

CHAMPIONSHIPS & SPORT SPONSORSHIP

17% of NAIA student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in postseason.

CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS

The NAIA sponsors 25 national championship sports for men and women. Championship sports require 40 sponsoring institutions. National Championships are administered by the NAIA National Office.

FALL

Men's Cross Country
Women's Cross Country
Football
Men's Soccer
Women's Soccer
Women's Volleyball

WINTER

Men's Basketball
Women's Basketball
Competitive Cheer & Dance
Men's Swimming & Diving
Women's Swimming & Diving
Men's Indoor Track & Field
Women's Indoor Track & Field
Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball
Men's Golf
Women's Golf
Softball
Men's Tennis
Women's Tennis
Men's Outdoor Track & Field
Women's Outdoor Track & Field

INVITATIONAL

Men's Lacrosse
Women's Lacrosse
Men's Volleyball

EMERGING

Men's Bowling
Women's Bowling

Teams directly qualify for the national championship through their conference. The number of automatic berths from a specific conference is determined by the total number of conference schools participating in the sport. Direct qualification gives every conference an opportunity to have representation at the national championship. The remainder of the championship field is made up of at-large selections, typically the top-ranked teams that did not qualify through automatic qualification.

Soccer, Volleyball, Baseball and Softball all have "opening rounds" as part of the national championship. These events are usually held at campus sites. Any NAIA institution can bid to host an opening round, with preference given to the top-ranked teams.

SPORTS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

For NAIA member schools, adding new varsity and junior varsity sports means opportunities to attract more students to campus. In addition to offering 25 national championship sports, the NAIA works to identify new sports for their potential to become widely adopted by membership and to establish a national championship in that sport.

Men's and women's lacrosse, and men's volleyball are invitational sports in preparation for becoming championship sports. Men's and women's bowling has emerging sport status.

At the campus level, the NAIA National Office provides customized resources for members to investigate the potential for adding sports not currently sponsored by the institution. The program includes support from a network of peer experts within membership.

Students have the opportunity to play, learn and lead.

Coaches value a culture that allows mentoring relationships.

Leaders see the benefits of athletics at a reasonable cost.

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