	Match 10 – L3 vs. L4
1:00 PM	Match 11 – L5 vs. L6	Match 12 – L7 vs. L8
4:00 PM	Match 13 – W1 vs. W2	Match 14 – W3 vs. W4
7:00 PM	Match 15 – W5 vs. W6	Match 16 – W7 vs. W8
DAY THREE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
1:00 PM	Match 17 – W9 vs. W10	Match 18 – W11 vs. W12
4:00 PM	Match 19 – L13 vs. L14	Match 20 – L15 vs. L16
7:00 PM	Match 21 – W15 vs. W16	Match 22 – W13 vs. W14
DAY FOUR	**CENTER COURT**	
9:00 AM	Consolation | Match 23 – W17 vs. W18	
12:00 PM	5th Place | Match 24 – W19 vs. W20	
3:00 PM	3rd Place | Match 25 – L21 vs. L22	
6:00 PM	Championship | Match 26 – W21 vs. W22	

3. The NJCAA DI Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament at-large selection and seeding.
4. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – November 9, 2026.
5. Criteria for NJCAA At Large Selection & Seeding
   i. Final poll results (regular season) in the seeding and at large selection process.
   ii. Results of Region/District playoffs.
   iii. Strength of schedule (to include strength of schedule when teams traveled outside their region as well as contests played on neutral sites).
   iv. Quality wins/quality losses (teams in poll/teams in national tournament).
   v. Historical results of the district's teams at previous national tournaments.

G. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played– including postseason – to the NJCAA official film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At-Large qualifier will upload film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from an endline view, must be static and not moving around for clear viewing. It should be for scouting purposes and not for entertainment which should be a normal camera view, not a broadcasted view, both sides of the court must be seen, numbers of each player must be clearly seen and not hard to read due to the camera angle, camera zoom, or the color of the jerseys. Penalties for noncompliance will include but are not limited to: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA official film exchange, a letter of reprimand to offending college president and the head coach will be suspended from coaching the first National Tournament game.

Section 4. **Officials**

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 5. **Finances**

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the Tournament Host.

B. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

Section 6. **Regular Season**

A. NCAA Rules will be used.

Exceptions:

1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
2. Only best 3 out of 5 set matches will be included in team records, statistical reports, and considered for weekly polling record or seeding for the District and National Tournaments.
3. Matches that are played on a timed basis or end in a tie will not be included in team records or statistical reports
4. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per set is based on the following:
   DI vs DI -- 15 subs
   DI vs DII/DIII. 18 subs

Section 7. **NJCAA DI Volleyball Poll**

A. The NJCAA DI Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures

B. Poll Dates: Aug. 17^, Aug 31, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 29**, Oct. 5, Oct.13*, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

31. VOLLEYBALL – WOMEN'S – DIVISION II

Section 1. Tournament Dates

November 18-21, 2026 Alliant Energy Powerhouse Arena Cedar Rapids, Iowa
November 17-20, 2027 Alliant Energy Powerhouse Arena Cedar Rapids, Iowa
November 15-18, 2028 Alliant Energy Powerhouse Arena Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Section 2. Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. All entry forms shall be sent from the Tournament Director prior to October 1.
B. The Tournament Director will also send a time schedule, deadlines, videotaping procedures and other pertinent information.

Section 3. Team Qualification

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 16 districts with 4 At-Large:

2026 NJCAA DII VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
West	1	South Atlantic	8	Plains A	2, 6	Plains B	2, 6
Mid-Atlantic	15, 19, 20	Gulf South	22, 23	Central A	16, 24	Central B	16, 24
North Central A	11, 13	North Central B	11, 13	Southeast A	7	Southeast B	10
Midwest A	4A	Midwest B	4B	Great Lakes A	12A	Great Lakes B	12B

B. If there is an open berth, the standing volleyball committee shall fill the open berth using the following criteria:
   1. District runner-up of the district whose champion is unable to attend.
   2. Via the at-large selections process, the committee would select a replacement.
C. If volleyball is added within a region, or a new region is established, that region would be included in the closest district.
D. Team photos must have individuals in team uniform in a formal pose with numbers visible.
E. District Playoffs
   1. District Directors shall file procedures and dates to the NJCAA National Office by October 1, 2026
   2. District Directors shall submit a financial plan for handling the District Tournament, subject for approval by Regional Directors involved.
   3. All district playoffs shall be completed by Sunday, November 8, 2026
   4. Certified PAVO or USA Volleyball rated officials are recommended for all regional and district playoffs. It is also recommended to have certified line judges for regular season. Certification is determined by the regions.
   5. All colleges must qualify in compliance with Article XII of the NJCAA bylaws.

Section 4. Tournament Seeding

A. The NJCAA DII Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding.
B. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date – November 9, 2026
C. Seeding will be based on, in no set order.
   1. Regional placement in the national tournament the previous year.
   2. Strength of region and/or strength of schedule.
   3. National Poll.
   4. Overall and two-year college record.
D. 4 at-large teams will be selected. A coach or AD on the volleyball committee must follow the guidelines listed in the Sport Codes General section. The criteria for selecting the at-large teams shall be based on the following (in no particular order):
   1. NJCAA record vs. common opponents
   2. Head-to-head
   3. Overall record vs. NJCAA competition
   4. Overall record
   5. Strength of schedule
   6. Average national ranking of final three polls

Section 5. Rules and Procedures

A. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the bench area is 19, which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
B. For each match of the National Tournament, the competing teams will be required to wear contrasting colored uniforms. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, team colors of light and dark must be determined. If there are questions or conflicts that arise, NJCAA staff attending the tournament will make the final decision.
C. In facilities like the current one, every attempt will be made to keep matches on time. Starting in Fall 2025, teams may begin warming up at the complete of the match on each court and may start at the regularly scheduled time or when they have completed allowable warm-up. You will not have to wait for the other match to be completed. Rule will be looked at again, if the championship were to move to a facility that does not allow this to happen.
D. NJCAA Rules will be followed
   Exceptions:
   1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
   2. Challenge Review System may only be utilized during the National Tournament.
   3. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per set is based on the following:
      DII vs DII --18 subs

E. District and National Tournaments.
1. The official ball must be the Molten IV58L Super Touch.
2. Ball pressure shall range from 4.3 to 4.6 lbs.
3. One visible scoreboard for each court shall be used.
4. The championship shall determine places 1-10 in order of finish.
5. Warm up times
    a. 2 minutes shared stretching & coin toss
    b. 4 minutes visiting team
    c. 4 minutes home team
    d. 5 minutes visiting team
    e. 5 minutes home team

F. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played– including postseason – to the NJCAA official film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At- Large qualifier will upload film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from an endline view, must be static and not moving around for clear viewing. It should be for scouting purposes and not for entertainment which should be normal camera view, not a broadcasted view, both sides of the court must be seen, numbers of each player must be clearly seen and not hard to read due to the camera angle, camera zoom, or the color of the jerseys. Penalties for noncompliance will include but are not limited to: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA official film exchange, a letter of reprimand to offending college president and the head coach will be suspended from coaching the first National Tournament game.

G. Championship Bracket – The Division II Volleyball National Tournament bracket shall be a 20-team consolation-elimination.
1. All matches shall be 3 of 5.
2. Match time and court

2026 NJCAA DII VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE		
DAY ONE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
9:00 AM	Match 1 - #16 vs. #17	Match 2 - #13 vs. #20
11:00 AM	Match 3 - #15 vs. #18	Match 4 - #14 vs. #19
1:00 PM	Match 5 - #8 vs. #9	Match 6 - #5 vs. #12
3:30 PM	Match 7 - #7 vs. #10	Match 8 - #6 vs. #11
5:30 PM	Match 9 – #1 vs. W1	Match 10 – #4 vs. W2
7:30 PM	Match 11 – #2 vs. W3	Match 12 – #3 vs. W4
DAY TWO	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
9:00 AM	Match 13 – L3 vs. L9	Match 14 – L4 vs. L10
11:00 AM	Match 15 – L1 vs. L11	Match 16 – L2 vs. L12
1:00 PM	Match 17 – W13 vs. L5	Match 18 – W14 vs. L6
3:30 PM	Match 19 – W15 vs. L7	Match 20 – W16 vs. L8
5:30 PM	Match 21 – W5 vs. W9	Match 22 – W6 vs. W10
7:30 PM	Match 23 – W7 vs W11	Match 24 – W8 vs. W12
DAY THREE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
11:00 AM	Match 25 – W19 vs. L21	Match 26 – W20 vs. L22
1:00 PM	Match 27 – W17 vs. L23	Match 28 – W18 vs. L24
4:00 PM	Match 29 – W21 vs. W22	Match 30 – W23 vs. W24
6:00 PM	Match 31 – W25 vs. W26	Match 32 – W27 vs. W28

DAY FOUR	Center Court
12:00 PM	5th Place Match W31 vs W32
2:00 PM	3rd Place | Match 35 – L 29 vs L30
5:00 PM	Championship | Match 36 – W29 vs. W30

Section 6. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

Section 7. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the Tournament Host.

B. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

Section 8. Regular Season

A. NCAA Rules will be used.

Exceptions:

1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
2. Only best 3 out of 5 set matches will be included in team records, statistical reports, and considered for weekly polling record or seeding for the District and National Tournaments.
3. Matches that are played on a timed basis or end in a tie will not be included in team records or statistical reports

Section 9. NJCAA DII Volleyball Poll

A. The NJCAA DII Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll Dates: Aug. 17^, Aug. 31, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 29**. Oct. 5, Oct. 13*, Oct 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2

^Preseason poll

*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday

**Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

32. VOLLEYBALL – WOMEN'S – DIVISION III

Section 1. Dates - Division III:

November 12-14, 2026 at College of DuPage Athletic Arena; Glen Ellyn, IL
November 11-13, 2027 at College of DuPage Athletic Arena; Glen Ellyn, IL
November 9-11, 2028, TBD

Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The Tournament Director will also send a time schedule, deadlines, video recording procedures and other pertinent information and forms.

Section 2. Team Qualification

A. The qualifying teams shall come from the following 12 districts with 4 at-large:

2026 NJCAA DIII VOLLEYBALL DISTRICTS							
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
East A	19A	East B	19B	North A	3A	North B	3B
North Plains A	13A	North Plains B	13B	Northeast	21	Great Lakes	4, 12
South	5	Mid-Atlantic	10, 20	North Atlantic A	15A	North Atlantic B	15B

B. If there is an open berth, the NJCAA Volleyball Committee shall fill the open berth using the following criteria:
   1. District runner-up of the district whose champion is unable to attend.
   2. Host college.

C. In the event that volleyball is added within a region, or a new region is established, that region would be included in the closest district.

D. District Playoffs
   1. District Directors shall file procedures and dates to the NJCAA National Office by **October 1.**
   2. District Directors shall submit a financial plan for handling the District Tournament, subject to approval by Regional Directors involved.
   3. All District Playoffs shall be completed by **November 1, 2026.** Regions that are involved in District Tournaments must have their Regional Tournaments completed no later than four days prior to the district.
   4. Certified PAVO or USA Volleyball rated officials are recommended for all regional and district playoffs.

E. Criteria for NJCAA At Large Selection
   1. Final poll results (regular season)
   2. Results of Region/District playoffs
   3. Strength of schedule (to include strength of schedule when teams traveled outside their region as well as contests played on neutral sites).
   4. Quality wins/quality losses (teams in poll/teams in national tournament).
   5. Historical results of the district's teams at previous national tournaments.
   6. The Division III Volleyball Committee will serve as at-large and seeding committee for the national tournament.

Section 3. Tournament Seeding

A. The NJCAA DIII Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Processes as listed in the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding.

B. Seeding will be completed no later than the day after the district cutoff date- November 2, 2026

C. Seeding will be based on:
   1. Regional placement in the national tournament the previous year.
   2. Strength of Region.
   3. National Poll.
   4. Overall and NJCAA Record.
   5. Head-to-Head Competition.

Section 4. Tournament Rules and Procedures

A. Crowd Control – The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of the tournament.

B. Teams in the tournament may only video games in which they are playing. The NJCAA, in cooperation with Hudl, will provide each team with access to video from all contests of the tournament, and that video will be provided using an endline view with a static camera.

C. NCAA rules will be used in the NJCAA Championships.
   Exceptions:
   1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
   2. During the regular season 3 out of 5 matches will be recognized in a team's record.
   3. Challenge Review System may only be utilized during the National Tournament.
   4. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per set is based on the following:
      DIII vs DIII -- 18 subs

D. Matches 1-12 will be played on Day 1, Matches 13-22 will be played on day 2, and Matches 23-27 will be played on Day 3.

2026 NJCAA DIII VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE		
DAY ONE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
9:00 AM	Match 1 - #3 vs. #14	Match 2 - #6 vs. #11
11:00 AM	Match 3 - #7 vs. #10	Match 4 - #2 vs. #15
1:00 PM	Match 5 – #1 vs. 16	Match 6 – #8 vs. #9
3:00 PM	Match 7 - #5 vs. #12	Match 8 - #4 vs. #13
5:30 PM	Match 9 – W1 vs. W2	Match 10 – W3 vs. W4
7:30 PM	Match 11 – W5 vs. W6	Match 12 – W7 vs. W8
DAY TWO	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
10:00 AM	Match 13 – L1 vs. L2	Match 14 – L3 vs. L4
12:00 PM	Match 15 – L5 vs. L6	Match 16 – L7 vs. L8
2:30 PM	Match 17 – L9 vs. L10	Match 18 – L11 vs. L12
4:30 PM	Match 19 – W13 vs. W14	Match 20 – W15 vs. W16
6:30 PM	Match 21 – W11 vs. W12	Match 22 – W9 vs. W10
DAY THREE	**COURT #1**	**COURT #2**
9:00 AM	9th Place | Match 23 – W19 vs. W20	7th Place | Match 24 – L17 vs. L18
	Center Court	
12:00 PM	5th Place | Match 25 – W17 vs. W18	
2:30 PM	3rd Place | Match 26 – L21 vs. L22	
5:00 PM	Championship | Match 27 – W21 vs. W22	

E. All matches will be 3 out of 5.
F. The maximum allowable number of individuals an institution can have in the bench area is 20, which includes all student-athletes, coaches, managers and other team personnel as recognized by the institution, excluding certified athletic trainers. The official roster will be signed and submitted prior to the tournament coaches meeting. The National Office will provide the Chair with a copy of the rosters. No deletions or additions will be allowed once tournament play has begun.
G. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played– including postseason – to the NJCAA official film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At-Large qualifier will upload film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from an endline view, must be static and not moving around for clear viewing. It should be for scouting purposes and not for entertainment which should be a normal camera view, not a broadcasted view, both sides of the court must be seen, numbers of each player must be clearly seen and not hard to read due to the camera angle, camera zoom, or the color of the jerseys. Penalties for noncompliance will include but are not limited to the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA official film exchange, a letter of reprimand to offending college president and the head coach will be suspended from coaching the first National Tournament game.
H. Tournament Ball - District and National Tournaments.
    1. The official ball must be the Molten's IV58L Super Touch.
    2. Ball pressure shall range from 4.3 to 4.6 lbs.
I. One visible scoreboard for each court shall be used.
J. Warm-up procedure:
    1. Have a shared court for both teams to warm up prior to their on-court warmup at the National tournament.
    2. 2 minutes shared stretch and coin toss
    3. 4 minutes visiting team
    4. 4 minutes home team
    5. 5 minutes visiting team
    6. 5 minutes home team
K. Removing or changing into or out of any part of the official team competition uniform while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning, and if repeated, disqualification of the individual(s) for the next match. A warning stays in place for the entire tournament.

L. An Athlete needs prior approval by the NJCAA National Office to wear a concussion headband.
M. For each match of the National Tournament, the competing teams will be required to wear contrasting-colored uniforms. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, team colors of light and dark must be determined. If there are questions or conflicts that arise, NJCAA staff attending the tournament will make the final decision.

Section 5. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
B. Officials will be allowed to work the National Tournament for a maximum of three consecutive years.

Section 6. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the Tournament Host.
B. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

Section 7. Regular Season

A. NCAA Rules will be used.
Exceptions:
1. The attack line extension may be temporary.
2. Only the best 3 out of 5 set matches will be included in team records, statistical reports, and considered for weekly polling record or seeding for the District and National Tournaments.
3. Matches that are played on a timed basis or end in a tie will not be included in team records or statistical reports.

B. An Athlete needs prior approval by the NJCAA National Office to wear a concussion headband.
C. The maximum number of substitutions allowed per set is based on the following:
DI vs DII/DIII -- 18 subs
DII vs DIII -- 18 subs
DIII vs DIII -- 18 subs

Section 8. NJCAA DIII Volleyball Poll

A. The NJCAA DIII Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.
B. Poll Dates: Aug. 17^, Aug. 31, Sept. 8*, Sept. 14, Sept. 21, Sept. 29**, Oct. 5, Oct.13*, Oct. 19, Oct. 26
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to federal holiday
**Released on Tuesday due to the NJCAA Foundation Golf Classic

33. MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Section 1. Tournament Dates

The tournament shall begin on the 4th Thursday of April for a three-day tournament. The dates for the tournament shall be recommended to the Board of Regents by the NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee. Future Dates:

2027: April 22-24, 2027 at Finger Lakes Community College- Canandaigua, NY
2028: April 27-29, 2028 at College of DuPage - Glen Ellyn, IL
2029: April 27-29, 2029 at Finger Lakes Community College- Canandaigua, NY

Tournament Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. All entry forms shall be sent to the Tournament Director no later than seven days prior to the start of the tournament.
B. The Tournament Director will also send a time schedule, deadlines, video recording procedures, and other pertinent information.

Section 2. Tournament Rules and Procedures

A. NCAA Men's Volleyball rules will be used. Rules can be found at NCAA Playing Rules-Volleyball
Exceptions:
1. NJCAA Men's Volleyball will use the NJCAA DIII Substitution rule (12 subs per set).
B. **Official Ball:** The official ball must be the Molten V5M5000 FLISTATEC.
C. Crowd Control: The responsibility for crowd control rests with the director of the tournament.
D. Teams in the tournament may only film games in which they are playing. The NJCAA, in cooperation with Hudl, will provide each team with access to film from all contests of the tournament, and that film will be provided using an endline view with a static camera.
E. All matches will be 3 out of 5 sets.
F. One visible scoreboard for each court shall be used.
G. Warm-up procedure:
1. The host will provide a shared court for both teams to warm up before their on-court warm-up at the National Tournament.
2. Five (5) minutes of split/shared court hitting and coin toss
3. Five (5) minutes visiting team
4. Five (5) minutes home team
5. Five (5) minutes visiting team
6. Five (5) minutes home team
H. Removing or changing into or out of any part of the official team competition uniform while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning, and, if repeated, disqualification of the individual(s) for the next match. A warning stays in place for the entire tournament.
I. An athlete needs prior approval by the NJCAA National Office to wear a concussion headband.
J. For each match of the National Tournament, the competing teams will be required to wear contrasting-colored uniforms. Prior to the beginning of the tournament, team colors of light and dark must be determined. If questions or conflicts arise, NJCAA staff attending the tournament will make the final decision.
K. Upon qualification for the National Tournament, each team will be required to upload a complete game film in one file for their last game played – including postseason – to the NJCAA official film exchange per instructions provided by the NJCAA National Office. If an At-Large team's last game was against a National Tournament qualifier who will already have a different game uploaded to the film exchange, the At-Large qualifier will upload film from their last game played against a team that didn't qualify for the National Tournament. Teams must upload their game film no later than 48 hours following the release of the fully seeded bracket. Game films must be from an endline view, and they must be static and not moving around for clear viewing. It should be for scouting purposes and not for entertainment, which should be a normal camera view, not a broadcasted view; both sides of the court must be seen; and the numbers of each player must be clearly seen and not hard to read due to the camera angle, camera zoom, or the color of the jerseys. Penalties for noncompliance will include but are not limited to the following: the offending institution will not have access to the uploaded games on the NJCAA official film exchange, a letter of reprimand will be sent to the offending college president, and the head coach will be suspended from coaching their first National Tournament game.
L. The challenge review system may be utilized during the National Tournament.

Section 3. Team Qualification

A. The Men's Volleyball National Tournament will be an eight (8) team tournament.
B. The qualifying teams shall come from four (4) districts plus four at-large selections.

2027 NJCAA Men's Volleyball Districts			
District	**Region(s)**	**District**	**Region(s)**
East A and B	3, 19, 21	North Atlantic	15
Great Lakes	4, 12	Four additional teams At-Large selections	

C. If there is an open berth, the NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee shall fill the open berth using the following criteria:
1. District runner-up of the district whose champion is unable to attend.
2. Host college.
3. The NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee will select an additional team at large when C.1 and C.2 cannot determine a team for an open berth.
D. In the event that volleyball is added within a region, or a new region is established, that region would be included in the closest district.
E. District Playoffs
1. District Directors shall file procedures and dates to the NJCAA National Office by October 1.
2. District Directors shall submit a financial plan for handling the District Tournament, subject to approval by Regional Directors involved.
3. All District Playoffs must be completed by April 11, 2027. Regions that are involved in District Tournaments must have their Regional Tournaments completed no later than four (4) days prior to the district.
4. Certified PAVO or USA Volleyball-rated officials are recommended for all regional and district playoffs.

F. Criteria for NJCAA At-Large selection:
   1. Final poll results (regular season)
   2. Results of Region/District playoffs
   3. Strength of schedule (to include strength of schedule when teams traveled outside their region as well as contests played on neutral sites).
   4. Quality wins/quality losses (teams in poll/teams in national tournament).
   5. Historical results of the district's teams at previous national tournaments.
   6. The NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee will serve as the at-large and seeding committee for the national tournament.

Section 4. Tournament Seeding

A. The NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process as listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to national tournament seeding.
B. Seeding will take place at the MVB Committee Meeting scheduled during the NJCAA Convention; April 12-15, 2027.
C. Seeding will be based on:
   1. Regional placement in the national tournament the previous year.
   2. Strength of Region.
   3. National Poll.
   4. Overall and NJCAA Record.
   5. Head-to-Head Competition.

Section 5. Tournament Format

A. The NJCAA Men's Volleyball Tournament will be an eight (8) team tournament with a consolation bracket played over three days.
B. All places will be played out.
C. Matches 1-4 will be played on Day 1, Matches 5-8 will be played on Day 2, and Matches 9-12 (place matches) will be played on Day 3.

2027 MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE	
DAY ONE	**CENTER COURT**
10:00 AM	Match 1 - #8 vs. #1
12:30 PM	Match 2 - #5 vs. #4
3:00 PM	Match 3 – #6 vs. #3
5:30 PM	Match 4 – #7 vs. #2
DAY TWO	**CENTER COURT**
10:00 AM	Match 5 – L1 vs. L2
12:30 PM	Match 6 – L3 vs. L4
3:00 PM	Match 7 – W1 vs. W2
5:30 PM	Match 8 – W3 vs. W4
DAY THREE	**CENTER COURT**
10:00 AM	7th Place: Match 9 – Loser of 5 vs. Loser of 6
12:30 PM	5th Place: Match 10 – Winner of 5 vs. Winner of 6
3:00 PM	3rd Place: Match 11 – Loser of 7 vs. Loser of 8
5:30 PM	1st Place: Match 12 – Winner of 7 vs. Winner of 8

Section 6. Regular Season

A. The NCAA Men's Volleyball rules will be used. When two out of three match is played, the 3rd match shall be to 15 points. All two out of three matches will be included in team records and statistical reports.
B. Matches that are played on a timed basis will not be included in a team's record or statistical report.
C. Two out of three set matches will be considered in national poll consideration and for the seeding for the National Tournament.
D. NJCAA Men's Volleyball will use the NCAA DIII Men's Volleyball substitution rule (12 subs per set instead of 6 subs).
E. It is recommended that teams within a district play all the other teams within the same district at least once during the regular season. It is also recommended to play matches against teams outside their district to help determine proper seeding for the National Tournament.

Section 7. Officials

A. Certified PAVO or USA Volleyball-rated officials will be used for the National Tournament.
B. Certified PAVO or USA Volleyball-rated officials as line judges and scorers will be used for the National Tournament.

Section 8. Finances

A. All tournament expenses shall be paid by the Tournament Host.
B. Each college shall pay their own expenses.

Section 9. **NJCAA Men's Volleyball Poll**

A. The NJCAA Men's Volleyball Committee adheres to the NJCAA Sport Committee & Poll Process listed in Section 9 of the NJCAA General Sport Code relating to poll procedures.

B. Poll dates: Jan. 19^, Feb. 8, Feb. 16*, Feb. 22, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22, Mar. 29, Apr. 5
^Preseason poll
*Released on Tuesday due to the federal holiday

34. WRESTLING (Division I and Division III)

Section 1. Tournament Dates

National Tournament dates shall be determined jointly by the host and the NJCAA.

March 5-6, 2027 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA
March 3-4, 2028 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA
March 2-3, 2029 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA

Section 2. Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The host will send official certifying blanks to the director of each district qualifying for the tournament.
B. The host will send pre-tournament information to all wrestling colleges by January 31, 2027.

Section 3. Competition in Open Meets

A. Any open competition in which students enter as representatives of a member college shall be listed on the published schedule of the college and the students must satisfy the NJCAA Rules of Eligibility. These students must have a Weight Certification form on file with the NJCAA National Office.
B. Students not representing an NJCAA member college may participate unattached in "open" or "exhibition" competition without NJCAA approval. A college shall not furnish any assistance (equipment, transportation, lodging or meals) for athletes to participate in such events. A coach may not be in the mat area during a match to provide any coaching, advice or assistance.
C. Violation of this section shall result in the offending college being placed on probation for a period of one year. The member institution may not participate in any competition sponsored by the NJCAA during the probationary period.

Section 4. Participation Requirements

A. No contestant shall be permitted to enter the NJCAA Championship Wrestling Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Tournament Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.
B. Ineligible wrestlers or recruits may not attend the NJCAA Championship Wrestling Tournament at the expense of the college, tournament hosts, president of the college or athletic director.
C. Free passes will be made available for the president of the college, athletic director, three coaches, one trainer and qualifying wrestlers. All individuals representing each college must be identified to the Tournament Host 72 hours prior to the check-in deadline. All others must pay tournament fees.

Section 5. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. There shall be eight NJCAA Wrestling Districts as established each year by the NJCAA Board of Regents.
B. District Tournaments shall be completed by February 21, 2027
C. The eight districts are as follows:

2027 NJCAA MEN'S WRESTLING DISTRICTS									
DISTRICT	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**	**DISTRICT**	**REGION(S)**
Great Lakes	4, 12	Gulf Atlantic	10, 17, 19, 20	North Central	11	North Plains	13	Northeast	3, 15
		Plains	9	South Central	2, 6	West	18		

D. District Directors shall:
   1. Where more than one region is included in a Wrestling District one of the District's Regional Directors shall supervise and coordinate the qualification procedure in cooperation with the other Regional Director or Directors.
   2. District Directors Shall:
      i. Verify that all participants meet current NJCAA eligibility rules through the NJCAA National Office.
      ii. Require that all individual season record forms are brought to the district qualifier by providing an up-to-date printout from trackwrestling.com.
      iii. Verify that all participants have Weight Certification forms on file by providing a current official weigh-in form from trackwrestling.com.
      iv. Send a completed Weight Certification form to the NJCAA Tournament Director as soon as qualifiers are determined.
E. Entry to the NJCAA Championship Wrestling Tournament will be by certification of the District Tournament Director.
   1. Weight Certification forms must be submitted to the NJCAA Tournament Director by the District Director within 24 hours after the conclusion of the qualifiers.
   2. Any or all substitutions must be submitted by the District Director to the NJCAA Tournament Director 72 hours prior to the check-in deadline.
   3. Deadline for qualifying participant information to the Tournament Director is due by Monday, February 22, 2027. All individuals must be entered before the entry deadline or they will be declared ineligible for the NJCAA National Wrestling Tournament.
F. Each district shall qualify no greater than 60% of the total participants within that specific district. There can only be a maximum of nine wildcards within any district. All percentages shall be rounded down to the next lower number (ex: 39.9 wildcards = 39). Each district, before the district seeding meeting ends, will determine whether they will be using the traditional qualifying standards or pre-determined qualifying standards which will be final once the seeding meeting ends, and no changes can be made after that. The District Director will make a note of this and include this with the national qualifiers submitted from the district.
   1. Following each District competition, coaches can nominate wildcards to be considered for National Tournament qualification. Coaches in that District will then vote on the nominated wildcard qualifiers.
   2. Qualifying Standard Definitions:
      i. Traditional - The district divides the qualifiers up evenly amongst the 10 weight classes until they can no longer be divided evenly.
      ii. Predetermined - The district determines the number of qualifiers at each weight class prior to the start of the district championships. Following the district championship, district representatives vote/determine the wildcards.
G. The host district for the NJCAA Tournament may add one additional wrestler for each weight class above the 60% rule.

H. In the event one of the district qualifiers cannot wrestle, then the next alternate as determined by the district involved, may be designated as the substitute at the weight class in which the replacement is needed. In no other circumstance can a district qualifier and/or wildcard selection be replaced.

I. Wrestlers must enter the NJCAA Wrestling Tournament by participating in a single qualifying District Tournament. Each individual must enter at the same weight as he participated at in the qualifying tournament.
   1. Definition of a Participant
      i. Must be on Certified Academic Eligibility Roster
      ii. Must be on Certified NWCA/OPC Weigh-In Roster
      iii. Must be certified and eligible for specific weight class entered that weekend
      iv. Individuals failing medical examinations/skin checks may be allowed to weigh in and then be listed on the bracket as a medical forfeit
      v. Must make weight

J. The methods by which each district determines how to seed and draw, in addition to awarding or not awarding points after a bye in the championship bracket only, shall be determined by the participating colleges in that district

Section 6. Rules and Procedures

A. The NJCAA mandates that all participating colleges adhere to and follow the NCAA Wrestling Rulebook and follow the NCAA Weight Management regulations (NCAA Guidelines – Rule 8) unless stated otherwise in the NJCAA Wrestling bylaws.

B. Conduct all matches according to the rules in the NCAA Wrestling Rulebook. The consolation bracket will determine a third-place finisher and shall include all wrestlers defeated in the first and second rounds, as well as defeated wrestlers from the championship quarter and semifinals.

C. Official scales shall be available for at least one hour prior to each official weigh-in. Photo I.D.s are required for weigh-ins, Tournament Host will be responsible for providing a photo I.D.

D. Official clock, scoreboard, and collegiate mats are to be provided by the Tournament Host. In addition, an official riding clock is to be provided for each mat. In accordance with NCAA guidelines, mats shall have a wrestling area between 32 and 42 feet in diameter.

E. The NJCAA Wrestling Championships seeding committee will consider the top 3 in each weight class from each district. Seeding meeting is available for viewing only to all coaches. Information will be in the packet (Head to Head wins, Common opponents, season records, past NJCAA accomplishments, significant wins). 24 candidates will be considered for 16 seeds. If any of the following criteria are met, then the 3rd place finisher can be considered

e.1.Third place finishers from a district should be considered IF they meet one of the following criteria:
   a. Head-to-head competition between those under consideration.
   b. Returning AA at that weight class
   c. Returning AA at a different weight class
   d. Record against the other wrestlers under consideration
   e. Record against common opponents
   f. Must have a winning record
   g. Lost to the regional champ in the tournament

F. The tournament schedule will be developed by the host and approved by the NJCAA Wrestling Committee. The Director has the flexibility to determine the number of mats being used, but no less than 6 mats. The approved schedule is shown below:

Wednesday
Scales and workout site available as determined by the Tournament Director.
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. 1.5 mats will be available
6 p.m. – 10 p.m. 5 mats will be available

Thursday
6 a.m. – 10 p.m. 5 mats will be available
10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Official scale & workout site available
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Team check-in and entry verification. Failure to appear by the deadline may result in disqualification for the championship (Phone call prior to 3 p.m. if on late flight/transportation)
Noon - 10 p.m. Official scale open and workout site available
5 p.m. Tournament procedures meeting to be followed by NJCAA Coaches Meeting
9 p.m. Coaches/Officials Social

Friday
6:00 a.m. 7:15 a.m. - Official scale & workout site available
6:45 a.m. - Skin Checks
7:00 a.m. - Official Weigh-In
9:00 a.m. - Championship/Preliminaries First Round – six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
Championship/Preliminaries Second Round – six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
Consolation Pigtails
Consolation First Round – six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
Consolation Second Round – six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
5:45 p.m. - Championship Quarterfinals/Consolation Third Round
Consolation Fourth Round - six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
11:00 p.m. - Workout facilities will close.

Saturday
8:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. - Scales and workout sites available
8:15 a.m. - Skin Checks
8:30 a.m. - Official Weigh-In
9:30 a.m. - Championship Semifinals/Consolation Quarterfinals – six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
11:00 a.m. - Consolation Semifinals - six or eight mats at the discretion of the Tournament Director
12:15 p.m. - Consolation Finals 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th
5:30 p.m. - Opening Ceremonies
5:50 p.m. - Parade of All-Americans
6:00 p.m. - Championship Finals
NJCAA Award Presentations

**These times are approximate*

G. The tournament director may begin the third-round consolation matches and semi-final matches on 2 mats each creating equitable rest time and allowing coaches the opportunity to coach all of their wrestlers. The Director may add additional mats, up to 4 in the consolation rounds as needed.
H. Opening ceremonies for the championship shall be at 5:30 p.m. on the second day.
I. The championship round shall be held on a single mat. This round will begin no later than 6:00 p.m. An appropriate award ceremony will occur during the championship round.
Each coach shall be responsible for his team's total points and shall certify this by signing a score card for his team at the conclusion of the tournament. If he fails to sign the score card, the score stands as recorded by the official scorer.
J. If a qualifier fails to attend the National Tournament after the 72-hour substitution rule (Section 6. D.2) and has been drawn into the pigtail or first round (round of 32), his opponent shall receive a forfeit and receive advancement and bonus points according to the NCAA Rulebook. If a qualifier fails to attend the tournament and has been drawn into the round of 16, a bracket adjustment shall be made by moving a wrestler from the pigtail or first round into the vacated position. This adjustment shall be done according to the procedure set forth in Section 7.E. If, after the weigh-in for the second day of competition, a qualifier fails to make weight or for any reason does not participate in his scheduled match, it shall be considered a forfeit, and his scheduled opponent shall receive appropriate advancement and bonus points.
K. Protest Procedures
    a. Coach should notify the head mat official of his protest immediately:
        i. Wrestlers and coaches should remain in the mat area. The mat must be closed until the protest is resolved.
        ii. Protest must be submitted within ten minutes of the conclusion of the match.
        iii. Notify head scorer. No match that may be affected by the results of the protest should be wrestled.
        iv. Notify Tournament Protest Committee.
        v. Notify coaches and contestants that the bout has not been concluded.
    b. Each team will be allowed one video challenge per three qualifiers on day one and one video challenge per remaining three qualifiers on day two.
L. If video challenge is unavailable, the coach should notify the head official. A games committee to handle protests and violations of the NJCAA Code of Conduct and Misconduct Policy (competition rules) shall be composed of a minimum of three of the following, as selected by the official NJCAA Representatives. Any individual participant or coach requesting a protest must pay $100 in advance. The $100 is nonrefundable.
    a. Head mat official or his alternate.
    b. An officer of the Wrestling Coaches Association not involved in the protest.
    c. NJCAA Representative.
M. In the event that any athlete reaches their daily match limit prior to the completion of scheduled rounds on Day 1, those individual bouts will be held until Day 2, and will be wrestled prior to the first scheduled rounds of Day 2.
N. If a wrestler does not make weight on Day 2, but is an All American, the team points remain and the wrestler maintains their All American status.

Section 7. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.
B. The National Office shall provide an evaluation process to allow tournament coaches an opportunity to rate all mat officials for the tournament.
C. The head official and assistant head official/assignor will not officiate during the tournament.
D. No official officiating a match will be involved in the video review. The head official/assignor and assistant head official conduct all video reviews.

Section 8. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.
B. Each participating college will be assessed a $35 entry fee per qualifying wrestler.

Section 9. Open Wound Policy

Under circumstances when constant or profuse bleeding occurs, the participant shall be immediately removed from that contest by the official and cannot return until the bleeding has been stopped.

A. Health care attendants, known to be infected with the HIV virus, cannot administer to bleeding athletes.
B. Anytime an athlete bleeds during a bout, the official shall stop the action and the bleeding shall be stopped.
C. If the bleeding cannot be stopped to the satisfaction of the mat official, the athlete cannot continue to compete.
D. Timeouts for bleeding shall not be included in injury time.
E. Home match administration shall be responsible for notifying all officials of his responsibilities in enforcing the policy.
F. Home match administration is responsible for clean-up of mats and proper disposal of contaminated mat.

36. WOMEN'S WRESTLING (Emerging Sport – Year 5 of 5-year window for emerging sports)

Section 1. Tournament Dates

National Invitational dates shall be determined jointly by the host and the NJCAA.
March 5-6, 2027 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA
March 3-4, 2028 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA
March 2-3, 2029 at Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA

Section 2. Host Pre-Tournament Responsibilities

A. The host will send official Women's Wrestling participant information to each school that has certified at least one participant for women's wrestling.
B. The host will send pre-tournament information to all wrestling colleges by January 31, 2027

Section 3. Competition in Open Meets

A. Any open competition in which students enter as representatives of a member college shall be listed on the published schedule of the college and the students must satisfy the NJCAA Rules of Eligibility. These students must have a Weight Certification form on file with the NJCAA National Office.
B. Students not representing an NJCAA member college may participate unattached in "open" or "exhibition" competition without NJCAA approval. A college shall not furnish any assistance (equipment, transportation, lodging or meals) for athletes to participate in such events. A coach may not be in the mat area during a match to provide any coaching, advice or assistance.
C. Violation of this section shall result in the offending college being placed on probation for a period of one year. The member college may not participate in any competition sponsored by the NJCAA during the probationary period.

Section 4. Participation Requirements

A. No contestant shall be permitted to enter the NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational Tournament unless accompanied by (1) a coach or faculty member of the sending institution or (2) a designated supervisory coach or faculty member from an NJCAA member college. Designation of a supervisory person in (2) above must be in writing. It shall bear the seal of the college and signatures of
the Athletic Director and President or Dean of the sending institution. It shall be sent by certified mail to the Tournament Director. All contestants must remain under the supervision of their coach or the designated supervisory person throughout the tournament and until departure from the site.
B. Ineligible wrestlers or recruits may not attend the NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational at the expense of the college, tournament hosts, president of the college or athletic director.
C. Free passes will be made available for the president of the college, athletic director, three coaches, one trainer and qualifying wrestlers. All individuals representing each college must be identified to the Tournament Host 72 hours prior to the check-in deadline. All others must pay tournament fees.

Section 5. Qualification of Teams for Competition

A. The NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational will be an open format.
B. Teams may enter up to 15 athletes to the qualifying tournament with a maximum of two per weight. For example, no team may enter three athletes into the same weight class. This allows each team a maximum of 15 athletes at the National Tournament, which will help us to determine the total number of participants. This will also increase the awards from 6 to 8.
C. Advance point scoring, as opposed to match point scoring, will be used when teammates wrestle one another.
D. A Zoom call between all schools who are entering the NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational, the women's wrestling chair, and the NJCAA Office will take place no less than 10 days prior to the national tournament to seed the wrestlers in each weight class in order to provide ample time to build out and release the brackets prior to competition beginning.
E. An individual or group of individuals that is submitted via the Participant Information form supplied by the NJCAA. The form must be submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the seeding call. No additions or changes will be accepted following the 48 hour deadline.
F. NJCAA Women's Wrestling Invitational participants are defined as follows:
    i. Must be on Certified Academic Eligibility Roster
    ii. Must be on Certified NWCA/OPC Weigh-In Roster
    iii. Must be certified and eligible for specific weight class entered that weekend
    iv. Individuals failing medical examinations/skin checks may be allowed to weigh in and then be listed on the bracket as a medical forfeit
    v. Must make weight

Section 6. Rules and Procedures

A. The NJCAA mandates that all participating colleges adhere to and follow the NCAA Wrestling Rulebook and follow the NCAA Weight Management regulations (NCAA Guidelines – Rule 8) unless stated otherwise in the NJCAA Wrestling bylaws. The NJCAA will follow the newly formed NCAA weight classes (103, 110, 117, 124, 131, 138, 145, 160, 180, 207) along with the additional 235-pound weight class.
B. Conduct all matches according to the rules in the NCAA Wrestling Rulebook. The consolation bracket will determine a third-place finisher and shall include all wrestlers defeated in the first and second rounds, as well as defeated wrestlers from the tournament quarter and semifinals.
C. Official scales shall be available for at least one hour prior to each official weigh-in. Photo I.D.'s are required for weigh-ins, Tournament Host will be responsible for providing a photo I.D.
D. Official clock, scoreboard and collegiate mats are to be provided by the Tournament Host.. In accordance with NCAA guidelines, mats shall have a wrestling area between 32 and 42 feet in diameter.
E. The tournament schedule will be developed by the host and approved by the NJCAA Women's Wrestling Committee. The approved schedule is shown below:

Wednesday
Scales and workout site available as determined by the Tournament Director.
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. 1.5 mats will be available
6 p.m. – 10 p.m. 5 mats will be available

Thursday
6 a.m. – 10 p.m. 5 mats will be available
10:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Official scale & workout site available
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Team check-in and entry verification. Failure to appear by the deadline may result in disqualification for the championship (Phone call prior to 3 p.m. if on late flight/transportation)

Noon - 10 p.m.	Official scale open and workout site available
5 p.m.	Tournament procedures meeting to be followed by NJCAA Coaches Meeting

Friday

5:30 a.m. - 6:45 a.m.	Official scale and workout site available
6:45 a.m.	Skin checks
7:00 a.m.	Official weigh-in
9:00 a.m.	Preliminaries first round
	Consolation first round
6:00 p.m.	NJCAA Wrestling Coaches Association presentations
11 p.m.	Workout facilities will close

Saturday

6 a.m. - 7:25 a.m.	Scales and workout site available
8:15 a.m.	Skin Checks
8:30 a.m.	Official weigh-in
9:30 a.m.	Championship Semifinals
11:00 a.m.*	Consolation Semifinals
12:15 p.m.	Consolation Finals
5:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies
5:50 p.m.	Parade of All-Americans
6:00 p.m.	Championship Finals
	NJCAA Award presentations

**These times are approximate*

NOTE: The Tournament Director shall have the authority to close or open mats to allow for the 45-minute rest rule.

F. Opening ceremonies for the tournament shall be at 5:30 p.m. on the second day.

G. The championship round shall be held on a single mat. This round will begin no later than 6:00 p.m. and will begin with the Women's 101-pound match, followed by the Men's 125-pound match, rotating between men's and women's bouts until all championship matches are completed for both genders. An appropriate award ceremony will occur during the championship round.

H. Each coach shall be responsible for his team's total points and shall certify this by signing a scorecard for his team at the conclusion of the tournament. If he fails to sign the scorecard, the score stands as recorded by the official scorer.

I. Protest Procedures
   1. Coach should notify the head mat official of his protest immediately:
      i. Wrestlers and coaches should remain in the mat area. The mat must be closed until the protest is resolved.
      ii. A protest must be submitted within ten minutes of the conclusion of the match.
      iii. Notify head scorer. No match that may be affected by the results of the protest should be wrestled.
      iv. Notify Tournament Protest Committee.
      v. Notify coaches and contestants that the bout has not been concluded.
   2. Each team will be allowed one video challenge per three qualifiers on day one and one video challenge per remaining three qualifiers on day two.
   3. If video challenge is unavailable, the coach should notify the head official.

J. A games committee to handle protests and violations of the NJCAA Code of Conduct and Misconduct Policy (competition rules) shall be composed of a minimum of three of the following, as selected by the official NJCAA Representatives. Any individual participant or coach requesting a protest must pay $100 in advance. The $100 is nonrefundable.
   1. Head mat official or his alternate.
   2. An officer of the Wrestling Coaches Association not involved in the protest.
   3. NJCAA Representative.

K. The NJCAA will provide All-American awards for 1st through 3rd place with the Women's Wrestling Coaches Association providing and purchasing awards for 4th thru 6th place.

L. In the event that any athlete reaches their daily match limit prior to the completion of scheduled rounds on Day 1, those individual bouts will be held until Day 2, and will be wrestled prior to the first scheduled rounds of Day 2.

M. If a wrestler does not make weight on Day 2, but is an All American, the team points remain and the wrestler maintains their All American status.

Section 7. Officials

A. Host is responsible for the contracting and assigning of game officials for the championship with all approvals to be finalized by the NJCAA Coordinator of Officials. All officials must be NCAA certified and be registered in RefQuest. In addition, the NJCAA requires the host to contract officials who have experience officiating NJCAA events.

B. The National Office shall provide material to allow all tournament coaches an opportunity to rate all mat officials for the tournament. The lowest rated official(s) shall not be eligible to return for two years.

C. The head official shall not participate in officiating any match during the duration of the National Tournament. The assistant head official may officiate during the duration of the tournament, with an assigned designee in case of a video challenge.

D. No official officiating a match will be involved in the video review. There will be an independent party to conduct the review, not involved in the match.

Section 8. Finances

A. Each college shall pay its own team expenses.

B. Each participating college will be assessed a $35 entry fee per qualifying wrestler.

Section 9. Open Wound Policy

Under circumstances when constant or profuse bleeding has occurred, the participant shall be immediately removed from that contest by the official and cannot return until the bleeding has been stopped.

A. Health care attendants, known to be infected with the HIV virus, cannot administer to bleeding athletes.

B. Anytime an athlete bleeds during a bout, the official shall stop the action and the bleeding shall be stopped.

C. If the bleeding cannot be stopped to the satisfaction of the mat official, the athlete cannot continue to compete.

D. Timeouts for bleeding shall not be included in injury time.

E. Home match administration shall be responsible to notify all officials of his responsibilities in enforcing the policy.

F. Home match administration is responsible for clean-up of mats and proper disposal of contaminated mats.