



2025-2026 **Administrator Manual**





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The Administrator Manual is formatted as a coaches' manual and has been constructed to serve as a guide for administrators. Specific and further details are outlined in each respective coach's handbook and the NAIA Official Handbook and Policy Handbook. The Administrator Manual is not meant to be all-inclusive, but is formulated to assist athletics departments in providing the most positive experience for its student-athletes.

The NAIA Administrator & Commissioner Manual published annually by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

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Conference Commissioners

NAIA CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION (CCA)

All commissioners of NAIA affiliated conferences and the commissioner of the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independents) are members of the CCA.

This association recommends policies for the continued operation of the national conference affiliation program for men's and women's programs. The association works to strengthen inter-conference and conference-association relationships. It isolates problems common to NAIA conferences and organizes to study and achieve solutions to these problems. This association shall meet twice annually, once in conjunction with the National Convention and one other time each year. Each affiliated conference shall have its Commissioner or President eligible to vote on association business. The association shall elect its own Executive Committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair and one other member.

The CCA has the following standing committees:

- Sponsorships Committee – Works with the National Office sponsorships staff to identify prospective national sponsors, promote current sponsors to the membership, and assist in the implementation of sponsorship agreements.
- New Commissioner Orientation Group – Coordinates the orientation process for new NAIA commissioners.
- CCA RISE – Provides an avenue for NAIA membership to participate in training and programming aimed at influencing positive change in the association.

The full list of commissioners and each conference's contact information is on page 6.

CONFERENCE LIAISONS

Each NAIA conference is assigned a staff member from the NAIA National Office to serve as its membership liaison. Conference liaison duties include:

- Provide service and guidance to conference leaders and member institution administrators related to the implementation of the NAIA strategic plan.
- Attend conference meetings regularly (usually one meeting annually per conference).
- Communicate consistently with conference leaders regarding the planning and implementation of NAIA programs and initiatives, including but not limited to membership standards and accountability, *Champions of Character*, presidential involvement, conference governance and administration and NAIA advocacy.
- Provide support to conference and member institution administrators related to membership recruitment and retention.

The full list of conference liaisons is on page 7.

IMPORTANT DATES

The NAIA calendar (Page 23) includes important dates and deadlines for all athletics administrators and items specific to conference commissioners are shaded. Nomination deadlines and forms for All-American awards, Scholar Athlete awards, Scholar Team awards and other specialty awards is included in the Awards section.

ONLINE RESOURCES

A resource bank for commissioners is available on the NAIA website at [For Members // Commissioners \(CCA\)](#)

NAIA CONNECT

Conference commissioners are responsible for submitting conference information online through [NAIA Connect](#). Required information includes conference personnel, conference certification forms and other pertinent information. Commissioners also have access to information submitted through NAIA Connect by conference members. NAIA Connect questions should be directed to naiaconnectsupport@naia.org.

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION

The annual deadline for Affiliated Conference Certification forms is April 1st. Conference commissioners are required to submit to the NAIA National Office the list of schools that are conference members. Sport qualification plans are created based on this information as well as the information from each institution's Declaration of Intent to Participate. The conference members listed on the certification forms as of the April 1st deadline each year will be included in the

qualification plans as a conference member. All schools which are accepted into a conference following the April 1st deadline will not be included as a conference member until the following academic year.

An Affiliated Conference must meet the following requirements:

1. An affiliated conference shall be organized under governing documents that include formal recognition of the responsibility to operate in a manner consistent with minimum standards established by the NAIA.
2. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall require that final authority for the operations of the conference reside with a formal body (e.g., Conference Council of Presidents) composed of institutional chief executive officers within the conference.
3. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall establish those matters fully within the direct control of chief executive officers, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Amendments to the constitution, bylaws and other governing documents;
 - b. Budget approval and financial oversight;
 - c. Employment and supervision of the conference commissioner;
 - d. Conference membership; and
 - e. Approval of the conference strategic plan.
4. Enumeration of the above responsibilities shall not be construed to deny the right of the Conference Council of Presidents to exercise any other power or perform other duties within the field of governance of the affairs of the conference.
5. Presidents shall exercise authority in matters under their direct control by convening at least one meeting annually, in which votes may be exercised only by presidents in attendance.
6. An affiliated conference shall employ a commissioner to provide effective leadership and administrative support to the conference, and may employ other professional staff determined by the conference necessary to ensure adherence to NAIA standards. The commissioner shall not be concurrently employed by any conference member institution.

NOTE: Affiliated conferences not fully in compliance with this criterion when it takes effect will be required to submit a specific plan and timetable by which the conference will fulfill the provisions.

7. Authorize the Council of Presidents to conduct periodic reviews of affiliated conference operations and determine sanctions related to violations of conference requirements. Conference sanctions would be consistent with those currently in place for institutional violations of NAIA rules.
8. Establish a Champions of Character Conference Committee, composed primarily of Champions of Character campus liaisons. The committee shall be charged with development and oversight of conference character education and activities.
9. An affiliated conference must have a minimum of six (6) institutions with NAIA membership;
 - a. Should an affiliated conference lose a member institution(s) and drop to five full member institutions, a grace period shall be extended to the conference for two years following the date the conference officially drops to five full members, provided the conference maintains a minimum of five full member institutions at all times.
 - b. During this grace period, the conference shall remain eligible for automatic qualification in any sport in which the conference had been qualified for an automatic qualification berth immediately prior to dropping to five full member institutions, and provided five teams are declared in the sport. If the conference continues to sponsor the sport and retain its automatic qualification berth, a conference institution is not permitted to join another conference as a per-sport member. A conference that fails to regain six full member institutions by the expiration of the grace period shall no longer be eligible for automatic qualification until it again satisfies all standard requirements for automatic qualification as determined by the National Administrative Council.
10. The constitution or charter of an affiliated conference shall provide for a commissioner, eligibility chair, faculty athletics representative, registrar, information director, and designate(s) for supervisor of officials;
11. The eligibility rules and standards of an affiliated conference shall be as strict as the NAIA;
12. An affiliated conference shall sponsor a minimum of three (3) championships in NAIA-recognized sports, of which at least one (1) must be conducted each season (fall-winter-spring) for men and women (co-ed conferences). Single-gender conferences must sponsor a minimum of three (3) championships in NAIA-recognized sports, of which at least one (1) must be conducted each season (fall-winter-spring). Affiliated conferences must have at least four (4) institutional teams participating in each of the championship events;

13. An affiliated conference shall pay national dues to be established by the Council of Presidents and/or abide by revenue sharing policies with the NAIA for postseason events to be established by the appropriate council;
14. An affiliated conference must have a conduct in competition oversight committee composed of a minimum of three members. The committee's responsibilities include recommending the scope of the conference's activities related to event management, hospitality, conduct in competition, and sanctions related to conduct in competition within the conference; and
15. Governing documents of an affiliated conference shall include a clearly defined application and approval process for conference membership. (Effective May 2010)
16. An affiliated conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) shall include in its governing documents if it allows for multiple tiers of membership. When multiple tiers of membership are allowed, an affiliated conference/CAC may permit an NAIA active member to join the conference/CAC on a per-sport(s) basis if the institution otherwise holds membership in an affiliated conference/CAC which has fewer than six institutions declaring intent to participate in NAIA postseason in the given sport(s). Institutions shall submit eligibility certification, request exceptional rulings, submit self-reported violations and report statistics through the affiliated conference/CAC in which the institution competes in a given sport. An institution eligible for NAIA postseason and holding per-sport(s) membership in an affiliated conference/CAC shall:
 - a. Count toward the automatic qualification calculations for the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership;
 - b. Be eligible for automatic qualification to the national competition through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership; and
 - c. Be eligible for awards programs, conference/CAC ratings, national ratings, national statistical rankings and publications contests through the affiliated conference/CAC in the given sport for which the institution holds per-sport membership.

Should an affiliated conference receive an automatic qualification berth in a given sport and the following year lose a full or per-sport member institution(s) thereby falling to five member institutions with a declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason in the given sport, a grace period shall be extended and the conference shall remain eligible for one automatic qualification berth in that sport. The grace period will last for two years following the date the conference officially drops to five members sponsoring the given sport, provided the conference maintains a minimum of five member institutions sponsoring that sport with a declared intent to participate in NAIA postseason at all times.

If the affiliated conference invokes the grace period to continue to sponsor the sport and retain its automatic qualification berth, a full member institution is not permitted to join another conference as a per-sport member in that sport. An affiliated conference that fails to regain six full or per-sport member institutions by the expiration of the grace period shall no longer be eligible for automatic qualification until it again satisfies all standard requirements for automatic qualification as determined by the National Administrative Council.

CCA POLICIES

The following policies have been adopted by the Conference Commissioners Association (CCA):

1. Must conduct at least two in-person meetings of conference athletics administrators annually.
2. The conference commissioner (or designate) must attend all official meetings of the Conference Commissioners Association.
3. The conference representative on the National Administrative Council must attend all official meetings of the Council.
4. Conference representatives must meet all deadlines for requested information, including but not limited to:
 - a. Nominations for national awards
 - b. Conference tournament plans
 - c. Conference tournament results
 - d. Annual conference certification forms
 - e. Annual conference organization report forms
 - f. Officials' rating forms
 - g. Ratings/Polls information
 - h. Statistical information

REVIEW OF AFFILIATED CONFERENCE OPERATIONS

The Council of Presidents (COP) is responsible for conducting periodic reviews of affiliated conference operations and determining sanctions related to violations of conference requirements. The annual Conference Evaluation, which was developed out of the 2012 White Paper on NAIA Conferences, tracks progress and provides accountability for NAIA affiliated conference requirements. A Conference Review Committee has been appointed by the COP to review the evaluation, report to the COP and deliver recommendations to the COP and individual conferences.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Legislative amendments to the NAIA constitution and bylaws sponsored by an NAIA affiliated conference/CAC or NAIA coaches association must have a minimum of one additional NAIA affiliated conference/CAC, NAIA council or NAIA standing committee co-sponsor the proposed amendment. Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the NAIA Chief Executive Officer/President no later than 90 days prior to the annual meeting of the Association.

During the annual meeting, each NAIA Affiliated Conference and the Continental Athletic Conference shall be granted one vote as designated by the commissioner, or, if the conference/association has no commissioner, the president/chair of the conference/association.

NAIA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

NAIA membership applications are accepted prior to July and October 1 of each year. Applications are reviewed by the Membership Committee. If the Membership Committee approves a campus visit, a Membership Evaluation Team (MET), consisting of a president, an athletics director, a faculty athletics representative, and a National Office staff member, will conduct the one-day evaluation visit. The visit includes an evaluation of the institution's readiness for NAIA membership and an education of NAIA history, operations, rules, and regulations. The MET recommendation is submitted to the Membership Committee and the Council of Presidents, with a final decision during the COP's April meeting. If approved, the membership is effective with the following academic year.

Additional information on the NAIA application process can be found [WHY NAIA](#) on NAIA.org.

RATINGS

The NAIA Athletics Communication department conducts national ratings of the top teams throughout the course of the academic year for various sports. National ratings are compiled from the balloting of the respective sports' rating committee. Raters for conference/CAC/unaffiliated groupings are appointed by the conference/CAC commissioner.

Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping must designate a three-person oversight committee to monitor its weekly ratings.

More details on ratings starting on page 10.

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

Factsheets, page 28. Qualification Plans are available via [NAIA Connect](#).

Postseason qualifying tournaments are planned and administered by the conference/CAC and subject to approval by the department of championships based on National Administrative Council policies.

Qualifying tournament plans must be submitted to the NAIA National Office no later than:

September 1 – Volleyball, Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Cross Country

November 3 – Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's & Women's Wrestling, Competitive Cheer and Men's and Women's Bowling

February 2 – Softball, Baseball, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's Volleyball, Men's & Women's Lacrosse and Beach Volleyball

For more detailed information on postseason competition, please see page 13.

SELECTION OF OFFICIALS

SEE OFFICIALS FORMS SECTION, PAGE 27

Selection of officials varies from sport to sport. All NAIA National Championships have a supervisor of officials who is responsible for the acquisition and assignment of game officials in cooperation with the NAIA Sports Manager and the Director of Officiating Initiatives. For national championship opening rounds, conference commissioners may be asked in conjunction with conference assignors to work with the NAIA National Office for the selection of officials. Some sports



have a national supervisor of officials who is responsible for the acquisition of officials, while the on-site supervisor of officials is responsible for the organization and assignment of selected officials. The national supervisor utilizes the nominating information to select and obtain officials for the national championships.

Information on officials forms, please go to page 26.

NAIA ELIGIBILITY CENTER PLAYNAIA.ORG RESOURCES

Please see page 52.

NAIA LOGOS AND MARKS

The name National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, initials NAIA, logo, and other NAIA symbols and insignia are registered in the United States Patent and Trademarks Office. The name, initials, and marks are fully protected and are the exclusive property of the Association. Expressed, written approval by the NAIA President/CEO is required for the use of the NAIA initials, name or marks in connection with any items offered for commercial sale, awards, or promotion, including such use at NAIA events.

Conferences and member institutions are strongly encouraged to use the NAIA logos and marks in print materials, web products, media opportunities, regular season and postseason events, and licensed products.

The NAIA logo style guide is located on page 53.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

The NAIA National Office is responsible for obtaining corporate partnerships on behalf of its members. The CCA works with the National Office staff to provide input on potential opportunities, promote current sponsors to the membership, and assist in the implementation of sponsorship agreements.

The list of NAIA Official Partners can be located on the NAIA website under [Partner with the NAIA](#).



Conference Commissioners

September 2025

COMMISSIONERS

AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE	Will Wolper	wwolper@amcsportsonline.com
APPALACHIAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Bill Popp	commissioner@aacsports.com
CALIFORNIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE	Dr. Don Ott	dott@calpacathletics.com
CASCADE COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Robert Cashell	cccommish@gmail.com
CHICAGOLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC	Jeff Schimmelpfennig	ccacjef@gmail.com
CONTINENTAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Meg Schebler	continentalathletics@gmail.com
CROSSROADS LEAGUE	Larry DeSimpelare	commish@crossroadsleague.com
FRONTIER CONFERENCE	Dr. Scott Crawford	crawford@fcsports.org
GREAT SOUTHWEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Mike Daniels	mdaniels@qsacsports.org
GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Corey Westra	corey.westra@gpacsports.com
HBCU ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Kiki Baker Barnes	commissioner@hbcuac.org
HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Nik Rule	nik.rule@heartofamericaconference.com
KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Brandon Buchanan	brandon@kcacsports.com
MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE	Chris Wells (Interim)	chris.wells@mid-southconference.org
RED RIVER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Tony Stigliano	tonystig@aol.com
RIVER STATES CONFERENCE	Ron Prettyman (Interim)	Ron.Prettyman@smwc.edu
SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	John Martin	sac.commissioner@gmail.com
SOUTHERN STATES ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Mike Hall	mhall.ssac@gmail.com
THE SUN CONFERENCE	Dustin Wilke	dwilke@thesunconference.com
WOLVERINE-HOOSIER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	Eric Ward	eward@whac.net



NAIA National Office Conference Liaisons

September 2025

COMMISSIONERS

Staff Liaisons by Conference		
American Midwest Conference	Will Wolper	Alan Grosbach
Appalachian Athletic Conference	Bill Popp	Chesney Sallee
California Pacific Conference	Dr. Don Ott	Nick Davidson
Cascade Collegiate Conference	Rob Cashell	Chesney Sallee
Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference	Jeff Schimmelpfennig	Kevin Dee
Continental Athletic Conference	Meg Schebler	Nick Davidson
Crossroads League	Larry DeSimpelare	Alan Grosbach
Frontier Conference	Dr. Scott Crawford	Nick Davidson
Great Plains Athletic Conference	Corey Westra	Ellen Ramsey
Great Southwest Athletic Conference	Mike Daniels	Nick Davidson
HBCU Athletic Conference	Dr. Kiki Barnes	Kevin Dee
Heart of America Athletic Conference	Nik Rule	Chesney Sallee
Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference	Brandon Buchanan	Ellen Ramsey
Mid-South Conference	Chris Wells	Kevin Dee
Red River Athletic Conference	Tony Stigliano	Ellen Ramsey
River States Conference	Ron Prettyman	Alan Grosbach
Sooner Athletic Conference	John Martin	Kevin Dee
Southern States Athletic Conference	Mike Hall	Alan Grosbach
The Sun Conference	Dustin Wilke	Chesney Sallee
Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference	Eric Ward	Ellen Ramsey

I. NAIA

HISTORY

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is a completely autonomous association currently administering programs of intercollegiate athletics for approximately 250 fully accredited colleges and universities of moderate enrollment. The fundamental tenet of the NAIA is that intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the total educational program of the institution. This belief is strongly reflected in the governing documents, activities and organizational structure of the Association.

Established in 1940 as the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB), the Association expanded to include other programs in 1952. The NAIA became the first intercollegiate sports governing body to provide championship opportunities for both men and women when the women's program was established on August 1, 1980. (Additional information relative to the history of the NAIA can be found in the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook.)

PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the NAIA is to promote education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and the principle that athletics serve as an integral part of education.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institution, the value of the conference and independent structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association. (Additional information relative to the philosophy of the NAIA can be found in the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook.)

PAST CHAMPIONS

A complete listing of past NAIA champions and championships can be found on the NAIA website, www.NAIA.org.

NAIA CONNECT

Athletic administrators are responsible for submitting Declaration of Intent information, school and staff information, and end of year reports online through [NAIA Connect](http://NAIA.Connect).

II. NAIA Official and Policy Handbook

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at www.NAIA.org. Please refer directly to the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook for the following:

- Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII
- Institutional Financial Aid Policy – Council of Presidents, Article IX
- Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXIV, Section A
- Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section 7
- Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – **Bylaws**, Article II, Section C
- Recruitment – **Bylaws**, Article II, Section D
- Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12

Declaration of Intent - NOTE: The deadline to un-declare is four weeks prior to the start of postseason.

III. Game Management

It is a policy of the NAIA that every institution demonstrates a commitment to conduct in competition consistent with the core values.

The following standards shall be enforced:

1. After every contest, teams and coaches will stay on the playing surface and shake hands with opponents.
2. Profanity is unacceptable in NAIA competition.
 - a. PA announcement must be made before the invocation/national anthem or player introductions.
 - b. PA announcement must be made to give a warning for profanity/vulgarity when deemed appropriate by the event manager.
3. Support groups (bands, cheerleaders, etc.) must be placed as far away from the opponent's bench as possible.
4. Making personal attacks regarding physical characteristics of a player, coach or official is unacceptable and must be addressed by the crowd control manager.
5. Every institution must assign a person who is solely responsible for crowd control at contests in basketball, football, soccer and other sports as deemed necessary.

IV. Ejections and Suspensions

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport and may not be appealed. A suspension that is required by sports rule may only be appealed if the sport rule allows for it and the proper procedure is followed.

Suspensions required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) may be appealed starting with the Conference/Association of Independent Institutions. An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the National Office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete. Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

Any coach or student-athlete ejected on one or more occasions while representing an NAIA member institution in competition shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

- a. Suspension for the next contest after the coach or student-athlete is ejected for the first time (in one sport) in a single season.

A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.

- b. Suspension for the next two contests if a coach or student-athlete accumulates two ejections (in one sport) in a single season. This includes post-season play and may carry over to the following year depending on when the ejection occurs.

A coach or student-athlete ejected for fighting, as reported by the game official, shall be automatically suspended for one additional contest.

- c. Ineligibility for the remainder of all regular-season and post-season participation if a coach or student-athlete accumulates three ejections (in one sport) in a single season. Should the third ejection occur in either of the last two contests of the year, the coach or returning student-athlete will be suspended for the first two contests of the following year.

NOTE: Any coach or student-athlete ejected from a junior varsity or varsity contest shall be suspended for the next contest at the same level or higher as the contest from which the student or coach was ejected. Contests that are defined as scrimmages and exhibitions shall not satisfy the suspension penalty.

Any coach who changes employment from one NAIA institution to another NAIA institution while subject to a pending suspension due to misconduct during a contest must serve the term of the suspension at the new institution. Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

A transfer student who was suspended or declared otherwise ineligible due to misconduct while representing an institution in competition, must serve the period of suspension at the institution to which the student transfers before intercollegiate participation shall be permitted.

NOTE: If sport specific rules are more stringent than NAIA rules, the institution must also conform to the sport specific rules.

NOTE 2: An institution or affiliated conference shall retain the right to apply more stringent penalties than the NAIA rules and standards.

A player or coach serving a game suspension shall follow the sports rule guidelines for suspensions. Please check restrictions for each sport. If no such guidelines are stated then the player or coach shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches, bench personnel and/or game officials from the start of the game to its completion, including any overtime periods. While the suspended coach or player is allowed on the field and in the bench area during pregame activities, the suspended player may not be dressed in her game uniform, and she may not take part in any warm-up activities. NAIA NAC Policy Article IV – Conduct in Competition.

EJECTION FORM

V. Ratings, Oversight and Timeline

The NAIA Department of Athletics Communications & Media conducts national ratings of the top teams throughout the course of the academic year for various sports. National ratings are compiled from the balloting of the respective sports' rating committee. Rating committee membership is outlined in each respective sports' ratings manual. National ratings are conducted to serve the needs of such things as publicity, selection and seeding for select national championship events. The final rating will take place **AFTER** the deadline for postseason qualifying tournaments.

Sport ratings are the cornerstone for championship selection in the sports of cross country, golf and beach volleyball and overall NAIA publicity of their sports programs. The ratings process is a complex one and every step of the process is vital to the integrity and accuracy of all ratings. The NAIA National Office appreciates the knowledge and time commitment put forth by all members of the ratings committee, conference oversight committee, national oversight committee and conference commissioners. The entire ratings process is constructed by membership, specifically the National Administrative Council (NAC). If a rater is interested in the process and wishes to make changes, each sport Coaches' Association has the authority to propose changes at their annual sport coaches' business meeting.

A. SELECTION OF RATERS

Raters are responsible for voting the best teams in the NAIA for the national rating. Raters for conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions/unaffiliated groupings are appointed by the conference/CAC commissioner. Ratings are not conducted in the sports of Track and Field, Bowling, Swimming and Diving, and Competitive Cheer and Competitive Dance.

B. REPORTING RESULTS

All results must be reported online to the NAIA Stats site (via Presto Stats) within 24 hours of completion of competition to be eligible for the subsequent ratings period. Please coordinate with your sports information personnel to report using only one of the following methods. Reporting at more than one level will cause previously submitted results to be overwritten. For the sports of cross country, track & field, competitive cheer, competitive dance, and wrestling please refer to the coaches' manual for those sport specific results reporting instructions.

Institutions failing to report results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will be a warning. The second violation will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards for that sport. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and such further penalties at the discretion of the council. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

C. NATIONAL RATER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- A. The NAIA National office will work with sport coaching officers to recruit and appoint National Oversight Committee members. The National Oversight Committee will consist of three (3) members:
 - a. NAC Sport Liaison
 - b. Two coaches from appropriate sport with the following criteria:
 - i. One coach must have prior rating experience and can be an active or former coach still involved in the NAIA.
 - ii. One coach must be a current officer in coaches' association or be a current coach in the coaches' association.
- B. The NAC liaison is an active member of each National Oversight Committee.
- C. Here is recommended criteria for the National Oversight Committee to consider when reviewing rationale:
 - a. Look for inconsistencies on an on-going weekly basis from a specific rater
 - b. Is there a concern about a rater(s) consistently ranking their conference/group higher/lower than the average?
 - c. Does the rater consistently consider the ranking criteria recommended by the NAC and apply that philosophy to their rating?
 - d. Is there a clerical error by the rater where he/she unintentionally placed that team, or didn't rate that team, in error?
 - e. Is there value to request rationale, even when it is considered that the grid throws out the highest and lowest (non-ranking) ballot? It's important to make this differentiation and not get "nit-picky" about an outlier team because that vote is already thrown out in the tabulation of the grid.
- D. National Oversight Committee will review each rating grid prior to releasing the national rating. National Oversight will potentially receive questions from raters, conference oversight and/or National Office in regards to the conference rating.
- E. Here is the process the National Oversight Committee takes when a request for rationale occurs on a national rating:
 - a. Upon completion of national ballot submission by all raters, the NAIA National Office will begin the process by alerting National Oversight Committee the grid is ready to be viewed within the PrestoSports system.
 - b. At this point, there are two processes, dependent upon the sport. The process will be determined during the preseason webinar. For those sports where we use the traditional email method, use the following steps. If you don't use the "email" method, but instead the automated PrestoSports process, move to section (c).
 - i. Each member of the National Oversight Committee e-mails their vote of approval of the grid or votes not to approve. If they do not approve, an email is sent to NAIA National Office listing rater, conference, teams and reasons for needing rationale.
 - ii. If written rationale is requested for the rater, then the rater(s) in question is required to email the entire Oversight Committee, and copy NAIA National Office, with their rationale in explicit detail.
 - iii. The Oversight Committee will then either accept that rationale by majority decision (2-of-3 members need to accept), and if that occurs, the process is complete. If 2-of-3 members reject that rationale, then the rater is asked to provide further clarification.
 - iv. The process continues until either the Committee is satisfied with the rationale, or the ballot is removed (only after 2nd occurrence of rejected rationale).
- F. If a rater does not provide written rationale prior to the deadline, the penalty system is as follows:
 - a. 1st instance – written warning (ballot is still included in that week's rating)
 - b. 2nd instance – rater(s) ballot is removed for that week
 - c. In each of the two instances, the NAIA National Office copies all parties (rater, national oversight, conference/group Commissioners).
 - i. NOTE: National Oversight Committee members have the ability to remove the national ballot in ONLY the final regular-season rating, if rationale is not provided by rater or rationale is not accepted by majority of national oversight. This ballot removal may occur during the first instance of the penalty system (ie, ballot removal doesn't have to wait until the second instance during final regular-season rating).
- G. No email vote or email communication from a National Oversight Committee member for a two-week period constitutes NAIA National Office contact. National Oversight Committee members are held to the same guidelines as conference/group/national raters in terms of completing their weekly responsibilities.

- H. National Oversight Committee has the authority to remove a rater's ballot if the ballot is deemed to jeopardize the integrity of the rating. Removal of ballot must be approved by at least two National Oversight Committee members. In the event of the removal of a ballot, the rater, Conference/Group Commissioner(s), NAIA National Office and all Oversight Committee members will be notified.

D. CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER EXPECTATIONS

- A. Designate a three-person conference/group oversight committee to monitor their weekly ratings. The commissioners must provide names and contact information for their respective conference/group oversight committee members to the national office prior to Aug. 1 each year. If a conference/group does not have a designated oversight committee in place, they will not be able to submit conference/group and national top-30 ratings.
- B. Submit your sport rater representative (current head coach) for all sports your conference sponsors. This assignment is done by you in prior to Aug. 1 each year.
- C. For the selection of a rater from an Unaffiliated Group, it is the responsibility of all Commissioners within that Group to agree on one rater representing that Group.
- D. Remind all of your sport raters about their mandatory attendance at the preseason instructional webinar and the in-season conference calls. Failure to attend these by your rater (or assign a fill-in for that webinar) will result in a strike.
- E. Each Commissioner will get an email that is sent two-hours PRIOR to any sport conference/group rating deadline. This action is a friendly reminder to the Commissioner that your conference/group rating has not been submitted and there is two hours remaining to submit.
- F. Each Commissioner has the opportunity to submit your conference/group rating on behalf of your rater. This submission must be done in Presto Sports and prior to the scheduled deadlines.
- G. It is your choice to access and view any conference/group ratings. Here are instructions on how to access all conference/group ratings:
 - a. Between 12:01 p.m. CST and 2 p.m. CST every Monday that a rating is conducted – Log in to Presto Sports—many of you need to click there and create a username and password to get started. Once you sign-up, give me 24 hours to provide appropriate access.
 - b. Click on "View conference ratings" under "Conference ratings" headline
 - c. Keep "all conferences" on your first dropdown menu.
 - d. On dropdown menus, choose your sport, date (should default to current week)
 - e. Suggestion is to NOT check the boxes on right side so that you can view all comments from raters and the results

VI. Playing Rules and Regulations

A. PLAYING RULES

Official rules governing NAIA regular season and postseason play are listed in the NAC section of the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook. Details on ordering and purchasing rulebooks are outlined there, as well. Coaches' association modifications to the official rules, where applicable, are outlined in the respective coach's manual.

B. JURISDICTION OF GAME OFFICIALS

The outcome of all games is under the jurisdiction of game officials. All disputes, protests, etc., must be settled directly with the officials. Decisions of game officials are final and are NOT subject to appeal.

C. SEASON RECORDS

Season won-loss-tied records for all member institutions shall include ONLY those contests played against accredited upper-level, degree-granting institutions, and SHALL NOT include games against junior colleges, clubs, foreign (Canada excluded), or military teams.

D. OFFICIAL BALL

The NAIA will designate an official ball for all national competition. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of all official balls for regular season and affiliated conference/independent play.

Baseball - Rawlings

Men's & Women's Soccer –Select Sport America

Men's Basketball – Spalding



Women's Basketball - Spalding
 Softball – Rawlings
 Men's & Women's Tennis – Wilson
 Football – Big Game
 Women's Volleyball - Baden
 Men's Volleyball – Molten
 Women's Beach Volleyball - Baden

E. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products is not permitted by participants, coaches, cheerleaders, trainers, game administrators, or officials in the playing areas during all NAIA sanctioned competition and practices for such competition. The institution's coaching staff, event games committee, administrator or host site coordinator (as applicable) shall enforce this policy through the following steps: On the first offense, the individual(s) and team shall receive an official warning; A second offense will cause expulsion from the practice, game, tournament or event. Member institutions are strongly encouraged to adopt this policy for all regular season practice and competition.

Postseason Competition

I. Responsibilities of Participating Institutions

A. The official party for each team participating in postseason play and the maximum number of players in uniform is as follows:

Sport	Number in official party	Maximum number of athletes
Baseball	33	28
Beach Volleyball	17	14
Bowling	12	10
Men's Basketball	23	17
Women's Basketball	23	17
Competitive Cheer	31	24
Competitive Dance	24	20
Cross Country	n/a	7
Football	80	62
Men's Golf	11	9
Women's Golf	11	9
Indoor Track and Field	n/a	n/a
Men's Lacrosse	39	34
Women's Lacrosse	39	34
Outdoor Track and Field	n/a	n/a
Men's Soccer	32	26
Women's Soccer	32	26
Softball	29	22
Swimming & Diving	n/a	18
Men's Volleyball	25	20
Women's Volleyball	25	20
Men's Wrestling	37	12
Women's Wrestling	n/a	12
Tennis	16	14

The list of maximum number of eligible players for each sport (official postseason roster/entry form) **MUST** be submitted to the NAIA National Office prior to ANY postseason play.

Postseasons rosters will continue to be filled out via the NAIA Connect admin website at www.naiiaconnect.org. You must have an account in order to fill out a postseason roster as the forms are no longer available through coaches' manuals. If you don't have an account, please contact naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org to request an account be set up.

Any issues with the on-line roster form, please contact the NAIA Athletics Communication Department. Any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the Sport Manager.

A copy of this roster/entry form MUST be hand-carried to the site of the affiliated conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions/unaffiliated qualifying tournament and national tournaments, and presented to the supervisor (affiliated conference/CAC sport chair for conference/CAC/unaffiliated qualifying tournament, and NAIA sport manager for the national championship) prior to that institution's participation in the event.

Deadlines for certifying the official roster is specific to each sport. Please refer to the respective coach's manual.

For unaffiliated group qualifying tournaments that include preliminary conference/group qualifying contests in the qualification plan; roster changes cannot be made between "rounds." Unaffiliated group tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for affiliated conference/CAC tournaments.

Once the tournament begins, no player may play that is not on the official roster. Roster changes are permissible between the postseason qualifying event and the opening rounds and between the opening round and final site by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the appropriate sport for the current academic season. The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary. A copy of the official roster/entry form is located in each coach's manual. This form requires the signature of the head coach, director of athletics, and the faculty athletics representative.

B. Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses en route to, during, and from all postseason events.

C. Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

D. The coach or other designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and responsible for his/her team at all times while at the site of the tournament. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his/her student-athletes at the tournament site during the tournament and at all activities connected with the team's tournament participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

II. Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions/Unaffiliated Grouping Qualifying Tournaments

Postseason qualifying tournaments are planned and administered by the conference/CAC and subject to approval by the department of championships.

Qualifying tournament plans must be submitted to the NAIA National Office no later than:

September 1	Women's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Cross Country
November 3	Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's & Women's Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Men's & Women's Wrestling
February 2	Softball, Baseball, Men's and Women's Golf, Men's and Women's Tennis, Men's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Beach Volleyball

A. Dates and Sites

The dates and sites of qualifying tournaments shall be determined by the affiliated conference/CAC, as applicable.

B. Administration

Qualifying tournaments are under the direct control and supervision of the leadership of the individual conferences/CAC. If available, the conference/CAC sport chair will serve as administrator for the sport playoffs in cooperation with the host site athletics director. When not available, the host athletics director, or a designated person, may serve in this capacity. All playoff games must determine a winner.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Administration and interpretation of the postseason qualifying event playoff plan including all qualifications and selection procedures.
- b. Certification of approved sites for playoff games.
- c. Determine a weather contingency plan for outdoor sports.
- d. Announcement of participating teams, seeding, pairings, game times and sites immediately at the established time for final team selection.
- e. Assignment of a tournament supervisor to each game/session site and provision of complete instructions for game/session administration.
- f. Assignment of a certified athletic trainer.
- g. Establishing physician and ambulance service on-site or immediately on call throughout the tournament.
- h. Approving the selection and assignment of all tournament officials.
- i. Enforcement of all recommended financial policies for each game/session in accordance with national policies governing postseason qualifying tournaments.
- j. Reporting results of all postseason tournament games to the NAIA National Office.
- k. Ordering the championship award.
- l. Appealing policies, if necessary.

The tournament supervisor will coordinate all activities at each game site and work with the host institution athletics director in implementing policies in the conduct of the tournament games.

The tournament supervisor reports to the game site no later than two hours prior to game time. Other administrative duties of the supervisor include:

- a. Oversee the administration of the gate to assure that only ticket purchasers and appropriately identified personnel (certified news media representatives, etc.) gain admittance to the tournament game facility.
- b. Ensure that only authorized media personnel occupy space in the press box or press row areas and that all radio and/or television stations have paid the appropriate broadcast fees prior to the start of each game.
- c. Supervise administration of the game(s) including pre-game protocol, cheerleader activity, crowd control, supervision of the game officials and post-game awards ceremonies if applicable.
- d. Report scores of each game/session promptly to NAIA Stats via PrestoSports.

C. Finances

1. Conference Championship Events - The host site is responsible for the following:

- a. Compensating game officials for all expenses.
 - b. Ordering affiliated conference/independent awards.
 - c. Administrative expenses, including security, ticket personnel, public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
 - d. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable.
- (Finances unique to the football championship series will be sent under separate cover in the Football Championship Series Manual to those athletics directors involved in championship play.)

III. National Championship

The policy of the NAIA states that each member institution shall have the opportunity to qualify for the national championship event in each sport through fair and equitable competition. Qualification to national competition shall exist via the following methods: meeting established qualification standards; affiliated conference/independent/unaffiliated competition and at-large selection.

Qualification models and definitions are outlined in the NAC section of the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook. Sport qualification plans for 2025-26 are available through [NAIA Connect](#).

A. FIRST & SECOND/OPENING ROUND EVENTS

Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball and Baseball will conduct First & Second/Opening Round events as part of the national championship.

Pairings (Volleyball)

Volleyball will have 24 opening round pairings. In order to be eligible for a guarantee to host an opening round pairing, a bid fee of \$6,000 (Volleyball) will be paid to the NAIA.

Bid fees will be used to pay to assist with reimbursement to traveling teams in opening rounds and final site.

Payment of officials and game operations will be the responsibility of the host institution.

All pairings for the opening rounds will be based upon the following prioritized criteria:

1. **Geographical location of teams**
2. **Financial considerations**
3. **Final rating/seeding**

Tournaments (Soccer, Basketball, Softball and Baseball)

Bids to host a first & second/opening round tournament will be open to any institution, conference, convention and visitor's bureau/sport commission. In order to be eligible to host an opening round tournament, a bid fee of \$7,000 for soccer, \$12,500 for basketball, \$10,000 for softball and \$12,500 for baseball will be paid to the NAIA. Bid fees will be used to assist with reimbursement to traveling teams in opening round pairings and final site.

Payment of umpires and game operations will be the responsibility of the host.

Certified umpires will be assigned by the conference based on criteria set by the NAC for opening round pairings.

Due to travel issues with crossing the border, Canadian institutions wishing to bid to host a first & second/opening round event must host the contest(s) in the United States and meet all minimum requirements.

B. FACILITY CERTIFICATION

To host a preliminary round of an NAIA national championship, the facility must be certified through the NAIA Facility Certification Process. This process ensures that all hosting facilities comply with sports rule requirements and meet the necessary standards for student-athletes.

Facility Certification Submission: Certification forms can be submitted here: <https://www.naia.org/athletics-directors/facility-certification>

Certification Validity: Once approved, the certification is valid indefinitely from the approval date. Any updates to the facility, including name changes, must be communicated to the national office for review.

Contact Information: For additional questions regarding the certification process, please contact the championship sport manager.

This ensures a high standard of competition and a safe environment for student-athletes.

C. ADMINISTRATION

NAIA national championships are planned and implemented by each respective sport's coaches association under the leadership of a tournament/games committee and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as may be prescribed by the NAIA-NAC.

During the tournament, the tournament/games committee conducts a coaches' meeting and assists with the participating teams functions in an efficient manner. The tournament/games committee is also in charge of assigning and working with the game officials, and coordinating the pre-tournament and post-tournament ceremonies, as applicable.

An NAIA championship sport managers will serve as the tournament administrator and work with the host site coordinator, appointed by the host institution/community, on all details related to the preparation and organization of the event. Before the tournament, the tournament administrator distributes complete information to all teams in contention, which includes housing and transportation information, participating team responsibilities and all other instructions deemed appropriate.

All national champions should be determined in competition, with national championships played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite games committee in consultation with the National Office, making every effort to conclude on schedule. The committee should make every possible effort to finish in the timeliest fashion possible.

D. QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

It is the policy of the NAIA that each member institution shall have the opportunity to qualify for the national championship event in each sport through fair and equitable competition. Qualification to national competition shall exist via the following methods:

1. Meeting established qualification standards;
2. Affiliated conference, Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions), unaffiliated grouping competition; or
3. At-large selection.

See 2025-26 Fact Sheets in the back portion of this manual.

E. SELECTION OF AT-LARGE TEAMS AND SEEDING OF THE TOURNAMENT

Each sport's coaches' association implements selection and seeding policies as approved by the coaches association and the NAIA National Administrative Council. Qualifying teams that do not receive votes in the final rating will be seeded at the discretion of the tournament/games committee.

E. NATIONAL SELECTION COMMITTEES

The NAIA National Selection Committees play a key role in determining at-large qualifiers and seeding for national championships across various sports. Each committee is made up of coaches from the respective sport, the NAC sport liaison, and additional NAIA administrators from across the country. These committees make their selections and seed teams based on a set of primary and secondary criteria. The criteria are established by the respective NAIA Coaches' Association and must receive approval from the National Administrative Council (NAC) before implementation. Through this process, the National Selection Committees ensure a fair and competitive framework for national championships.

F. FORMAT

For specific information, see the 2025-26 Fact Sheets in the back portion of this manual.

G. TOURNAMENT SELECTION PROCESS APPEALS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the National Office of the NAIA.

Criteria for filing an appeal

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office - Department of Championships within 24 hours (or noon (central time) of the next business day if the end of the 24 hour period falls on a non-business day) from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE: The National Administrative Council sport liaison will be on the selection conference call to listen to the discussion of tournament selection.

The liaison will report any concerns to the National Office immediately following the conclusion of the conference call.

H. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Travel reimbursement to member institutions participating in postseason events is not guaranteed by the Association for any event. All transportation and housing expenses incurred to attend an NAIA championship shall be the financial responsibility of the institution. The NAIA will reimburse from remaining championship profits, up to 100 percent of transportation and housing expenses of the official party. 75% of net income from opening round events will be used for travel reimbursement in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball.

The traveling team will receive and pay the transportation bill (air and/or ground) and any meal and housing bills incurred to and from, and while at the National Championship site. Exceptions will not be made to these policies unless approved in advance in writing by the NAIA CEO.

For more specific information, please refer to the COP section of the NAIA Policy & Official Handbook.

I. HOUSING

All participating teams and individuals in an NAIA national championship event MUST stay at the designated headquarters hotel or assigned property for the duration of the event. FAILURE to do so would make a team INELIGIBLE for the national event and any available reimbursement funds.

J. MANDATORY PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FUNCTIONS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a national championship, including opening rounds, must attend all functions including; Parade of Champions, coaches meetings, opening round celebrations, and Champions of Character nominations. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

K. ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Athletic Trainers are provided at all NAIA National Championships through the host site in cooperation with the NAIA Athletic Trainer Coordinator. It is strongly recommended that Athletic Trainers are present at all rounds of postseason qualifying championships.

L. RELATED INFORMATION

1. Radio and Television - The broadcast of any postseason competition is governed by the NAIA broadcast policies as printed in the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook. See rights fees at the end of this section.
2. The NAIA policy governing the acceptance of advertisers and advertising copy for broadcasts of any and all NAIA championship events is as follows:

Beer, wine, liquor or form of alcoholic beverages or any form of tobacco products shall not be endorsed by the NAIA. The advertisement of such products in connection with NAIA postseason events, as well as sponsorship, is permissible under the following conditions:

 - a. All such advertisements must receive advance approval from the NAIA President and Chief Executive Officer.
 - b. Alcoholic beverages in any form shall not be allowed to be sold, dispersed or brought into the public areas of any NAIA event.
3. The NAIA allows the use of video cameras at all NAIA events unless prohibited by host sties or contracts.
4. Additional details regarding items such as the banquet, coaches' meeting, officials, and opening ceremonies are outlined in each respect.

IV. Sunday Play Policy

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying and national championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Official and Policy Handbook for additional information.

Coaches Association

Information regarding sport coaches associations and past presidents can be found in the respective coaches' manual. These manuals can be downloaded from the NAIA website. It is important that all coaches be involved and active in their coaches association. Coaches associations assist in developing policies and procedures for their sport. Please encourage your coaches to participate.

Awards

All the following awards forms can be found on the Official Award & Report Forms webpage.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Each coaches association has the opportunity to identify a national coach of the year for its sport. For a brief description of the selection procedure of each sport, please refer to National Administrative Council (NAC) section of the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook. More specific details may be found in the respective coaches' manual. A complete listing of coach of the year recipients can be found in the respective coaches' manual as well as on the NAIA website, www.NAIA.org

ALL-AMERICA

All-America awards are annually bestowed on the most outstanding athletes in the NAIA. Criteria for the awards and the procedures for selection and implementation are forwarded by each coaches association and approved by the National Administrative Council. Additional and specific details, relative to a particular sport, are outlined in each coach's manual, as well as in NAC section of the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook. Although each sport is unique and thorough details should be obtained from each coach's manual, a brief listing of deadlines for complete nomination packets can be found on Page 23 of this manual. Please note some sports recognize All-America selections by order of finish, while others require submission of materials at the conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (Formerly the Association of Independents) level.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing;
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline (Fall – September 30|Winter January 31|Spring April 15)
3. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through NAIA Connect.
6. All the above information is to be received by Fall – September 30|Winter January 31|Spring April 15 to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database – All criteria must be met by this date.

NOTE – There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours. Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. In order to complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download.

To be eligible for listing on website, honors database or receive a certificate, forms MUST BE SUBMITTED BY Fall – September 30|Winter January 31|Spring April 15. LATE nominations will not be accepted.

SCHOLAR TEAM

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized. **Based on a 3.0 season GPA** on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

[NAIA Scholar Team Award Form](#)

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for national championships.

Team awards and the traditional championship banner are standard awards at NAIA national championships, while individual awards and awards for outstanding play vary from sport to sport. Specific details are outlined in the respective coach's manual.

NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

National Players of the Week are selected from Conference/Continental Athletic Conference Players of the Week for each of the conferences and the Association of Independent Institutions. Honorees are released on Tuesdays.

The NAIA National Player of the Week is selected from a pool of conference players of the week, beginning with the first awarding in the first week of the season for the following sports (volleyball, men's cross country, women's cross country, football, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's basketball, men's basketball, men's wrestling, women's wrestling, men's swimming and diving, women's swimming and diving, men's indoor track and field, women's indoor track and field, men's outdoor track and field, women's outdoor track and field, men's golf, women's golf, men's tennis, women's tennis, baseball and softball). SID representatives from each conference nominate players for the national award and a voting panel comprised of SIDs from various conferences vote using PrestoSports.

Voting criteria that may be used:

- 1) Statistics/results
- 2) Team success
- 3) Various records (school, conference, national) broken
- 4) Level of competition
- 5) Comments from the specific nomination form

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER TEAM AWARD

NAIA Conferences may choose to sponsor the Conference Champions of Character Team Award. Please check with your conference regarding award availability and criteria.

HALL OF FAME

The NAIA maintains a Hall of Fame program recognizing outstanding contributions in all areas and at all levels. The basic aim of the Hall of Fame program is to honor those individuals, who over a period of years have distinguished themselves with service to the NAIA. The Hall of Fame program honors individuals in three categories: Meritorious Service, Coach and Athlete.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by the NAIA. Specific criteria, nomination forms, and general information are outlined in Appendix A of this manual as well as in the NAC policy in the NAIA Official and Policy Handbook.

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Each affiliated conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) may nominate one athletics administrator based on accomplishments during the previous year. Nominee must be active as an athletics director at a member institution for a minimum of five years. Method of selection is determined by the conference.

CHARLES MORRIS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The award was initiated in memory and honor of past Associate Executive Director Charles Morris. The award will annually recognize a Conference and National Administrator of the Year. The intent is to consider members who are administrators

in all phases of NAIA athletic programs (e.g. faculty athletics representatives, eligibility chairs, presidents, commissioners, sports chairs, etc.) on college campuses and/or administrators of our conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) organizations.

WALLY SCHWARTZ FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association initiated the award to honor the late Wally Schwartz, former NAIA vice-president of Legislative Services. The award annually recognizes a conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) and national Faculty Athletics Representative of the Year.

Nominees must be active as a faculty athletics representative in a member institution or conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) and have a minimum of five years of service as a faculty athletics representative and continue to be associated with their institution and/or conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC)

LARRY LADY OFFICIATING AWARD

The Larry Lady Officiating Award is given to an official of any sport recognized by the NAIA and is in honor of Larry Lady, current NAIA supervisor of officials for basketball, baseball and football and long-time NAIA supporter and administrator. Nominees must have officiated, judged, started, or umpired an NAIA national championship or event at any time during his/her career. Nominee does not have to be actively officiating at the time of the nomination to be considered. The nominee must have at least 10 years of collegiate officiating service in the sport of nomination.

DR. LEROY WALKER CHARACTER AWARD

This award was created to honor the late Dr. LeRoy Walker, a former president of the NAIA and president emeritus of the United States Olympic Committee. The nominee must be a representative of an NAIA institution as a current student-athlete with at least a junior academic status at the nominating institution at the time of nomination. The nominee must be outstanding in academic achievement (GPA of 3.0 or higher), campus leadership, community leadership, embracing the five core character values of the NAIA Champions of Character initiative, athletic achievement and future ambition.

The recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash award to the institutional scholarship fund of the recipient's choice and be provided round-trip transportation and accommodations to the annual NAIA National Convention.

A.O. DUER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Named in honor of the NAIA's former executive secretary who served the Association for 26 years, this award has been annually presented since 1967 to a male and female junior student-athlete in any sport who has excelled in scholarship, character, and citizenship.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must have an overall GPA of at least 3.75 (on a 4.00 scale) and must have attained junior standing academically. Nominations are submitted by an institution's faculty athletics representative to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC). Each affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) may nominate one student-athlete for consideration by the Awards Committee of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives which selects the national winner.

A \$1,000 cash award to the one male and one female national winner is presented to the winner's institution and an appropriate award is presented to the honorees.

EMIL S. LISTON AWARD

Named in honor of the NAIA's first executive secretary and the prime mover behind the men's basketball tournament, this award has been presented annually since 1950 to one junior men's and women's basketball player who has shown high athletic and scholastic achievement.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must have an overall GPA of at least 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) and must have attained junior standing academically. Nominations are submitted by an institution's faculty athletics representative to the conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC). Each affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) may nominate one student-athlete for consideration by the Awards Committee of the Council of Faculty Athletics Representatives which selects the national winner.



A \$1,000 cash award to the one male and one female national winner is presented to the winner's institution and an appropriate award is presented to the honorees.

CLARENCE "IKE" PEARSON AWARD

The award commemorates the life and work of Clarence "Ike" Pearson, who served as the chief of statistical services for the men's basketball tournament for 29 consecutive years prior to his death in November 1976. This award is annually presented to a member of the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association (NAIA-SIDA) who has made outstanding contributions to her/his institution, and to the NAIA at both the affiliated conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) and national level. Special consideration will be given to involvement in the NAIA-SIDA and NAIA championship events.

Nominees must be a member of the NAIA-SIDA for five full years. Nominations may be submitted by a chief executive officer, athletics director, conference chair, conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) commissioner/president, conference information director or sports information director. A sports information director also may nominate an NAIA SIDA member from any other affiliated conference or conference.

AL ORTOLANI STUDENT ATHLETIC TRAINER SCHOLARSHIP

Nominee must have attained junior standing academically at a member institution employing a full-time NATA-certified athletic trainer; applicant must have worked as a student trainer for a period of at least one year at the college level and be enrolled in a program leading to a bachelor's degree.

The applicant must have a GPA of 3.00 or above in his/her major field. A scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to the winner for his/her senior year.

ATHLETIC TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Nominee must be a member in good standing in the NAIA Athletic Trainers Association and the National Athletic Trainers Association as a Certified Athletic Trainer; employed current by an NAIA institution as an athletic trainer and has distinguished them self as a model of the profession of athletic training in personal conduct and professional allied health service to athletes. Nominee is nominated by a Certified Athletic Trainer in good standing in the NAIA-ATA and the NATA, or the nominee's athletics director.

Nominee has not received this award in the past three years.

SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

This award is presented annually to a full- or part-time sports information director or a part-time coach/sports information director, who represents an institution or conference, and who has made key contributions to their institution, their conference or the association during a single academic year.

Nominations may be submitted by an institution or conference/ Continental Athletic Conference (CAC). The national award recipient will be presented with a certificate and recognized at an annual function in conjunction with the NAIA-SIDA meeting and the NAIA National Convention.

FEMALE TRAILBLAZER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizes an outstanding woman leader who exemplified outstanding support of women in athletics and their success. It is based on accomplishments during the previous year in the areas of athletics administration and service to the NAIA

NAIA RISE LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizes an outstanding leader in the NAIA based on accomplishments in the areas of NAIA RISE, Diversity, Education and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and service to the NAIA.

ORDERING AWARDS

Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards, 1801 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802; (417) 873-9280; www.CollegiateAwards.com

Contact: Brad Stout, brads@collegiateawards.com, (417) 873-9280



2025-26 Nomination Deadlines

	Award	Due to Conference Commissioner	Due to National Office
Awards Timeline for Submitting Nominations	Leroy Walker Character Award	June 15	July 15
	NAIA Coach of Character Award	June 15	July 15
	A. O. Duer Award	June 15	July 15
	Emil S. Liston Award	June 15	July 15
	Clarence "Ike" Pearson (SIDA)		July 15
	Wally Schwartz FAR of the Year	June 15	July 15
	Hall of Fame		July 15
	Larry Lady Officiating Award		July 15
	Charles Morris Administrator of the Year Award	June 15	July 15
	Athletic Director of the Year	June 15	July 15
	Athletic Trainer of the Year Award	June 15	July 15
	RISE – Leader of the Year Award		July 15
	Female Trailblazer of the Year Award		July 15
	School of Character Award	June 15	July 15
	<i>Champions of Character</i> Individual Award	Fall Sports: November 11; Winter Sports: February 16; Spring Sports: April 15	
	Coach of the Year	Varies by Sport	
	Player of the Year	Varies by Sport	
	Publication Contests	Varies by Season – Sponsor – Sports Information	
	Sport	Receipt Deadline of Nomination/Stat.	Announcement of Selections
All-America Nomination Deadlines	Cross Country	N/A	November 17
	Men's Soccer	November 12	December 15
	Women's Soccer	November 12	December 15
	Women's Volleyball	November 17	December 16
	Football	November 17	December 12
	Men's Wrestling	N/A	March 7
	Women's Wrestling	N/A	March 15
	Swimming & Diving	N/A	March 7
	Indoor Track & Field	N/A	March 1
	Bowling	N/A	Mar 26
	Women's Basketball	March 6	March 30
	Men's Basketball	March 6	March 30
	Competitive Cheer	March 21	April 2
	Competitive Dance	March 21	April 2
	Men's Volleyball	April 21	May 7
	Women's Flag Football	April 28	May 14
	Women's Lacrosse	April 29	May 3
	Men's Lacrosse	April 29	May 3
	Women's Golf	N/A	May 22
	Tennis	April 29	May 21
	Men's Golf	N/A	May 29
	Outdoor Track & Field	N/A	May 23
	Softball	May 7	June 2
	Baseball	May 8	June 4
	Sport	Receipt Deadline of Nomination	Announcement of Selections
NAIA Scholar-Athlete Nomination Deadlines & Scholar Team Award Deadlines	Fall Sports	September 30	Varies by Sport
	Winter Sports	January 31	Varies by Sport
	Spring Sports	April 15	Varies by Sport

Award Nominations (forms and online submission)

Find these resources at NAIA.org [Membership Services Official Forms](#)

Officials Forms

Selection of Officials

The selection of officials varies from sport to sport.

For sports with one or more national championship opening rounds, conference commissioners may be asked, in conjunction with conference assignors, to work with the NAIA National Office for the selection of officials.

All NAIA National Championships Supervisor of Officials who, in cooperation with the NAIA Sports Manager and the Director of Officiating Initiatives, is responsible for the acquisition and assignment of game officials.

Some sports have a National Supervisor of Officials who is responsible for the acquisition of officials, while the On-Site Supervisor of Officials is responsible for the organization and assignment of selected officials.

Officials can be nominated by the Conference for national championship assignment by sending an email of recommendation to officials@naia.org.

Some sports provide officials an opportunity to apply via the sport-specific Central Hub site that is used for registration, training & development, and eligibility purposes.

Postseason Deadlines 2025-26

SPORT	ENTRY DEADLINE	CONFERENCE DEADLINE	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PRELIMINARY ROUND DATES	FINAL SITE DATES
Cross Country	November 13, 2025 (Thur)	November 9, 2025 (Sun)		November 21, 2025 (Friday)
Men's Soccer	-	November 12, 2025 (Wed)	November 20-21, 2025 (Thur-Sat)	December 1-8, 2025 (Mon-Mon)
Women's Soccer	-	November 12, 2025 (Wed)	November 20-21, 2025 (Thur-Sat)	December 1-8, 2025 (Mon-Mon)
Football	-	November 15, 2025 (Sat)	Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6, & 13, 2025	December 20, 2025 (Sat)
Women's Volleyball	-	November 15, 2025 (Sat)	November 22, 2025 (Sat)	December 3-9, 2025 (Wed-Tues)
Men's Wrestling	-	February 21, 2026 (Sat)		March 5-7, 2026 (Thurs-Sat)
Women's Wrestling	-	March 1, 2026 (Sun)		March 13-14, 2026 (Fri-Sat)
Indoor Track & Field	February 13 & 24, 2026 (Mon & Tues)	-		March 5-7, 2026 (Thur-Sat)
Basketball	-	March 3, 2026 (Tue)	March 13-14, 2026 (Fri-Sat)	March 19-24, 2026 (Thur-Tue)
Swimming & Diving	February 18, 2026 (Wed)	February 18, 2026 (Wed)		March 4-7, 2026 (Wed-Sat)
Cheer and Dance	-	March 14, 2026 (Sat)		March 27-28, 2026 (Fri-Sat)
Bowling	-	February 23, 2026 (Mon)		March 19-21, 2026 (Thur-Sat)
Men's Volleyball		April 18, 2026 (Sat)		Apr.28-May 2, 2026 (Tue-Sat)
Men's Lacrosse		May 2, 2026 (Sat)		May 12-16, 2026 (Tue-Sat)
Women's Lacrosse		May 2, 2026 (Sat)		May 11-15, 2026 (Mon-Fri)
Softball		May 4, 2026 (Mon)	May 11-14, 2026 (Mon-Thurs)	May 21-27, 2026 (Thur-Wed)
Men's Golf		April 29, 2026 (Wed)		May 12-15, 2026 (Tues-Fri)
Women's Golf		May 6, 2026 (Wed)		May 19-22, 2026 (Tues-Fri)
Women's Beach Volleyball (Inv.)		April 11, 2026 (Sat)		April 23-25, 2026 (Thur-Sat)
Tennis		April 25, 2026 (Sat)		May 12-16, 2026 (Tues-Sat)
Outdoor Track & Field	May 11 & 12, 2026 (Mon & Tues)	-		May 20-22, 2026 (Wed-Fri)
Baseball		May 4, 2026 (Mon)	May 11-14, 2026 (Mon-Thurs)	May 22-30, 2026 (Fri-Sat)

Sport Qualification Plans

For the most up to date and printable versions of all Sport Qualification Plans [CLICK HERE](#)



Factsheet: Baseball

Dates and Sites	The 69 th annual NAIA World Series begins the Friday prior to Memorial Day and is scheduled to finish the following Friday or Saturday (no games are scheduled for Sunday). The 2026 dates are May 22-30 at Harris Field on the campus of Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, ID. Affiliated Conference and Unaffiliated qualifying tournaments must be completed by May 4 and National Championship Opening Round Tournaments are scheduled for May 11-14, 2026.
Format	The NAIA Baseball National Championship is a 46-team, double-elimination tournament (at both the Opening Round and 10-team Final Site). The National Championship Opening Round consists of six Opening Round sites of five teams each and four Opening Round sites of four teams each at selected sites. The 10 Opening Round winners will advance to the NAIA World Series, a 10-team, double-elimination tournament. The Host, NAIA Championships Department, and World Series Games Committee jointly determine the game times for all games.
Qualification	Affiliated conferences/CAC/unaffiliated groupings representing a total of 188 member institutions sponsoring baseball, are entitled to qualify their regular season or postseason champions into one of 10 National Championship Opening Round tournaments. Affiliated conferences that have six or more institutions sponsoring baseball shall receive an automatic berth into the National Championship and shall determine their automatic qualifier. Affiliated conferences with 10 or more institutions sponsoring baseball receive two automatic berths into the National Championship Opening Round. At-large berths will be selected by the NAIA Baseball Selection Committee, which will meet after the conclusion of the conference/CAC and unaffiliated qualifying tournaments.
Rules	Official baseball rules are NCAA Baseball Rules with approved NAIA-Baseball Coaches Association modifications. These rules shall be applied to all contests (pre-season, regular-season and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA.
Official Party	Twenty-eight players and a maximum of five coaches are permitted in uniform for a total of 33 in the Official Party. Up to an additional two credentials are available for certified Athletic Trainers, which can be obtained by directly contacting the Host Athletic Trainer at Lewis-Clark State College. Only those listed on the Official Postseason Roster are allowed in the team area, which includes the dugout and bullpen.
Official Ball	The Rawlings FSR100-NAIA is the official baseball for all postseason games, including Opening Round and World Series.
Awards	The top four place finishers in the National Championship receive team trophies and members of the official party from the top four teams also receive individual plaques. • The National Championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship red banner. • A 16-member All-Tournament Team (from the 10 World Series teams only) is selected with members receiving individual plaques. A Most Valuable Player is selected by the Games Committee and media members, and this person also receives an individual plaque. In addition, selected individuals in the World Series are presented with the Charles Berry Hustle Award and Rawlings Golden Glove Award. One player from each of the 10 participating teams will receive a Champions of Character Award, and one of the 10 will be selected as the annual Hank Burbridge NAIA Champions of Character Player Award winner.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Men's Basketball

Dates and Site	The 88th Annual NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship begins on Thursday and concludes Tuesday. The 2026 dates are March 19-24, at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. Affiliated Conference/Independent/Group qualifying tournaments must be completed by 11:59 PM (CT) on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, and National Championship First & Second Rounds are scheduled for March 13-14.
Format	The NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship is a 64-team, single-elimination tournament (at both the First & Second Round and 16-team Final Site). The National Championship First & Second Round consists of 16 different four-team tournaments at selected sites. The 16 First & Second Round winners advance to the Final Site for a 16-team single-elimination tournament. The NAIA Department of Championships determines game times for all contests.
Qualification	NAIA Affiliated Conferences/Independents/Groups with six or more member institutions which sponsor Men's Basketball are entitled to send either regular season or postseason tournament champions automatically to the National Championship. Conferences with 10 or more institutions sponsoring Men's Basketball are entitled to send two representatives to the National Championship.
Rules	The Official Playing Rules for all NAIA regular-season and postseason competition are the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Basketball Rules.
Official Party	A maximum of 17 players are permitted in uniform for all NAIA postseason games, including all rounds of the National Championship. The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 23. Each team is provided with a maximum of 23 sideline credentials for the National Championship, which shall include no more than 17 uniformed players and six support personnel (head coach, assistant coaches, managers, etc.). Up to an additional two credentials are available for certified Athletic Trainers.
Official Ball	The Spalding TF-1000 Legacy is the Official Men's Basketball of the NAIA.
Awards	The top four place finishers (winners of the Naismith, Cramer, Duer, & Liston Quadrants) in the National Championship receive team trophies and official party members from the top four teams also receive individual plaques. • A 10-member all-tournament team is selected with members receiving individual plaques. In addition, a Most Valuable Player is named from the 10-member all-tournament team and will receive an individual plaque as well. • Special awards include the Hustle Award and the Charles Kriegel Sportsmanship Award. • The NAIA Men's Basketball National Champions will receive the Naismith National Championship trophy and the traditional NAIA National Championship red banner.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Women's Basketball

Dates and Site	The 45 th Annual NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship begins on Thursday and concludes the Tuesday (no games are scheduled for Sunday). The 2026 dates are March 19-24 at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Affiliated conference and unaffiliated qualifying conference tournaments must be completed by 11:59 PM (CT) on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, and National Championship First & Second Rounds are scheduled for March 13-14.
Format	The NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship is a 64-team single-elimination tournament (at both the First & Second Round and 16-team Final Site). The National Championship First & Second Round consists of 16 different four-team tournaments at selected sites. The 16 Second Round winners advance to the Final Site for a 16-team single-elimination tournament. The NAIA Department of Championships determines game times for all contests.
Qualification	NAIA affiliated conferences with six or more member institutions which sponsor Women's Basketball are entitled to send either their regular or postseason tournament champion automatically to the National Championship. Conferences with 10 or more institutions sponsoring Women's Basketball are entitled to two automatic berths to the National Championship.
Rules	The official playing rules for all NAIA regular-season and postseason games are the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Basketball Rules.
Official Party	A maximum of 17 players are permitted in uniform for all NAIA postseason games, including all rounds of the National Championship. The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 23. Each team is provided with a maximum of 23 sideline credentials for the National Championship, which shall include no more than 17 uniformed players and six support personnel (head coach, assistant coaches, managers, etc.). Up to an additional two credentials are available for certified Athletic Trainers.
Official Ball	The Spalding TF-1000 Legacy Basketball is the official women's basketball of the NAIA.
Awards	The top four place finishers (winners of the Naismith, Cramer, Duer, & Liston Quadrants) in the National Championship receive team trophies and official party members from the top four teams also receive individual plaques. • A 10-member All-Tournament Team is selected with members receiving individual plaques. In addition, a Most Valuable Player is named from the 10-member All-Tournament Team and will receive an individual trophy as well. • Special awards include the Hustle Award and Meritorious Service Award. • The National Championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship red banner.

Senior Championship Manager

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401 Gordon Drive
Sioux City, IA 51101
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Factsheet: Women's Beach Volleyball

Dates and Site	The 5th Annual NAIA Women's Beach Volleyball National Invitational begins on Thursday and concludes Saturday. The 2026 dates are April 23-25, 2026.
Format	The NAIA Women's Beach Volleyball National Invitational will be conducted in a three-day format. The field will consist of eight teams. The NAIA Beach Volleyball National Invitational will use the format of Pool Play (two pools of four teams) followed by a single-elimination tournament.
Qualification	Qualification allotments for the National Invitational will be four automatic berths and four at-large berths as follows. There are no limits on the number of at-large berths a Conference/Unaffiliated Group may receive.
Rules	Rules governing NAIA regular-season and postseason play are the USA Beach Volleyball rules with NCAA modifications. These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular-season, and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA.
Official Party	The Official Party for each team participating in postseason play is 17, with no more than 14 players in uniform. The total party of 17 does not include up to two (2) athletic trainers. Only members of the Official Party will be permitted in the team area, which includes the bench.
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a fee of \$500.00 per team for the National Championship.
Awards	The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for the National Invitational. National Invitational awards are given to the official parties of the top two teams. Members of the tournament committee, with input from participating national coaches, select a 10-member All-Tournament Team, the Tournament Most Valuable Player, and a Pair of the Year. The Coach of the Year will also be presented during the awards ceremony.

Senior Championship Manager

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Host Site Contact

TBD



Factsheet: Bowling

Dates and Site The 6th Annual NAIA Bowling Championship begins on March 19th and ends on March 21st. The location is Royal Scot in Lansing, Michigan, hosted by Lansing Sports Commission.

Format The Men's and Women's Bowling National Championship includes a field of 12 teams per gender. Teams will compete in double-elimination bracket play, with a mega-match format in the winners' bracket and Best-of-7 Baker format in the elimination bracket, throughout Thursday and Friday, and a champion will be crowned on Saturday.

Qualification 57 institutions sponsor Men's Bowling and 62 institutions sponsor Women's Bowling. NAIA-affiliated conferences with six or more member institutions that sponsor bowling are entitled to send either their regular or postseason tournament champion automatically to the National Championship. Conferences with 12 or more institutions sponsoring bowling are entitled to two automatic berths to the National Championship. At-large berths will be determined by the Bowling National Selection Committee.

Playing Rules Rules as published in the USBC Rulebook govern NAIA regular and postseason play, with NAIA modifications.

Official Party The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 10, with no more than 8 players listed on the Official Postseason Roster

Entry Fee: The entry fee for teams that qualify for the National Tournament is \$600.00 per team per gender.

Awards The top two place finishers in the Championship will receive team trophies

- The championship team of each gender receives the traditional NAIA Championship banner.
- Most Valuable Player is named and will receive an individual trophy for each gender.
- The NAIA also presents the Tournament Coach(s) of the Year award.

Championship Sport Manager

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Final Site Host Contact

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Lansing Sports Commission
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Factsheet: Competitive Cheer

Dates and Site	The NAIA Competitive Cheer National Championship will be held the final weekend in March. The 10 th Annual Competitive Cheer Championship will be hosted by Visit Topeka, Inc. and Baker University on March 27-28, 2026, in Topeka, Kansas.
Format	The NAIA Competitive Cheer Championship is a two-day competition with preliminary round on Friday and the final round on Saturday. Overall score will be 25% from the preliminary round score and 75% of the final round score. The overall score will determine teams' placings.
Qualification	The number of teams competing in the national championships is limited to 15 teams. At each Conference or qualifying competition, the top team will advance to the national championship. Teams receiving at-large berths must score in at least four competitions prior to the conference or national qualifying event. At-large berths are determined by a Selection Committee based on overall season scores, strength of schedule and conference/qualifying placements.
Rules	The NCA Cheer Rulebook will be followed with specific NAIA modifications.
Official Party	Maximum of 20 and minimum of 10 competitors on the floor. Four alternates are allowed.
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a fee of \$500.00 per team for the National Championship.
Awards	The top four teams in the national championship receive team trophies. Members of the official party (31) from the top four teams receive individual plaques. • The championship team will receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • National coach of the year is recognized. These awards will be voted upon by the coaches and presented at the NAIA-CCCA Annual business meeting.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Competitive Dance

Dates and Site	The NAIA Competitive Dance National Championship will be held the final weekend in March. The 10 th Annual Competitive Dance Championship will be hosted by Visit Topeka, Inc. and Baker University on March 27-28, 2026, in Topeka, Kansas.
Format	The NAIA Competitive Dance Championship is a two-day competition with preliminary round on Friday and the final round on Saturday. Overall score will be 25% from the preliminary round score and 75% of the final round score. The overall score will determine teams' placings.
Qualification	The number of teams competing in the national championships is limited to 12 teams. At each Conference or qualifying competition, the top team will advance to the national championship. Teams receiving at-large berths must score in at least four competitions prior to the conference or national qualifying event. At-large berths are determined by a Selection Committee based on overall season scores, strength of schedule and conference/qualifying placements.
Rules	The NDA Dance Rulebook will be followed with specific NAIA modifications.
Official Party	Maximum of 16 and minimum of six competitors on the floor. Four alternates are also allowed. In 2026-27 a maximum of 20 and a minimum of seven competitors plus four alternates will comprise the official party.
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a fee of \$500.00 per team for the National Championship.
Awards	The top four teams in the national championship receive team trophies. Members of the official party (24) from the top four teams receive individual plaques. • The championship team will receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • National coach of the year is recognized. These awards will be voted upon by the coaches.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Cross Country

Dates and Site	The NAIA Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championships are held each year on the Friday preceding Thanksgiving. The 70 th Annual Men's Championships and the 46 th Annual Women's Championships will be held November 21, 2025 at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee, Florida.														
Format	The NAIA Women's Cross Country National Championship is run over a 6,000 meter (3.7 mile) course, while the Men's Cross Country National Championship is contested over an 8,000 meter (4.8 mile) course.														
Qualification	The number of teams competing in the national championships is limited to 36 for men and 36 for women. In 2025, for a conference to receive a second auto berth, a team must be ranked in the top 30. The remainder of the 36-team field for each gender will be filled with at-large berths from the Top 25 rating. At each national qualifying meet (conference, CAC or unaffiliated), the top two to six individuals not on a qualifying team (automatic or at-large) will advance to the national championships as individuals. Qualifying meets with 12 or more teams finishing with a team score could advance the top six individuals (not on a qualifying team and individual scoring finish must be 20th or better). Qualifying meets with six to 11 teams finishing with a team score could advance the top four individuals (not on a qualifying team and individual scoring finish must be 15th or better). Qualifying meets with fewer than six teams finishing with a team score could advance the top two individuals (not on a qualifying team and individual scoring finish must be 8th or better). Institutions finishing with fewer than five competitors will be scored as individuals and could reduce the number of automatic and individual berths presented to a conference. Teams receiving at-large berths must score in at least four collegiate meets prior to the national qualifying meet. All competitors are required by NAIA policy to stay in one of the designated championship hotels to be eligible to compete in the national championships.														
Rules	The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Rule Book will be followed.														
Official Party	Institutions that qualify as a team may declare up to 10 athletes into the competition. Seven of the ten runners will start the race, the remaining three will be marked "DNS". If fewer than five competitors from one institution compete in the national meet, they will compete as individuals only. Institutions finishing with fewer than five competitors will be scored as individuals.														
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a fee of \$90.00 per team. Institutions entering individuals shall submit a fee of \$22.00 per individual. Payment is to be made before registration the Thursday prior to the championships.														
Awards	The top four teams in the national championship receive team trophies. Members of the official party (maximum ten) from the top four teams receive individual plaques. • The top 40 individual finishers receive plaques and All-American status. • The championship teams (men and women) receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • Conference/Independent and national coaches of the year for men and women are recognized. These awards will be voted upon by the cross country coaches. • The NAIA recognizes the top four combined programs at the championship meet. <table><tr><td>Championship Sport Manager</td><td>Host Site Contact</td></tr><tr><td>Samantha Walker</td><td>Bailey Geason</td></tr><tr><td>NAIA National Office</td><td>Visit Tallahassee</td></tr><tr><td>120 W. 12th Street, Suite 700</td><td>315 South Calhoun St., Suite 830</td></tr><tr><td>Kansas City, MO 64105</td><td>Tallahassee, FL 32301</td></tr><tr><td>Phone: (816) 595-8156</td><td>Phone: (850) 228-7265</td></tr><tr><td>Email: swalker@naia.org</td><td>Email: geasonb@leoncountyfl.gov</td></tr></table>	Championship Sport Manager	Host Site Contact	Samantha Walker	Bailey Geason	NAIA National Office	Visit Tallahassee	120 W. 12 th Street, Suite 700	315 South Calhoun St., Suite 830	Kansas City, MO 64105	Tallahassee, FL 32301	Phone: (816) 595-8156	Phone: (850) 228-7265	Email: swalker@naia.org	Email: geasonb@leoncountyfl.gov
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Email: swalker@naia.org	Email: geasonb@leoncountyfl.gov														



Factsheet: Women's Flag Football

Dates and Site	The 1 st Annual NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational begins on Wednesday and concludes Saturday. The 2026 dates are May 6-9, 2026.
Format	The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational will be conducted in a four-day format. The field will consist of eight teams. The NAIA Women's Flag Football National Invitational will use a double-elimination bracket format.
Qualification	A total of 35 member institutions sponsor women's flag football. Conferences, the Continental Athletic Conference, and approved Unaffiliated Groupings automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 12. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping. Teams are selected to participate in Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.
Playing Rules	Rules governing NAIA regular-season and postseason play are the College Flag Football Rules, with any NAIA modifications.
Official Party	The Official Party for each team participating in postseason play is 28, with no more than 24 players in uniform and 4 support staff. The total party of 28 does not include up to two (2) athletic trainers. Only members of the Official Party will be permitted in the team area, which includes the sideline.
Awards	The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for the National Invitational. National Invitational awards are given to the official parties of the top two teams. Members of the tournament committee, with input from participating national coaches, select a 14-member All-Tournament Team including the Most Valuable Player. Two 17-member All-America teams, National Player of the Year, and National Coach of the Year will be announced after the National Invitational.

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Host Site Contact

TBD



Factsheet: Football

Dates and Site	The 70 th annual NAIA Football Championship Series begins on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving week with First Round games. Second Round, Quarterfinal and Semifinal round games are scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend and the first and second Saturday in December. The National Championship game is scheduled for the third Saturday in December. The 2025 dates are November 22, November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20. All games, with the exception of the National Championship game, are played at or near the site of one of the institutions involved in the game. The NAIA Football National Championship game will be played at Crowley ISD Stadium in Fort Worth, Texas.
Format	A 20-team Football Championship Series is contested over five consecutive Saturdays. There are 94 football playing institutions and 20 teams will qualify for the Football Championship Series.
Qualification	The 94 institutions sponsoring football must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration and selection into the Football Championship Series: - Have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA Football Championship Series; - Play a minimum of eight intercollegiate games against upper-level institutions in the United States or Canada prior to the final regular season game on November 16. NAIA certified football conferences will receive an automatic qualifier for their championship team to the Football Championship Series provided: - Six or more active members in good standing sponsor intercollegiate football and have declared their intent to participate in the NAIA Football Championship Series; - The conference with fewer than 10 members play an intra-conference, round-robin schedule while conferences of 10 or greater play at least seven intra-conference games; - The conference is certified by the NAIA prior to May 1, 2025; - The conference certifies its method of determining its champion in case of ties; - The highest rated independent team shall qualify for the series provided they meet a, b and c above.
Playing Rules	National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules are followed in all regular-season and Football Championship Series games with the tie-break plan being used in all Football Championship Series games including the National Championship game.
Official Party	Sixty-two players are permitted to be in uniform. The official party for expense purposes in all Football Championship Series games is 80 persons.
Awards	The final four teams receive trophies designated as champion, runner-up and semifinal teams. Members of the official party from each of the final four teams receive individual plaques. The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship red banner and the NAIA Championship Team Traveling Trophy.

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Factsheet: Men's Golf

Dates and Site	The 2026 dates are May 12-15 for the 74 th Annual National Championships. Qualifying tournaments must be completed by April 29, 2026. The National Championship site is TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.														
Format	The NAIA Men's Golf National Championships are a 156 player, 72-hole tournament played over four days with a cut after 36 holes. Competition is stroke play. Each team competes with five golfers and the top four scores posted each day are counted toward the team standings. Pairings are made in threesomes and pre-determined for the first two rounds. Pairings are set based on team/individual standings for the final two rounds.														
Qualification	A total of 171 NAIA member institutions sponsor men's golf. The NAIA Men's National Golf National Championship has up to 30 teams, with a maximum of 156 golfers. 18 Conferences/Independents/Groupings sponsoring men's golf shall qualify their team champion automatically to the national tournament. The individual medalist from Conference/CAC/Group tournaments shall also qualify for the National Championship if his institution does not qualify. Only one team and one medalist may represent a Conference/CAC/Grouping as the automatic qualifier in the National Championship. (Note: All ties for team and individual championships must be broken at the Conference/CAC/Group level.) Additionally, the All-Tournament Team (top 15 plus ties) from the previous year may participate in the National Championship if they compete in their appropriate Conference/CAC/Grouping tournament and do not qualify with their team (automatic or at-large) or as the Conference/CAC/Group medalist. At-large teams are determined based upon the final rating to fill out the 156-player field. Individuals who do not qualify through being a Conference/CAC/Group medalist, returning all-tournament or with their team (automatic or at-large) may be invited by the NAIA-MGCA Executive Committee to the National Championships. Individual selection to the championship shall be on a space-available basis after all teams and medalists have been determined. The host institution, if one exists, shall automatically qualify its five-member team for the National Championship should it not qualify as the Conference/CAC/Group champion or as an at-large. Only intercollegiate sponsored men's golf teams are to be considered, no club teams.														
Rules	Official United States Golf Association (USGA) rules govern NAIA regular-season and postseason play, supplemented by any local rules and NAIA modifications.														
Official Party	The Official Party for each team participating in postseason play is 11, with no more than 9 players in uniform. The total party of 11 does not include up to two athletic trainers. The Official Party for each individual participating in the National Championship is two and should include the competing golfer and one coach.														
Official Ball	No official ball is designated for NAIA postseason play. Competitors must report the brand of ball which they are using prior to the start of every postseason competitive round.														
Entry Fees	All National Championship participants must pay the established entry fees prior to participation and must also pay the established fee for room and meals arranged by the host institution as a prerequisite for participation.														
Awards	The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. National Championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. In addition, awards are presented to the Coach of the Year and All-Tournament Team (15 players including the Tournament MVP). Individual awards for the National Tournament medalist (O.D. Bounds Memorial Trophy), and the Individual Runner-Up are also presented. <table><tr><td>Championship Sport Manager</td><td>Host Site Contact</td></tr><tr><td>Rick Daum</td><td>Joan Kranovich – Visit Quad Cities</td></tr><tr><td>NAIA National Office</td><td>1601 River Dr. Suite 110</td></tr><tr><td>120 West 12th Street, Suite 700</td><td>Moline, IL 61265</td></tr><tr><td>Kansas City, MO 64105</td><td>Phone: (309) 736-6831</td></tr><tr><td>Phone: (816) 595-8141</td><td>Email: jkranovich@visitquadcities.com</td></tr><tr><td>Email: rdaum@naia.org</td><td></td></tr></table>	Championship Sport Manager	Host Site Contact	Rick Daum	Joan Kranovich – Visit Quad Cities	NAIA National Office	1601 River Dr. Suite 110	120 West 12 th Street, Suite 700	Moline, IL 61265	Kansas City, MO 64105	Phone: (309) 736-6831	Phone: (816) 595-8141	Email: jkranovich@visitquadcities.com	Email: rdaum@naia.org	
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Factsheet: Women's Golf

Dates and Site	The 2026 dates are May 19-22 for the 31 st Annual National Championships. Qualifying tournaments must be completed by May 6, 2026. The National Championship site is Eagle Crest Golf Club in Ypsilanti, Michigan.														
Format	The NAIA Women's Golf National Championships are a 156 player, 72-hole tournament played over four days with a cut after 36 holes. Competition is stroke play. Each team competes with five golfers and the top four scores posted each day are counted toward the team standings. Pairings are made in threesomes and pre-determined for the first two rounds. Pairings are set based on team/individual standings for the final two rounds.														
Qualification	A total of 156 NAIA member institutions sponsor women's golf. The NAIA Women's National Golf National Championship has up to 30 teams, with a maximum of 156 golfers. 17 Conferences/Independents/Groupings sponsoring women's golf shall qualify their team champion automatically to the national tournament. The individual medalist from Conference/CAC/Group tournaments shall also qualify for the National Championship if his institution does not qualify. (Note: All ties for team and individual championships must be broken at the Conference/CAC/Group level.) Additionally, the All-Tournament Team (top 15 plus ties) from the previous year may participate in the National Championship if they compete in their appropriate Conference/CAC/Grouping tournament and do not qualify with their team (automatic or at-large) or as the Conference/CAC/Group medalist. At-large teams are determined based upon the final rating to fill out the 156-player field. Individuals who do not qualify through being a Conference/CAC/Group medalist, returning all-tournament or with their team (automatic or at-large) may be invited by the NAIA-WGCA Executive Committee to the National Championships. Individual selection to the championship shall be on a space-available basis after all teams and medalists have been determined. The host institution, if one exists, shall automatically qualify its five-member team for the National Championship should it not qualify as the Conference/CAC/Group champion or as an at-large. Only intercollegiate sponsored women's golf teams are to be considered, no club teams.														
Rules	The official United States Golf Association rules are followed for all regular and post-season play with NAIA-Women's Golf Coaches Association modifications.														
Official Party	The Official Party for each team participating in postseason play is 11, with no more than 9 players in uniform. The total party of 11 does not include up to two athletic trainers. The Official Party for each individual participating in the National Championship is two, and should include the competing golfer and one coach.														
Official Ball	No official ball is designated for NAIA postseason play. Competitors must report the brand of ball which they are using prior to the start of every postseason competitive round.														
Entry Fees	All National Championship participants must pay the established entry fees prior to participation and must also pay the established fee for room and meals arranged by the host institution as a prerequisite for participation.														
Awards	The top four place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies and members of the official party (maximum 6) from the top four teams receive individual plaques. • The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner. • The top 15 individual finishers (plus ties) are designated as NAIA All-Tournament Team status and receive individual plaques. The individual champion also receives a special award designating her as a medalist for the event. • The top 4 teams and all-tournament team members will receive a hole flag for the event. <table><tr><td>Championship Sport Manager</td><td>Host Site Contact</td></tr><tr><td>Rick Daum</td><td>Meaghan Hughes</td></tr><tr><td>NAIA National Office</td><td>Ann Arbor Sports Commission</td></tr><tr><td>120 West 12th Street, Suite 700</td><td>315 W Huron Street</td></tr><tr><td>Kansas City, MO 64105</td><td>Ann Arbor, MI 48103</td></tr><tr><td>Phone: (816) 595-8141</td><td>Phone: (734) 995-7281</td></tr><tr><td>Email: rdaum@naia.org</td><td>Email: mhughes@annarbor.org</td></tr></table>	Championship Sport Manager	Host Site Contact	Rick Daum	Meaghan Hughes	NAIA National Office	Ann Arbor Sports Commission	120 West 12 th Street, Suite 700	315 W Huron Street	Kansas City, MO 64105	Ann Arbor, MI 48103	Phone: (816) 595-8141	Phone: (734) 995-7281	Email: rdaum@naia.org	Email: mhughes@annarbor.org
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Factsheet: Men's Lacrosse

Dates and Site	The 2 nd annual NAIA Men's Lacrosse National Championship begins on Tuesday, May 12 th and concludes on Saturday, May 16 th with the location still to be announced.	
Format	The Men's Lacrosse National Championship includes a field of 8 teams. Teams will compete in a seeded, single elimination tournament to determine the champion.	
Qualification	A total of 29 member institutions sponsor men's lacrosse. Conferences and the Continental Athletic Conference automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 12. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the Association of Independent Institutions. The host institution (if one exists) receives an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process. If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added. Teams are selected to participate in conference/CAC postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.	
Playing Rules	Rules as published in the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Rulebook govern NAIA regular and postseason play, with NAIA modifications.	
Official Party	The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 39. Teams may dress up to 35 players. A maximum of 41 credentials may be issued (35 players plus 4 support personnel and up to 2 athletic trainers).	
Awards	The top two place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies • The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner. • Most Valuable Player is named and will receive an individual plaque. • Coach of the Year is named and will receive an individual plaque.	
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Factsheet: Women's Lacrosse

Dates and Site The 6th Annual NAIA Women's Lacrosse National Championship begins on Monday, May 11th and concludes on Friday, May 15th with the location to still be announced.

Format The Women's Lacrosse National Championship includes a field of 8 teams. Teams will compete in a seeded, single elimination tournament to determine the champion.

Qualification A total of 32 member institutions sponsor women's lacrosse. Conferences and the Continental Athletic Conference automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 12. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the Association of Independent Institutions. The host institution (if one exists) receives an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process. If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added.

Teams are selected to participate in conference/CAC postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.

Playing Rules Rules as published in the NCAA Women's Lacrosse Rulebook govern NAIA regular and postseason play, with NAIA modifications.

Official Party The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 35 players allowed in uniform and up to 4 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 39 credentials. Each team is also allowed up to two certified athletic trainers or medical personnel on the team sideline.

Awards The top two place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies.

- The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner.
- Most Valuable Player is named and will receive an individual plaque.
- Coach of the Year is named and will receive an individual plaque.

Senior Championship Manager

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Host Contact

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Factsheet: Indoor Track and Field

Dates and Site	The NAIA Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field National Championships are a three-day meet (Thursday-Saturday). The dates of the 61 st Annual Men's and the 46 th Annual Women's National Championships are March 5-7, 2026 at the Alachua County Sports & Events Center at Celebration Pointe in Gainesville, Florida.
Format	The NAIA Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field National Championships have 21 events for men and 21 events for women. The multi-events are conducted on Thursday and Friday, preliminary heats on Thursday and Friday, and Saturday is reserved for finals.
Qualification:	The Standards Committee of the NAIA-Track & Field Coaches Association establishes qualifying marks for each event. Event standards are determined after the committee evaluates final performances and field size from previous years. Qualifying times and marks must have been achieved in competition during the indoor season. Qualifying for the Indoor Championship may take place at an outdoor venue using indoor distances and requiring wind gauge readings. Each participating team is also allowed up to three right-of-membership entries that have not met the qualifying standards (excluding combined events), provided they attained a "B" standard for the event. All teams are required by NAIA policy to stay in one of the designated championship hotels in order to be eligible to compete in the national championships.
Rules	The official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Rule Book will be followed. USATF rules will be followed for judging the racewalk events.
Official Party	Each institution may enter up to eight qualified athletes per event.
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a \$150.00 entry fee for each team entered (men and women), plus \$15 per athlete on the roster, capped at a maximum of \$500 per institution.
Awards	The top four teams in the national championship receive team trophies. The championship teams (men and women) receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • Individual plaques and All-America status are given to the top eight finishers in each individual event and to the four members of the top eight relay teams. • The outstanding male and female performers of the indoor championships each receive a trophy. • The most valuable male and female performers of the indoor championships each receive a trophy. • National coaches of the year for men and women are recognized. These awards will be voted upon by the track and field coaches.

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Factsheet: Outdoor Track and Field

Dates and Site	The NAIA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field National Championships are a three-day meet (Wednesday-Friday). The 74 th Annual Men's and the 45 th Annual Women's Championships will be held May 20-22, 2026 at the Karl Straus Track in Asheville, North Carolina.
Format	The NAIA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field National Championships have 24 events for men and 24 events for women. The decathlon and heptathlon take place on Wednesday and Thursday along with preliminary heats. The finals in most running events take place on Friday.
Qualification:	The Standards Committee of the NAIA-Track & Field Coaches Association establishes qualifying marks for each event. Event standards are determined after the committee evaluates final performances and field size from previous years. Qualifying times and marks must have been achieved in competition during the outdoor season. Qualifying for the Outdoor Championship requires wind gauge readings. Each participating team is also allowed up to three right-of-membership entries that have not met the qualifying standards (excluding combined events), provided they attained a "B" standard for the event. All teams are required by NAIA policy to stay in one of the designated championship hotels in order to be eligible to compete in the national championships.
Rules	The official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Rule Book will be followed. USATF rules will be followed for judging the race walk events.
Official Party	Each institution may enter up to eight qualified athletes per event.
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a \$150.00 entry fee for each team entered (men and women), plus \$15 per athlete on the roster, capped at a maximum of \$500 per institution.
Awards	The top four teams in the national meet receive team trophies. The championship teams (men and women) receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • Individual plaques are given to the top eight finishers in each individual event and to the four members of the top eight relay teams. • The outstanding male and female performers of the outdoor championships each receive a trophy. • The most valuable male and female performers of the outdoor championships each receive a trophy. • National coaches of the year for men and women are recognized. These awards will be voted upon by the track and field coaches.

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Factsheet: Men's Soccer

Dates and Site The 67th Annual NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship will begin with First & Second Rounds taking place on Thursday and Saturday, November 20-22, 2025.

Teams advancing to the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship Final Site will play Monday, December 1 through Monday, December 8, the week after Thanksgiving at Orange Beach Sportsplex in Orange Beach, Alabama. Conference/CAC/Group qualifying tournaments must be completed by 11:59 PM (CT) on November 12, 2025.

Format The NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship is a 40-team single elimination tournament. Forty (40) teams will compete in 16 National Championship First & Second Round tournaments played on campus sites nationwide. The 16 Second Round winners will compete at the final site for the national championship. The host and the NAIA jointly determine game times.

At the final site, the first round will be played on Monday, quarterfinals played on Thursday, semifinals are played on Saturday and the finals are played on Monday. The NAIA Department of Championships and the host jointly determine the game times for all matches in the championship bracket.

Qualification Each NAIA member institution that sponsors intercollegiate men's soccer (192) shall have the opportunity to qualify for the National Championship. Conference/Independent/Groups automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for twelve. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each Conference/Independent/Grouping. The remaining berths are filled by at-large teams selected by the NAIA Men's Soccer Selection Committee using criteria established by the NAIA Men's Soccer Coaches Association (NAIA-MSCA) and confirmed by the officers of that group on a conference call held at the conclusion of Conference/Independent/Group tournament competition.

Playing Rules The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Soccer Rules and interpretations are followed for all NAIA regular-season and postseason play.

Official Party The Official Party for each team participating in postseason play is 26 players allowed in uniform and up to 6 support staff. The total party of 32 does not include up to two (2) certified athletic trainers or medical personnel.

Official Ball The SELECT Brilliant Super Elite soccer ball is the Official Ball for all NAIA National Championship First & Second Round and Final Site games.

Awards The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for the National Championship. National Championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. The participating coaches, in conjunction with the Tournament Committee, select a 13-player All-Tournament team, including a tournament Most Valuable Player. Also presented are the Outstanding Offensive and Outstanding Defensive Player Awards.

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Factsheet: Women's Soccer

Dates and Site The 42nd Annual NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship will begin with First & Second Rounds taking place on Thursday and Saturday, November 20-22, 2025.

Teams advancing to the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship Final Site will play Monday, December 1 through Monday, December 8, the week after Thanksgiving at Ashton Brosnahan Soccer Complex in Pensacola, Fla.. Conference/CAC/Group qualifying tournaments must be completed by 11:59 PM (CT) on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

Format The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship is a 40-team single elimination tournament. Forty (40) teams will compete in 16 National Championship First & Second Round tournaments played on campus sites nationwide. The 16 Second Round winners will compete at the final site for the national championship. The host and the NAIA jointly determine game times.

At the final site, the first round will be played on Monday, the quarterfinals will be played on Thursday, the semifinals will be played on Saturday and the finals are played on Monday. The NAIA Department of Championships and the host jointly determine the game times for all matches in the championship bracket.

Qualification Each NAIA member institution that sponsors intercollegiate women's soccer (199) shall have the opportunity to qualify for the national championship. Conferences and the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 12. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each affiliated conference and the Association of Independent Institutions. The remaining berths are filled by at-large teams selected by the NAIA Women's Soccer Selection Committee.

Playing Rules The official National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Soccer rules are followed for all NAIA regular and postseason play.

Official Party Twenty-six (26) players in uniform plus six (6) support staff are permitted for postseason play. A total of 32 people are allowed on the bench. The official party for expense purposes and all official functions shall be limited to 32 persons.

Official Ball The SELECT Brilliant Super ball (9.5-12.5 PSI) is the official ball for all NAIA national championship games.

Awards The top four place finishers in the national championship receive team trophies and members of the official party (up to 32) from each of the four teams receive individual plaques. The championship team also receives the traditional NAIA championship banner.

- A 13-member All-Tournament team is selected with members receiving individual plaques. A Most Valuable Player is selected by the Tournament Committee, participating coaches and media with the recipient receiving a plaque.
- The NAIA-Women's Soccer Coaches Association sponsors the Outstanding Offensive and Defensive Player Awards at the National Tournament Final Site. The recipients receive a plaque.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Softball

Dates and Site The 45th Annual NAIA Softball National Championship takes place May 21 – May 27, 2026 at the South Common Sports Complex in Columbus, Ga. Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (Formerly the Association of Independent Institutions/unaffiliated tournaments must be completed by May 5; and National Championship Opening Round tournaments take place May 11-14.

Format The NAIA Softball National Championship is a 48-team, double-elimination tournament (at both the opening round and final site). The National Championship Opening Round consists of eight five-team tournaments and two four-team tournaments at selected sites. The 10 opening round winners will compete at the final site for the national championship. The host and the NAIA jointly determine game times.

Qualification A total of 194 NAIA members sponsor intercollegiate softball. Conferences and the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) automatically qualify one berth per 6 and two berths per 10 teams. Each unaffiliated group will also receive an automatic berth. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each affiliated conference/CAC/unaffiliated group. 32 conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping berths and 16 at-large berths will be awarded. At-large berths are determined by the NAIA Softball National Selection Committee.

Teams are selected to participate in conference/CAC/unaffiliated postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC/unaffiliated Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.

Rules Official rules are the official softball rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) with NAIA-Softball Coaches Association modifications. These rules shall be applied to all contests (preseason, regular season and postseason).

Official Party A maximum of twenty (22) players are permitted in uniform. In addition, teams are permitted up to seven other credentialed support staff. The official party for expense purposes and additional official functions shall be limited to 29 persons.

Official Ball Rawlings is the official softball for all qualifying and national tournament games.

Awards The top four place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies and members of the official party (29) from the top four teams also receive individual plaques.

- The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner
- A 16-member All-Tournament team is selected by the tournament committee. All-Tournament members receive individual plaques.
- Most Valuable Player
- Coach of the Year
- Pitcher of the Year
- Player of the Year

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Swimming and Diving

Dates and Site	The 69 th NAIA Men's and the 45 th NAIA Women's Swimming and Diving National Championships are a four-day meet (Wednesday-Saturday). The dates are March 4-7, 2026, at the Elkhart Aquatics Center in Elkhart, Indiana.		
Format	The NAIA swimming and diving championships are conducted in a four-day format with preliminaries in the morning/afternoon and finals in the same events conducted in the evening. There are 20 events for men and 20 events for women. Both men's and women's individual champions are determined.		
Qualification	Qualifying times are established for each event by the Standards Committee of the NAIA-Swimming and Diving Coaches Association. Event standards are determined after the committee evaluates the marks from the previous three national events. Qualifying times must have been achieved in bona fide competition between September 1, 2025, and February 18, 2026. A total of 35 institutions sponsor men's swimming and diving, and 37 institutions sponsor women's swimming and diving.		
Rules	National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rule Book with the NAIA-Swimming and Diving Coaches Association modifications.		
Official Party	Only student-athletes who meet the qualification standards will be eligible to participate. Participants may only enter those events that they have qualified for during the competition season. Teams may list a maximum of 18 competitors on the official entry with divers counting as ½ of an athlete and swimmers counting as one athlete. New 2025-26: Any school that has 3-5 individual swimming qualifiers and achieves an automatic relay qualifying time in a single event may bring one additional relay only swimmer for the qualified relay. Relay only swimmers may not swim in any individual event.		
Entry Fees	Each institution is required to submit a fee of \$5.00 per individual for each event entered and \$20.00 for each relay entered, in those events which qualifying standards were achieved. There will be no refunds for swimmers who fail to compete. No entry form will be accepted unless accompanied by the fees. In addition to the registration fee, there is an athlete surcharge of \$25.00 per athlete.		
Awards	The top three place finishers for both men's and women's in the national championship receive team trophies. • Individual plaques are given to the top eight finishers in each individual event and to the four members of the top eight relay teams. • The swim of the meet will be presented to the male and female athlete who had the best single event based on Hy-Tek Open Points. • The outstanding male and female divers of the year will be awarded to the athlete who earns the most points for his/her team. • The outstanding male and female swimmer of the year will be awarded to the athlete who earns the most points for his/her team. • The championship team (men and women) receive the traditional NAIA championship banner.		
<table><tr><td>Championship Sport Manager Fred Aubuchon NAIA National Office 120 W. 12th St., Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105 Phone: (816) 595-8339 Email: faubuchon@naia.org</td><td>Host Site Contact Jason Lewkowicz Bethel University 200 East Jackson Boulevard Elkhart, IN 46516 Phone: (574) 807-7259 Email: jason.lewkowicz@betheluniversity.edu</td></tr></table>		Championship Sport Manager Fred Aubuchon NAIA National Office 120 W. 12 th St., Suite 700 Kansas City, MO 64105 Phone: (816) 595-8339 Email: faubuchon@naia.org	Host Site Contact Jason Lewkowicz Bethel University 200 East Jackson Boulevard Elkhart, IN 46516 Phone: (574) 807-7259 Email: jason.lewkowicz@betheluniversity.edu
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Factsheet: Tennis

Dates and Site	The NAIA Men's and Women's Tennis National Championships are five-day events (Tuesday-Saturday). The dates for the 2026 Tennis National Championships are May 12-16. This will be the 74 th Annual Men's Tennis Championship and the 45 th Annual Women's Tennis National Championship. The host site is Mobile Tennis Center in Mobile, Alabama.
Format	The NAIA Men's and Women's Tennis National Championships are team format tournaments. 24 teams will compete in each of the men's and women's single elimination championships. The National Championships will utilize a three doubles followed by six singles (3-6 Format). The format is three six-game set doubles matches with a seven-point tiebreak at 6-all. Doubles will be followed by six best-of-three set singles matches. Seven possible team points. The team that wins two of the three doubles matches receives one point. Each singles match is worth one point. Four or more points are required to win the team match. All matches are played to clinch.
Qualification	A total of 90 institutions sponsor men's tennis while 97 institutions sponsor women's tennis. Each conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping having six (6) or more institutions sponsoring tennis is entitled to send their champion to the national championship. Conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping having twelve (12) or more institutions is entitled to two berths to the national championship. The conferences/CAC will determine qualification and format procedures for all postseason qualifying events. The remaining berths are filled by at-large teams selected by the National Selection Committee. All teams must participate, if selected, in the post-season qualifying event as established by each conference, to qualify for the national championships.
Rules	The official rules of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association will be followed in all regular and post-season competitions with NAIA-Tennis Coaches Association approved modifications.
Official Party	Each institution is limited to fourteen players on their roster.
Official Ball	Wilson U.S. Open Extra Duty
Entry Fees	Each team is required to submit an entry fee of \$200.00 per team that can be paid prior to arrival or at registration. If a team pays prior to arrival, communication with the Championship Sport Manager is required.
Awards	The top four place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies and members of the official party (maximum 16) from the top four teams receive individual plaques. • The championship teams (men and women) receive the traditional NAIA championship banner. • The Ward-Ballinger Award is presented to the outstanding performer in the men's tournament. • The Marvin P. Richmond Award is presented to the outstanding performer in the women's tournament

Championship Sport Manager

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Host Site Contact

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Email: scottnovak2@gmail.com



Factsheet: Men's Volleyball

Dates and Site	The 7 th annual NAIA Men's Volleyball Championship takes place April 28 – May 2, 2026, at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Men's Volleyball Championship is hosted by Mount Mercy University. Affiliated conference/CAC tournaments must be completed by April 18.														
Format	The Men's Volleyball National Championship includes a field of twelve teams. The National Championship will use the format of pool play (four pools of 3 teams), followed by a single-elimination tournament with the top teams in each pool advancing to the semifinals of a single-elimination tournament. During pool play, each team will play one match against the two other teams in its pool. A total of four matches (one per pool) will be conducted on each of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the tournament. The top team in each pool will advance to Friday's semifinal matches, while on Saturday the winners of each semifinal match will meet in the National Championship match. The Host and the NAIA Department of Championships jointly determine the game time for all matches.														
Qualification	A total of 66 member institutions sponsor Men's Volleyball. Each of the eight conference/CAC/unaffiliated groupings automatically qualifies one berth per grouping to the National Invitational. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference/unaffiliated grouping. The host institution (Mount Mercy University) receives an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process (.650 record). If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added. The remaining three/four at-large berths are awarded by the Men's Volleyball National Selection Committee after the qualifying tournament conference deadline. Teams are selected to participate in conference/CAC postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.														
Playing Rules	All NAIA Men's Volleyball regular-season and postseason competitions will be governed by the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Rules, with approved NAIA modifications.														
Official Party	The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 20. Teams may dress up to 20 players in uniform. A maximum of 25 credentials may be issued (20 players and 5 support personnel). Up to two (2) additional credentials are available for Athletic Trainers.														
Official Ball	The NAIA – Red, White and Blue Molten Flistatec VSM5000 is the official volleyball for all Men's Volleyball postseason competition.														
Awards	The top four place finishers in the National Championship receive team trophies. • Individual plaques are given to the members of the top two finishing teams • The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship red banner. • A five-member All-Tournament Team is selected with members receiving individual plaques. • A Most Valuable Player is named and receives an individual plaque. • The NAIA also presents the Coach of the Year Award. • A Sportsman of the Year Award is also presented. <table><tr><td>Championship Sport Manager</td><td>Final Site Host Contact</td></tr><tr><td>Bruce Tate</td><td>Jay Fanta</td></tr><tr><td>NAIA National Office</td><td>Director of Sports Tourism-Cedar Rapids</td></tr><tr><td>120 W. 12th St., Suite 700</td><td>370 1st Ave. NE</td></tr><tr><td>Kansas City, MO 64105</td><td>Cedar Rapids, IA 52401</td></tr><tr><td>Phone: (816) 595-8196</td><td>Phone: (319) 731-4556</td></tr><tr><td>Email: btate@naia.org</td><td>Email: J.Fanta@tourismcedarrapids.com</td></tr></table>	Championship Sport Manager	Final Site Host Contact	Bruce Tate	Jay Fanta	NAIA National Office	Director of Sports Tourism-Cedar Rapids	120 W. 12 th St., Suite 700	370 1 st Ave. NE	Kansas City, MO 64105	Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	Phone: (816) 595-8196	Phone: (319) 731-4556	Email: btate@naia.org	Email: J.Fanta@tourismcedarrapids.com
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Factsheet: Women's Volleyball

Dates and Site The 46th Annual NAIA Volleyball National Championship begins on the Saturday before Thanksgiving with the National Championship Opening Round (November 22, 2025). The Final Site Tournament is played Wednesday through Tuesday (December 3–9, 2025), hosted by the Sioux City Convention and Tourism Bureau in Sioux City, Iowa. Affiliated conference/CAC tournaments must be completed by November 15, 2025.

Format The Volleyball National Championship includes a field of 48 teams. Forty-eight (48) teams will compete in 24 National Championship Opening Round matches played on campus sites nationwide. Opening round winners will advance to the final site for a 24-team pool play tournament. The top team from each pool advances to single elimination championship play. The host and the NAIA Department of Championships jointly determine the game time for all matches.

Qualification A total of 208 member institutions sponsor volleyball. Conferences and the Continental Athletic Conference automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two berths for ten sponsored teams. These automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the Continental Athletic Conference. The host institution (either Morningside University or Briar Cliff University) receives an automatic berth if it does not qualify through the automatic or at-large process (minimum of a .600 record required). If no host berth is awarded an additional at-large berth will be added.

Teams are selected to participate in conference/CAC postseason tournaments by the Conference/CAC Management Committees according to plans approved by the NAIA Department of Championships.

Playing Rules Rules as published in the NCAA Volleyball Rulebook govern NAIA regular and postseason play, with NAIA modifications.

Official Party The official party for expense purposes and all official functions is 20. Teams may dress up to 20 players. A maximum of 25 credentials may be issued (20 players, plus 5 support personnel). Up to two Athletic Trainers can receive separate credentials and are not a part of the official party.

Official Ball The NAIA Perfection Leather Volleyball by Baden (Red/White/Navy) is the official ball for all Women's Volleyball postseason competition.

Awards The top four place finishers in the national tournament receive team trophies.

- Individual plaques are given to the members of the top four finishing teams.
- The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner.
- A 14-member All-Tournament team is selected with members receiving individual plaques.
- Most Valuable Player is named and will receive an individual trophy.
- The NAIA also presents the Tournament Coach of the Year, Defender, Attacker, and Setter of the Tournament Awards

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Men's Wrestling

Dates and Site	The NAIA Wrestling National Championships is a three-day event currently held the first week of March. The 69 th Annual Championships will be held March 5-7, 2026 in Park City, KS, at Park City Arena. Visit Wichita will serve as the championship's host.
Format	The NAIA Wrestling National Championship has ten weight classes: 125 lbs., 133 lbs., 141 lbs., 149 lbs., 157 lbs., 165 lbs., 174 lbs., 184 lbs., 197 lbs. and 285 lbs. Each weight class bracket conducts a double-elimination tournament. Consolation matches are conducted to determine 3rd, 5th and 7th place. The team national championship is determined by using tournament scoring as stated in the NCAA Wrestling Rule Book with the exception of no bonus point scoring involving matches between wrestlers from the same team.
Qualification	A total of 70 member institutions sponsor NAIA wrestling. Conference tournaments must be completed by Saturday, February 21. Individuals may qualify for the national championships by: - Automatic Qualifying - The top wrestler per weight class in each of the postseason national qualifying tournaments shall qualify for the national championship. - Additional automatic qualifier allocations for the National Championship will be determined based on the final top 25 individual regular season rankings. If a conference does not have an individual ranked in the top 25, an allocation will be deducted from the 7 national at-large at that weight class. - At-Large Qualifying 30 National At-Large Bids – 3 per weight class - National At-Large Bids – National bids will be selected by the National Rating Committee (raters and oversight) via individual vote using the current at-large criteria until all 320 slots are filled. NOTE: Athletes cannot compete in another weight class at the national championships than they competed in at the postseason national qualifying tournament.
Rules	The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Wrestling Rules and Interpretations will be followed, with NAIA modifications.
Official Party	Each member institution may enter up to 12 wrestlers in the championships, with no more than two per weight class. Each school will receive up to four (4) credentials for coaches and support staff. Four (4) additional credentials can be purchased at a cost of \$30 apiece. Additional "official party" credentials can be purchased for \$60 apiece. A maximum of twenty-five (25) official party credentials are available for coaches, support staff, warm-up partners, etc. No one will be allowed access on the arena floor without a valid credential. Up to two (2) additional credentials are available for Athletic Trainers.
Entry Fees	There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$150.00 per athlete.
Awards	The top four team finishers in the national tournament receive trophies. - Individual plaques are given to the top eight finishers in each weight class. - The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner. - Wrestlers placing 1-8 in weight class earn NAIA All-American honors. - The Coach of the Year Award, Most Outstanding Wrestler Award, and Manuel Gorriaran Memorial Award (Wrestler with the most falls in the least time) are also given.

Championship Sport Manager

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Factsheet: Women's Wrestling

Dates and Site	The NAIA Wrestling National Championships is a two-day event currently held the second week of March. The 4 th Annual Championship will be held March 13-14, 2026, in Wichita, Kan., at Park City Arena.
Format	The NAIA Women's Wrestling National Invitational has ten weight classes: 103 lbs., 110lbs., 117 lbs., 124 lbs., 131 lbs., 138 lbs., 145 lbs., 160 lbs., 180 lbs. and 207 lbs. Each weight class bracket conducts a double-elimination tournament. Consolation matches are conducted to determine 3rd, 5th and 7th place. The team Championship is determined by using tournament scoring as stated in the NCAA Wrestling Rule Book with the exception of no bonus point scoring involving matches between wrestlers from the same team.
Qualification	A total of 46 member institutions sponsor women's wrestling. Conference tournaments must be completed by Sunday, March 1. Individuals may qualify for the national championships by: 1. Automatic Qualifying a. The top wrestler per weight class in each of the five postseason national qualifying tournaments shall qualify for the national championship. b. Conferences will be allotted automatic qualifier spots based on the individuals ranking in the final top 17 at each given weight (e.g., The Mid-South has four wrestlers ranked in the top 167 at 103 lbs. in the final regular season rating and will be allocated four automatic qualifiers at 103 lbs., to the National Championships. 2. At-Large Qualifying a. 30 Qualifying Tournament At-Large Bids – Each of the conference/CAC/affiliated groups will receive six (6) conference wild cards, to allocate to a wrestler that did not qualify automatically. b. National At-Large Bids – National bids will be selected by the National Rating Committee (raters and oversight) via individual vote using the current at-large criteria until all 210 slots are filled. NOTE: Athletes cannot compete in a lower weight class at the national championships than they competed in at the postseason national qualifying tournament.
Rules	The USA Wrestling Rules and Interpretations will be followed with NAIA Women's Wrestling Coaches Association modifications.
Official Party	Each member institution may enter up to 12 wrestlers in the championships; with no more than two per weight class. Each school will receive up to four (4) credentials for coaches and support staff. Four (4) additional credentials can be purchased at a cost of \$30 apiece. Additional "official party" credentials can be purchased for \$60 apiece. A maximum of twelve (12) official party credentials are available for coaches, support staff, etc. No one will be allowed access on the arena floor without a valid credential. Up to two (2) additional credentials are available for Athletic Trainers.
Entry Fees	There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$150.00 per athlete.
Awards	The top four team finishers in the national tournament receive trophies. • Individual plaques are given to the top eight finishers in each weight class. • The championship team receives the traditional NAIA championship banner. • Wrestlers placing 1-8 in weight class earn NAIA All-American honors. • The Coach of the Year Award, Most Outstanding Wrestler Award, Team Sportsmanship Award and Manuel Gorriaran Memorial Award (Wrestler with the most falls in the least time) are also given.

Championship Sport Manager

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NAIA Eligibility Center PlayNAIA.org Resources

HELPFUL LINKS TO PLAYNAIA.ORG

Membership Guide to the NAIA Eligibility Center:

https://play.mynaia.org/media/rceb4znt/naia_eligibilitycenter_membershipguide.pdf

Institution dashboard: <https://play.mynaia.org/colleges-universities/>

- The "Resources" tab includes member resources, student guides, situation analysis and appellate information.
- "Short List" allows access to request reviews or appeals or start new applications through students' decision details.

Directories for competition, high schools and colleges: <https://play.mynaia.org/colleges-universities/directories>

PLAYNAIA DASHBOARDS FOR MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Each institution has its own PlayNAIA Institution Dashboard on PlayNAIA.org where the staff members authorized by the athletics director can log in to manage your school's Short List, monitor prospective students' progress through the process and view their eligibility determinations.

Athletics directors use NAIA Connect to add the permissions for coaches, faculty athletics representatives, registrar offices and others to have access to the institution dashboard on PlayNAIA.org. Once a staff member has been added to the staff list in NAIA Connect and sets a password in PlayNAIA, they can login to PlayNAIA.org. Staff uses the login in the upper right "Eligibility Center Login" area to access the institution dashboard. Conference commissioners and conference eligibility chairs listed in NAIA Connect should have access to PlayNAIA Manager in a similar manner as described above.

INSTITUTION SHORT LIST

A Short List comprises the names of prospective students who are on a coach's most serious "short list" of recruits and serves as an indication for the eligibility center to begin the determination process.

Each school has one Short List accessible from the institution dashboard. Coaches view only their sport(s) while administrators view it its entirety or search and view by sport and by academic year. A Short List is exclusive to the institution and is not accessible by anyone outside of the institution and the NAIA Eligibility Center staff.

At the end of the recruiting process, the coach or designated athletic department staff member needs to log into the institution's dashboard on PlayNAIA.org to build the Short List from among the students registered. Transfer students and students with a break between high school graduation and enrollment at an NAIA school must be on a Short List before the eligibility review process can begin. If a prospective student-athlete has not registered with the NAIA Eligibility Center, a coach will not be able to add the name to the Short List.

Students will receive a notification that they have been added to a short list and, due to student privacy, must approve your institution's access to view their profile. One approved, the institution can see what information is missing, and communicate with the student to ensure all necessary documentation is sent by viewing a student's Activity List.

REGISTRAR CONTACT IN NAIA CONNECT

It is important for each school to list their school's registrar in the staff listing of NAIA Connect. The NAIA Eligibility Center staff will only accept information about a student's academic record from the registrar listed.

Further, the individual listed as the registrar is the only person who will have automatic access to the institution's Student List. The Student List is where registrars will upload electronic transcripts.

LEARN MORE IN THE LEARNING HUB

Want to learn more? The eligibility center provides online courses covering essential eligibility center topics. Login to NAIA Connect to access the [PlayNAIA courses](#).



NAIA Marketing Tools

Find these resources and more at NAIA.org. Click [HERE](#) for the NAIA Brand Guidelines.

Logos & Style Guide



The bridge logo signifies membership in the NAIA and must link to NAIA.org.

[Download zip file of NAIA logos](#)



Champions of Character® logo indicates support of the initiative and must link to NAIA.org/character.

[Download zip file of CofC logos](#)



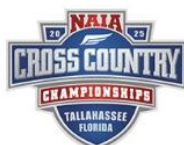
Champions of Character® 25th Anniversary logo - celebrating 25 years of values that build true champions on and off the field.

[Download zip file of CofC 25th Anniversary logos](#)



PlayNAIA represents the NAIA Eligibility Center and must link to PlayNAIA.org.

[Download zip file of PlayNAIA logos](#)



[2025-26 National, Invitational and Opening Round Logos](#)

The NAIA provides an official logo for each championship and invitational.



[National, Invitational and Opening Round Logos](#)

(No year, no location)



[Brand Guidelines](#)

to help answer any questions when visually representing the NAIA logo and brand

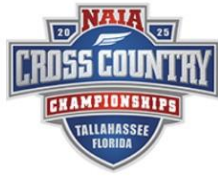


[Championship Hosts Manual & Style Guide](#)



[Program Brand Guidelines](#)
for championship/invitational programs

Championship & Invitational Assets



2025-26 National, Invitational and Opening Round Logos

The NAIA provides an official logo for each championship and invitational.

Fall Sport Videos

Click here to download: [MP4 videos](#)



NAIA Cross Country Championship video :15



NAIA Football Championship video :15



NAIA Men's Soccer Championship video :15



NAIA Women's Soccer Championship video :15



NAIA Women's Volleyball Championship video :15

Winter Sport Videos

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NAIA Men's Basketball Championship video :30



NAIA Women's Basketball Championship video :30



NAIA Bowling Championship video :30



NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance
Championship video :30



NAIA Indoor Track & Field Championship video :30



NAIA Swimming & Diving Championship video :30



NAIA Tennis Championship video :15



NAIA Men's Volleyball Championship video :15



NAIA Lacrosse Championship video :15

Invitational Sport Videos

Click here to download: [MP4 videos](#)



NAIA Women's Beach Invitational video :15



NAIA Women's Flag Football video :15



Print Ads, Brochures & Posters



NAIA PROGRAM ADS
 Fall Sports (6): [Color](#) | [B/W](#)
 Winter Sports (8): [Color](#) | [B/W](#)
 Spring Sports (10): [Color](#) | [B/W](#)
 Invitationals (2): [Color](#) | [B/W](#)



The Right Way To Play
 Print Ad (8.5x11" with bleeds)
[Softball ad](#) | [Baseball ad](#)



[Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete \(PDF\)](#)



Reminds student-athletes what they need to do to maintain eligibility



[Drug-Free Sport AXIS Poster](#)

Vinyl Banners

Artwork available for download in three different sizes:



[Fence Banner - 8' x 4' - Tennis](#)



[Fence Banner - 4' x 2' - Tennis](#)



[Fence Banner - 2' x 2' - Tennis](#)

[Click here for more sports, Champions of Character®, and NAIA banner options!](#)

Mesh Banners

Artwork available for download for 1st/2nd Round, Opening Round, and Championship banners:



10x3 ft - NAIA Battle for the Red Banner



10x3 ft - NAIA First & Second Rounds



10x3 ft - NAIA Opening Round

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NAIA Champions of Character® Videos

Download videos for time-outs, PSA announcements or any other opportunities to reinforce the character messages. [Click here to download MP4s.](#)



Champions of Character® 30 SEC Commercial



Teaming Up for Character™ :30



Champions of Character Student-Athletes 1:00

NAIA TV Ads

Click here to download: [MP4s](#)



NAIA Championships Free Streaming:20



Compete with the best. Experience the difference: 30



Teaming Up for Character™:30



Campus Life:30



Emerging Sports:30



Together in Tradition:30



Character-Driven Athletics:30



Experience NAIA:30



NAIA History:30

NAIA Men's Basketball Championship Videos

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NAIA Men's Basketball Championship video :15



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Experience Today's NAIA
Student-Athlete - Logan Brettell :30



Experience Today's NAIA
Student-Athlete - Shaefer Schuetz :30



Experience Today's NAIA
Parent - Jeff Schuetz :30



NAIA Corporate Partners

For more information on all of our partners, please visit: <https://www.naia.org/partnerconnect/index>