



2026-27
**WOMEN'S SOCCER
COACHES MANUAL**



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IMPORTANT DATES

2026-27 WOMEN'S SOCCER SPORT CALENDAR

AUGUST 3	START – Practices, Scrimmages & Exhibitions
AUGUST 19	START – National Coaches Poll Releases <i>Dates: Aug. 19 (Preseason), Sept. 2 and Sept. 16</i>
AUGUST 20	START – Competitions
SEPTEMBER 1	START – Player of The Week Releases <i>Dates: Sept. 1, Sept. 8, Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 29, Oct. 6, Oct. 13, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, and Nov. 3</i>
SEPTEMBER 30	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Scholar-Athlete
OCTOBER 1	START – Area Rating Committee Ranking Releases <i>Dates: Oct. 1, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, and Nov. 12</i>
OCTOBER 1	START – National Selection Committee Polls Releases <i>Dates: Oct. 1, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, and Dec. 18 (Postseason Poll)</i>
OCTOBER 1	DEADLINE – First & Second Round Facility Certification Application
OCTOBER 14	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
NOVEMBER 2	DEADLINE – Submitting Bid Packet for First & Second Round Host Institutions
NOVEMBER 11	DEADLINE – Submitting Champions of Character Nomination
NOVEMBER 11	DEADLINE – Completion of Conference/CAC/Group Qualifying Events
NOVEMBER 13	DEADLINE – Submitting All-Conference/CAC/Group Team ballots to National Office
NOVEMBER 13	RELEASE – National Championship Qualifiers, Host Sites, and Bracket
NOVEMBER 16	DEADLINE – Submitting Official Postseason Rosters
NOVEMBER 19-21	NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship – First & Second Round <i>16 Host Sites</i>
NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 7	43RD NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship – Final Site <i>Jack Allen Sports Complex – Decatur, Ala.</i>
DECEMBER 14	RELEASE – NAIA Women's Soccer All-America Teams & Other Postseason Awards
JANUARY 7	DEADLINE – Sport Motion Submissions
JANUARY 20-23	United Soccer Coaches Association Convention – Kansas City, Mo.
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Scholar Teams
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Hall of Fame Due

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Conference Tournament Deadline	November 11	November 10	November 8	November 7	November 13
First & Second Round	Nov. 19-21	Nov. 18-20	Nov. 16-19	Nov. 15-17	Nov. 21-23
Final Site	Nov. 30-Dec. 7	Nov. 29-Dec. 6	Nov. 27-Dec. 4	Nov. 26-Dec. 3	Dec 2-9

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

Rules governing NAIA regular-season and postseason play are the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Soccer Rules unless otherwise noted in the NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches' Manual. These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular-season and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA.

[Click here to view/download the NCAA Soccer Rulebook.](#)

NAIA Women's Soccer Rule Modification to the NCAA Women's Soccer Rules

- A. The field of play shall be rectangular, with a length of at least 115 yards and a width of at least 70 yards. The NCAA exception for facilities in use before 1995 is not recognized by the NAIA. (This adjustment only applies to national championship competition: first & second rounds and final site.)

GAME OFFICIALS

The outcome of all games is under the jurisdiction of game officials. A protest may be filed by an authorized representative of an involved institution or governing sports authority providing it relates to: **(1) Player identification or (2) Illegal participation by ejected or suspended student-athletes, coaches and team personnel.** Protests shall not be considered for any other reason, including referee judgment, accuracy of a game official's decision or errors made by a game official. A protest shall be filed within 48 hours of the contest using the [NAIA Protest Form](#).

All NAIA teams are required to use a standardized [NAIA pre-game roster form](#) to be exchanged prior to all matches. One version must include yellow/red card information and be distributed to the opposing team, table/press box personnel and media. A separate version (without yellow/red card totals) must be distributed to the game officials at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

If a game is suspended prior to its completion (because of the elements or other causes), the game shall not count; unless it has proceeded to the 70:00-minute mark or beyond. In that case, it would be considered a game. If the decision is made to resume a game that did not progress beyond the 70:00 mark; it shall be resumed from the point of interruption and all statistics will carry over to the resumed game, including cards (See Rule 7.7 Suspended Game). Statistics from the first game shall not count. However, any ejections or cautions occurring in the first game shall be subject to the procedures stated in the NCAA Rulebook. Games that are suspended by an official and resumed the same day after an "official delay" can be resumed and completed from the point of suspension. A game official may also "terminate" play due to player/coach/team conduct and declare a forfeit winner at any time during a contest.

The three-person diagonal officiating system is required per NCAA rules. It is strongly recommended that the host institution for regular season games be responsible for hiring and compensating the game officials. In extenuating circumstances, fewer than three officials may be used by mutual agreement.

Officials for Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Group national qualifying games shall be assigned by the conference/CAC/ unaffiliated grouping or by policy established by the affiliated conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping executive committee. Compensation is the responsibility of the host institution.

OFFICIAL BALL

The Official Ball for NAIA postseason competition is the [Select Sport America Brilliant Super](#).

Select Sport America will provide the balls for National Championship competition. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of the Select Sport America Brilliant Super for regular-season and Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group tournament play.

SEASON RECORDS

Won-loss records for all member institutions participating in Women's Soccer shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall NOT include games against junior colleges, clubs, foreign (Canada and Mexico excluded), or military teams.



Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#).

CODE OF ETHICS

The NAIA-WSCA adopted the United Soccer Coaches Ethics Statement with NAIA modifications (Appendix D), to which the NAIA women's soccer coaches are to adhere. This is in addition to the NAIA Coaches Code and Code of Ethics outlined on pages ii & iii in the NAIA Official Handbook.

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

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. A player, coach or other bench personnel ejected from the game must leave the venue, be out of sight and sound and is prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel until the completion of the contest, including all overtime periods. Exception: The AT is permitted to be in the designated spectator area if he/she is ejected. If the ejected individual(s) is a player of record in the game at the time of the ejection, the player, who cannot be replaced, shall leave the game and his team shall play short. Ejections also result in subsequent game(s) suspension as outlined in Rule 12.8.

[Ejection Report Forms](#) must be completed by the ejecting NAIA official and sent to the Athletic Director of the ejected student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. Protests based on matters of referee judgement or the accuracy of a decision shall not be considered.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules **allow protests through an official process** outlined in each sport rule book. **Protests based on matters of referee judgment or the accuracy of a decision shall not be considered.**

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

Official Party:

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 26 players allowed in uniform and up to 6 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum of 32 credentials: 26 student-athlete credentials and 6 official party credentials.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via NAIA Connect (<https://www.naiiaconnect.org/s/login>) and sent to the NAIA National Office. If you do not have a login account, please contact naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

If you have trouble with the online roster form, please contact NAIA Connect support at naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org. For any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the NAIA Sport Manager.

Postseason rosters (and ejection disclosures) will be processed electronically and the administrator completing the roster will sign electronically. Postseason rosters no longer need to be sent to the NAIA National Office.

The list of up to 26 eligible players (Official Postseason Roster and Entry Form) must be submitted at the time of the institution's selection into NAIA postseason play. Only players on the official postseason roster may be in uniform. If a team is discovered using a player not on the official postseason roster at any time during the postseason tournament, that team will be immediately disqualified from further postseason play that year. From the point of first infraction by a team using a player not on the official postseason roster, all subsequent games shall be forfeited by the offending team.

A copy of this roster form MUST also be hand-carried to the site of the Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference Affiliated Group qualifying tournament and National Championship (First & Second Round and Final Site) and be presented to the respective Championship Site Supervisor prior to that institution's participation in the tournament.



The deadline for certifying the official roster of 26 players is 30 minutes prior to each team's first game of any conference tournament, First & Second Round, or Final Site.

Once the National Championship (First & Second Round or Final Site) begins, no player may play who is not on the official roster.

Medical Personnel - Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration only with a photo ID.

Please [apply here](#) for a medical personnel credential.
(Applications required for Final Site play only.)

Sports Information / Media Personnel - All SIDs/Media personnel must apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up at the box office only with a photo ID. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at the coaches' pick-up.

Please [apply here](#) for a Final Site Media Credential.

Administrator Personnel - All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office. All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

ROSTER CHANGES

Any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for women's soccer for the current season may replace a player on the official roster between the Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) / Unaffiliated Group tournaments and the national championship. Any change made to a roster must be reported to the NAIA. An updated roster notification should be emailed to the NAIA (cfabry@naia.org and bmccall@naia.org). The coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.

For unaffiliated group qualifying tournament plans that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, roster changes cannot be made once this preliminary competition begins. Unaffiliated group tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for affiliated conference/CAC tournaments.

For the National Championship, roster changes are permissible between the First & Second Round and the start of the Final Site competition. Replacements are permitted only from eligible athletes.

UNIFORMS

Teams must have both light and dark colored uniforms available. Home teams wear light colored uniforms, and visitors wear dark ones. Numbers must be easily distinguishable from the predominant background color(s) and pattern. Numbers must be displayed on the front and back of each player's jersey. Socks must match the dominant color of jerseys.

Goalkeepers wear jerseys that distinguish them from all field players and socks that distinguish them from their opponents' field players.

Sponsor Logos

Approved NAIA uniform rules modifications to allow sponsor logos/patches during competition in Women's Soccer.

- Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
- The logos may not exceed the standard size of 2.25 inches square.
- Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any other legalized drugs (for example, Oregon marijuana) are not permitted.
- Sponsors whose sole or primary business function is sports gambling (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, etc.) are not permitted.
- Sponsor logos must be in the same location on each set of uniforms (e.g., if the home whites' patch is on the neckline, all home whites must be the same; away jerseys could be in a different permissible location)



Primary Location: Front shoulder panel, opposite the manufacturer's logo. Between the apex of the neckline and the shoulder seam.

Secondary Permissible Location: Centered on the bottom right sleeve (as worn) or centered at the bottom opposite sleeve of the manufacturer's logo.

Alternate Permissible Location: If neither of the above locations is available on the back of the jersey, the apex/center of the neckline is as close to the neckline as is possible.

EXPENSES

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

PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship, including First & Second Round, must attend all event functions, including, but not limited to – coaches' meetings, First & Second Round celebrations, and Champions of Character initiatives. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the site of the National Championship (First & Second Round or Final Site). This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his student-athletes at the National Championship site, during the championship, and at all activities connected with the team's participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

INSURANCE

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

REPORTING SCORES

Scores from all games of the Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions) /Unaffiliated Group tournaments must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard via Presto Stats within 24 hours of the game/session.

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

The Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly Association of Independent Institutions)/Group tournaments are planned and administered by the Conference/CAC/Group Soccer Committees under the leadership of their soccer chair and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as prescribed by the Conference/CAC/Group Executive Committee or Commissioner.

Conference/CAC/Group postseason tournament plans must be submitted to the National Office no later than **September 1, 2026**. Plans must include a weather contingency plan. The tournament deadline **will not** be extended for weather delays.

DATES AND SITES

The dates and sites of the Conference/CAC qualifying tournaments shall be determined by their executive committees. The deadline for completion of the 2026 NAIA Women's Soccer Conference/CAC/Group qualifying tournaments is **Wednesday, November 11, 2026**.

TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

Consideration may be given to any one or combination of the following criteria in selecting teams for the postseason tournaments

1. An approved rating system;
2. Regular-season overall win-loss record;
3. Overall win-loss record against NAIA teams within the conference, and/or
4. Any system approved by the NAIA Championships Department.

ADMINISTRATION

If available, the Conference/CAC/Group soccer chairs will serve as administrators for their respective national qualifying tournament 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 national qualifying tournament games must determine a winner. Games tied after regulation must utilize the tiebreaker procedures outlined in the NCAA rulebook.

FINANCES

The host site for all Conference/CAC/Group qualifying tournament games is responsible for the following:

1. Compensation of game officials.
2. Ordering Conference/CAC/Group awards, if applicable (see General Information, Section IV, I of this handbook for information on officially approved NAIA awards).
3. Administrative expenses, including security, ticket personnel, and public address announcer, scorer, timer, etc.
4. Expenses of game administrator, if applicable.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FIRST & SECOND ROUND

DATES AND SITES

The deadline for prospective NAIA Women's Soccer Championship First & Second Round Tournament hosts to submit an official bid is **November 2, 2026**. Announcement of the 16 National Championship First & Second Round hosts will be in conjunction with the release of qualifiers.

FACILITY CERTIFICATION

In order to be eligible to serve as a First & Second Round host, all potential hosts, including NAIA institutions or Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) partnering with an NAIA institution, must complete the [Facility Certification](#) process. The Facility Certification process ensures that all First & Second Round host facilities meet certain minimum venue standards. The deadline to submit a Facility Certification application for Women's Soccer is **October 1, 2026**.

Completion of the Facility Certification process does not automatically qualify the submitter to host the First & Second Round. The Facility Certification, in addition to submitting an Official First & Second Round [Bid Form](#), is required for consideration in the host selection process. The deadline for prospective NAIA Women's Soccer First & Second Round hosts to submit an official bid is **November 2, 2026**.

A list of all Approved First & Second Round Certified Facilities can be found [HERE](#).

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship First & Second Round is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA Site Supervisors. The NAIA Site Supervisor is responsible for the management of tournament games and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. NAIA Site Supervisors conduct a tournament coaches' meeting, work with the supervisor of officials, and coordinate both pre- and post-tournament ceremonies.

All national champions should be determined in competition, with national championships played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite site supervisor 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.

QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS

The 40 teams that will compete in the 2026 NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship First & Second Round matches will be determined using the 2026-27 NAIA Women's Soccer Qualification Plan, approved by the NAC and available in [NAIA Connect](#).

Each Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly Association of Independent Institutions) with six teams competing shall automatically qualify one representative to the First & Second Round. Conferences with 12 or more teams shall automatically qualify two representatives for the First & Second Round.

There are no limits on the number of at-large berths at an unaffiliated conference or the Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions).

SELECTION & SEEDING



The 40 teams in the National Championship will be a combination of Conference/CAC/Group automatic qualifiers and at-large qualifiers determined by the Women's Soccer National Selection Committee. The 40-team field will be seeded by the Women's Soccer National Selection Committee.

FORMAT

The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship is a 40-team single-elimination tournament consisting of 16 First & Second Round sites. 16 First & Second Round host sites will be selected based on seeding and the quality/ability to host. The top 8 seeds will host three teams at their host site. The lowest-seeded teams (#4/#5) in the tournament will have a First-Round play-in game at each of the three team sites. The second round will include all of the remaining teams competing for a spot in the 16-team final site.

Teams will be seeded by the NAIA Women's Soccer Selection Committee and assigned to a First & Second Round site using the following criteria:

1. Geographical location of teams
2. Financial considerations
3. Competitive balance

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

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

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 within 24 hours 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 the appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and the President of the institution.

NOTE – The NAC sport liaison will be included in the selection meeting to listen to the discussion of the Selection Committee. The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection.

FILM EXCHANGE

Each team is required to share two games to the tournament film exchange within 48 hours of the post-season selections show. Teams are required to share their most recent postseason game and their last home game of the regular season. All videos must be the full match, unedited, and include any overtime periods and penalty kicks.

Within 48 hours of the conclusion of the First & Second Rounds, the host site is responsible for sharing film to the exchange in preparation for the Final Site. A First & Second Round host site hosting multiple rounds is required to upload First Round games after the conclusion of the match.

The film exchange is mandatory. Any violation of the film exchange policy will result in a \$500 fine.

TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council and the Council of Presidents have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate for traveling teams in the First & Second Round competition. For those institutions that require air travel to a First & Second Round, institutions are no longer required to secure a quote through Short's Travel to be eligible for any First & Second Round travel reimbursements. Please contact Short's Travel (816-323-6405) to book your travel arrangements.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum amount of their transportation and housing expenses, determined by the Council of Presidents (COP), prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in the NAIA Soccer National Championship First & Second Round.

There are two categories for potential transportation reimbursement –

1. Trips less than 750 miles –
 - Air travel will not be eligible for reimbursement without prior written approval from the NAIA.



- Expenses for one standard 55-passenger bus, or up to two 15-passenger vans. Institutions are responsible for arranging all ground transportation needs.
 - Teams traveling close to 750 miles may submit a written request to the NAIA for approval to use air travel. Written request must be accompanied by –
 - The estimated cost of ground transportation
 - Any airline tickets purchased without written approval from the NAIA Department of Championships will not be eligible for reimbursement.
2. For trips over 750 miles –
- Air transportation will typically be used.
 - Commercial airline flights for up to 32 members of the official party.
 - A quote for alternative proposed travel arrangements.

The traveling team's institution is responsible for transportation expenses incurred from campus to the NAIA-designated airport for departure and return.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL SITE

DATES AND SITES

The NAIA Women's Soccer Final Site will be hosted by the City of Decatur and Decatur Morgan County Tourism at Jack Allen Sports Complex in Decatur, Alabama, on the dates of November 30-December 7, 2026.

ADMINISTRATION

The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA and the NAIA-WSCA National Tournament Committee. The tournament committee is responsible for the management of tournament games and the general welfare of participating teams and coaches. The NAIA Tournament Committee conducts tournament coaches' meetings, works with the supervisor of officials, and coordinates both pre- and post-tournament ceremonies. The National Tournament Games Committee is made up of the officers of the NAIA-WSCA. Should a member of the games committee have a team qualify for the national tournament, the NAIA Sport Manager will appoint an alternate to serve on the committee.

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.

QUALIFICATION

The winning teams from the 16 NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship First & Second Round sites will advance to the National Championship Final Site.

SEEDING

The field will be formatted as a straight bracket play. No reseeding of the teams will occur at any point in the tournament.

FORMAT

The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship Final Site 16-team single-elimination tournament consisting of the 16 First & Second Round winners.

The Round of 16 play of the National Championship will take place on Monday and Tuesday. The quarterfinals will take place on Thursday, and the Semifinals will be played on Saturday. Monday will be the National Championship. There will be an off day between each round of the tournament.

Half-time at the Final Site shall be 15 minutes in length. All games shall be of regulation length and will utilize all NCAA postseason overtime procedures.

GAME TIMES



The host organization, the NAIA Championships Department, and the Tournament Committee jointly determine times for all games. Game times are tentative and are subject to change by the Tournament Committee, Final Site Host, and/or NAIA Championship Sport Manager.

At the Final Site, teams traveling from the East and Central time zones should not play the last match of the day when having to change more than one time zone. Teams traveling from Mountain and Pacific time zones should not be scheduled in the early morning session when changing more than one time zone. Once the Final Site bracket is determined, game times shall be assigned.

TEAM HOUSING

All participating teams must stay at the designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team ineligible for participation and any potential reimbursement.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship must attend all functions, including, but not limited to, Parade of Champions, coaches' meetings, and student-athlete experience event. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Playability should be determined by the onsite Games Committee in consultation with the national office. Every effort should be made by the Games Committee to conclude the National Championship on schedule. If necessary, the following Inclement Weather Policy will be used at the Final Site:

If the weather forecast indicates adverse weather conditions will impact matches during the final site, the NAIA can alter match start times to allow competition to be completed. If a match's start time is altered, both institutions will be notified at least two (2) hours prior to the original start time of the match. No match shall be started prior to 8:00 a.m. local time or after 11:30 p.m. local time. If weather conditions do not allow for games to be completed the same day they started in the Round of 16 (day 1 and day 2), or Quarterfinal Round (day 3), within the time parameters listed above, the tournament schedule will be pushed back, and if necessary, the scheduled off day (day 4) will be used as a competition date. If competitions on Semifinals (day 5) and/or Championship (day 6) are not able to be played due to inclement weather, the national championship schedule will be altered to have the Semifinals played on Sunday, pending written approval of all four participating schools and the Championship the day after. Should approval not be granted by all participants for Sunday play, the round will be moved to the next playable date.

It is the responsibility of the host Medical Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA National Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as a result of severe weather. The certified Athletic Trainer is to notify the NAIA Championship Sport Manager, who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (i.e., Tournament Committee), will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

OFFICIALS

The NAIA Department of Championships contracts 8 officials to work the Women's Soccer National Championship Final Site. Nominees are submitted by each Conference Assignor, and officials will submit an application of interest to officiate at the Final Site. Officials are evaluated and selected for the Final Site by the NAIA National Assignor of Officials using an approved set of criteria.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prior to the National Championship, a Final Site Coaches Packet will be sent to all advancing coaches, which will include specific instructions regarding transportation, housing, practices, and all responsibilities upon advancing to the Final Site. Please handle all necessary responsibilities as early as possible.

Team Statistics – Team statistics must be submitted to the National Office for inclusion in the media press book.

Check-In – Upon arrival at the Final Site, teams must check in prior to the coaches' meeting the day prior to the beginning of the tournament. NAIA personnel will be at check-in to greet all teams, provide informational materials, and answer questions.

Coaches Meeting – The Tournament Committee will hold a mandatory meeting for all head coaches advancing to the Final Site. This meeting will serve as an informational forum for clarifying questions prior to the tournament.



Student-Athlete Experience - There will be a pre-tournament student-athlete experience prior to the start of the final site competition. All teams are required to attend this function. Each team may only have its official roster attend.

Radio, Television, and Internet - The broadcast of any postseason game/match is governed by broadcast policies as printed in the NAIA Policy Handbook. This includes audio broadcasts and video broadcasts through conventional outlets and new media avenues. The NAIA Reserves the right to all championship final site broadcasts and streams. All rebroadcasts or reproductions of an NAIA Championship without the expressed approval of the NAIA are prohibited.

For information relative to these policies, contact: [Brandt McCall](#), NAIA Manager of Athletics Communications

TRAVEL

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use code.

MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at (816) 979-3493 or mduran@MastersTransportation.com for more information.

NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). Please refer directly to the NAIA Policy Handbook for the following –

Competition

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

Eligibility

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students – Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY POLICY PLAY

As a matter of policy, NAIA First & Second Round and National Championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance-enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing including the [Drug Testing Info Sheet](#) the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – <https://www.naia.org/student-athletes/current/wellness-center/>

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing Consent Form](#) in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form at check-in. It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the postseason roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of

such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)

COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA-WOMEN'S SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION

The NAIA-Women's Soccer Coaches Association (NAIA-WSCA) is an organization of collegiate soccer coaches at NAIA institutions. NAIA-WSCA membership dues are paid by the institution as part of its NAIA membership dues for all people who receive all or part of their salary for responsibilities within the athletic department. The annual business meeting is held each January in conjunction with the United Soccer Coaches (USC) Convention.

The NAIA-WSCA elects officers who serve two-year terms and provide the leadership for the Association. The NAIA-WSCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation on all actions affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA women's soccer program. The officers serve as the games committee, which is in charge of the administration of the women's soccer national championship. (If an officer's team qualifies for the national championships, he/she is replaced on the games committee.)

PAST PRESIDENTS

1985-89 Mike Jennings, Puget Sound (Wash.)	2006-08 Mark Duble, Covenant (Ga.)
1989-92 Colleen Hacker, Pacific Lutheran (Wash.)	2008-10 Joe Thoma, John Brown (Ark.)
1992-93 David Mohr, Geneva (Pa.)	2010-12 Scott Oliver, Siena Heights (Mich.)
1993-94 Becky Burleigh, Berry (Ga.)	2012-14 John Bratcher, Indiana Wesleyan (Ind.)
1994-96 Joe Perri, Georgian Court (N.J.)	2014-16 Patrick Gilliam, Trinity International (Ill.)
1996-98 Lorenzo Canalis, Berry (Ga.)	2016-18 Jason Crist, Spring Arbor (Mich.)
1998-00 Uwe Tittl, Mobile (Ala.)	2018-20 Todd Poitras, Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)
2000-02 Shelley Howieson, Simon Fraser (B.C.)	2020-22 Lincoln Roblee, Benedictine (Kan.)
2002-04 Tom Pawlik, Tri-State (Ind.)	2022-24 Bill Bahr, Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)
2004-06 Ken Nuber, St. Francis (Ind.)	2024-26 Dr. Kathleen Paulsen, John Brown (Ark.)

UNITED SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1941, the United Soccer Coaches is an organization of soccer coaches and others who wish to ally themselves with the organization's mission, which is to educate coaches, encourage excellence and serve the soccer community. Embracing both genders and all levels of the game, the United Soccer Coaches has grown into the world's largest coaching organization.

The United Soccer Coaches offers an extensive recognition program that presents nearly 10,000 individual awards every year. It fulfills its mission of coaching education through a nationwide program of clinics and week-long courses, teaching more than 6,000 soccer coaches each year.

NAIA-WSCA VOTING

NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50% of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council (NAC). Motions and discussion will be presented at the Annual Business meeting at the USCA Convention. Voting will also take place in person at the Annual Business meeting.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & SPORT MOTIONS

The Annual Business meeting for the NAIA-WSCA will take place in conjunction with the United Soccer Coaches Association Convention on January 21, 2027, in Kansas City, Missouri. Refer to the NAIA-WSCA Constitution and Bylaws for the organization of the Annual Business meeting.

Coaches are able to submit sport motions to the NAIA-WSCA President and Sport Manager prior to the Annual Business meeting. All sport motions from the coaches' body affecting the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship will be distributed to all head coaches 1 week prior to the Annual Business meeting.

NAIA-WSCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Each officer (excluding the NAC and USCA liaisons) will serve in their position for two years before progressing.

2026-2027 Officers (First year of two-year term)

EXEC. COMMITTEE POSITION	NAME, SCHOOL & CONTACT INFO
President	Ivan Ristic , Oklahoma Wesleyan University, iristic@okwu.edu
Vice President	Skelly Kellar , Southeastern University (Fla.), stkellar@seu.edu
Secretary	Shannon Andringa , Spring Arbor (Mich.) Shannon.Andringa@arbor.edu
Past President	Bill Bahr , Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.), bbahr@olivet.edu
NAC Liaison	Don Ott , California Pacific Conference, dott@calpacathletics.com
USCA Liaison	Todd Poitras , Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Ariz.), poitras@erau.edu
NAIA Staff Liaison	Candice Fabry , NAIA Women's Soccer Sport Manager, 816-595-8353, cfabry@naia.org

All-America Selection Committee: Skelly Kellar – Chair NAIA-WSCA Officers (3), 2 raters from each of the 5 ARCs elected by NAIA-WSCA

NAIA-WSCA Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section I - The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Women's Soccer Coaches Association (NAIA-WSCA).

ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATION

Section I - The NAIA-WSCA is an allied association of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The NAIA-WSCA is charged with the responsibility of carrying on programs beneficial to the sport of Women's Soccer and the member coaches of the sport. The activities of this Association shall be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the NAIA and under the guidance of the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

Section II - The NAIA-WSCA shall submit to the NAC statements governing the NAIA-WSCA, plans and practices for approval and in every way cooperate with the NAIA in furthering the stated aims and objectives of this parent organization.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section I - Active membership in the NAIA-WSCA will be open to any coach of a women's soccer program at an institution holding current membership with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Section II - There will not be any membership dues charged to members of the NAIA-WSCA. The NAIA National Office will issue an official membership card to all women's soccer coaches listed on the membership information roster submitted at the beginning of the academic year.

ARTICLE IV - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section I - The NAIA-WSCA shall supervise and conduct programs which will foster and promote intercollegiate soccer. The NAIA-WSCA shall establish policies and procedures for the conduct of the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship, which will include conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/unaffiliated grouping as well as national play. These policies shall include appropriate recognition for teams, competitors and coaches.

ARTICLE V - BUDGET

Section I - A portion of the NAIA institutional membership dues shall be assigned to the NAIA-WSCA to conduct their business.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS



Section I - The annual business meeting of the NAIA-WSCA will be held in conjunction with the annual National Soccer Coaches Association Convention during the month of January. An interim meeting will be held in conjunction with the NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship during the fall of each year.

Section II - Usual order of business at the annual business meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Announcements
4. Committee Reports
5. Old Business Reports
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

Section III - Voting on all official business shall be by voice or hand, unless members request a secret ballot on any specific item or items. Motions approved by coaches' body in attendance at the annual business meeting will be sent to the total membership for voting purposes.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section I - The officers of the NAIA-WSCA shall consist of President, Vice President, and Secretary. The officers shall be elected from the acting membership of the Association at the annual business meeting and must represent NAIA member institutions in good standing.

Section II - Terms of office for the President, Vice President, and Secretary shall be for two years. The term of office shall begin on at the conclusion of the annual business meeting.

Section III - The President, Vice President, Secretary and Immediate Past President shall make up the NAIA-WSCA Executive Committee.

Section IV - The progression in office shall be from Secretary to Vice President to President. Each office is to be held for two years from February 1 to January 31. In the event a vacancy occurs, the normal progression from Secretary to President shall be accelerated to fill the vacant office. The NAIA-WSCA Executive Committee is empowered to appoint officers from the membership at large to fill a vacant position. Such an appointee shall remain in office until the next annual business meeting when a duly elected officer can be elected by the membership to fill the rest of the existing term or a new two-year term if elections are in order.

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section I - The duties of the President are to provide leadership and guidance for NAIA-WSCA and represent the Association at all official functions. The President shall plan the agenda and preside over all official business meetings of the NAIA-WSCA. The president is the executive officer of all appointed and standing committees of the Association. The individual serving on the Executive Committee, preferably the President, for the NAIA-WSCA will also be a member of the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA), when necessary and called upon. This role on the CSA is a two-year responsibility, regardless of their term lengths as an officer of the NAIA-WSCA.

Section II - The duties of the Vice President are to assume the leadership of the Association at all meetings and functions when the President is not in attendance.

Section III - The duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at all meetings of the NAIA-WSCA, submit the minutes to the NAIA National Office for circulation to the membership maintain records and perform other duties as assigned by the President.

Section IV - The Past President shall serve on the Executive Committee of the NAIA-WSCA and act as a consultant to the President.

ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES



Section I - The President of the NAIA-WSCA is empowered to appoint committees, which will assist in the administration and recognition of the interests of the Association.

Section II - Ad-hoc committees shall be appointed by the President.

Section III - The NAIA-WSCA shall have one standing committee as follows:

Honor Committee to oversee all NAIA women's soccer award nomination and selection processes and criteria.

All-America: This committee is comprised of the NAIA-WSCA Officers and seven raters and/or chairs that are elected each year by the WSCA. Only one representative from a conference/group can serve on the All-American selection committee. The duty of the selection committee is to select the NAIA-WSCA All-America team according to the prescribed selection procedures established by the NAIA-NAC.

USC Awards: Permanent appointment until the chair is finished. Then the President appointed.

ARTICLE X - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP/OFFICIAL RULES

Section I - The NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship is a function of the NAIA-WSCA and is subject to all approved policies and guidelines as adopted by the Association.

Section II - Members of the NAIA-WSCA Executive Committee and/or a Past President shall comprise the games committee of the national championship. If their team(s) qualify for the national championship, the NAIA sport manager shall appoint a replacement.

Section III - The rules that govern conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping and national play are the official NCAA soccer rules with any approved NAIA modifications.

ARTICLE XI - CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Section I - Proposed amendments to the Constitution of the NAIA-WSCA must be presented in writing to the President before the fall interim meeting of the NAIA-WSCA at the national championship. The President must see that the proposal is presented to the membership at the next annual business meeting. The amendment must have a two-thirds vote of approval by current members of the NAIA-WSCA. Approved amendments then must be submitted to the National Administrative Council (NAC) for appropriate action.

BY-LAWS

By-Law I - The procedure to place an item of business on the agenda for the NAIA-WSCA annual business meeting in January at the United Soccer Coaches' Convention is as follows:

1. A letter from the President will be sent in August when the NAIA Soccer Coaches Handbook is emailed to all members. This letter will spell out the proper procedure for submitting agenda items.
2. All agenda items must be submitted to the President by mid-November in advance of the interim business meeting at the national championship. Exceptions to this bylaw are reports from standing committees.
3. Additional items may be proposed at the interim business meeting in November.
4. The Executive Committee will review all agenda items and a final agenda will be formulated with the representative of the NAIA National Office.
5. The NAIA National Office shall mail the final agenda with all motions to all members in December.

Rev:

Fall 2006

Fall 2008 (Direct qualification)

Fall 2009 (All-American committee)

Fall 2011 (Honors committee)

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/STATISTICS & SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA Stats site (via Presto Stats) within 24 hours of completion and final statistics within 72 hours in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly ratings and honors. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any **two consecutive weeks, or a total of four weeks**, during the reporting period will not be eligible for to be included in the national statistical website or leaderboards.

Institutions failing to report statistics or results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty), will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

STATISTICS

National statistics are available online at naiastats.prestosports.com throughout the year. Only statistics from games against varsity teams from upper-level, degree-granting institutions should be submitted. Categories will be determined on a sport-by-sport basis and by the NAIA Athletics Communications Department. Statistical minimums for all leaderboards are set by the NAIA National Office in consultation with the NAIA Sports Information Directors Association.

The host institution is responsible for recording both teams' official statistics. The home team must notify the opposing team at least 72 hours prior to contest if official stats will not be provided. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats. To view the full NAC policy on NAIA Statistics, please click [HERE](#).

All NAIA teams must update their player (and coach) yellow & red card accumulation totals after each game. Failure to update card accumulations following each game will result in your team being ineligible for conference/group and national ratings for that week. Teams rated in the Top 25 national rating will be removed if they do not update their Yellow/Red Card accumulations and report their scores within 24 hours of the completion of every game.

It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual. For Women's Soccer, please refer to www.ncaapublications.com and go to the Women's Soccer page and the statisticians' manual link. A free PDF version of the book can be downloaded.

AWARDS

CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP & NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Group Player of the Week

All NAIA member institutions are encouraged to nominate candidates for Conference/Group Player of the Week honors for all sports in which they declare for NAIA postseason.

National Player of the Week

All NAIA member institutions are permitted to nominate candidates for National Player of the Week for all sports in which they declare for NAIA postseason. Nominations from the conference/independent/unaffiliated information director or their designated representative must be received by the NAIA Department of Athletics Communications by 5:00pm (CST) each Monday, ending November 2.

The nomination process is handled through the [NAIA Awards Platform](#). Release of National Player of the Week will be made after weekly on Tuesdays during the season. National Players of the Week are selected from the pool of Conference/CAC/Group Players of the Week. A full calendar of National Player of the Week release dates are located [HERE](#).

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 established by the Awards & Statistics subcommittee of the National Administrative Council (NAC). Please note some sports recognize All-America status by order of finish, and others require submission of materials and selection at the Conference/CAC/Group levels.

The NAIA Women's Soccer All-America teams are selected by a committee of 13 yearly elected members. The committee shall include two raters from each of the five ARC regions plus the three officers of the NAIA-WSCA. An election occurs at the beginning of each season from the pool of potential members. The committee will have a conference call during the NAIA National Championship.

The All-America Committee shall select a first, second, and third team consisting of four forwards, four midfielders, four defenders, two goalkeepers, and one at-large position.

The third team may exceed the number of the first & second All-America team numbers based on the number of conference players of the year that were not included in the First, Second, & Third teams. There will no longer be honorable mentions named to the All-America teams.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team shall nominate one student-athlete that has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus and in the community that exemplify the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

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 (September 30).
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 **September 30** 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. NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#).

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. 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.

This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically. To be eligible for listing on website or honors database, forms must be submitted by **September 30, 2026**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

To download a template to create an award certificate for your student-athletes that have earned this honor, [CLICK HERE](#).

RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

New in 2026-27: The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.



Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

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

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is June 30. Scholar Team nominations may only be submitted via [NAIA Connect](#).

NAIA NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The All-America Committee will select the NAIA Women's Soccer Player of the Year. The recipient must be a member of the All-America First Team.

SELECT SPORT AMERICA-NAIA NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

The Select Sport America-NAIA Women's Soccer National Coach of the Year is selected by a vote of the NAIA-WSCA membership from a ballot containing the names of the conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/unaffiliated grouping coaches of the year and those coaches participating in the national championship final site.

The respective soccer chairs coordinate selection of conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping coaches of the year. Ballots are emailed to all coaches in December for return a week later.

The Select Sport America-NAIA Women's Soccer National Coach of the Year is announced in January during the annual business meeting of the NAIA-WSCA. Note: NAIA Select Sport America Coach of the Year recognition is selected independently of the USCA Coaches of the Year.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for its national championship, with awards provided to the official parties of the top four teams.

Additionally distributed will be a 14-member All-Tournament Team, including the Tournament Most Valuable Player, Outstanding Offensive Player, and Outstanding Defensive Player awards. The Tournament Most Valuable Player, Outstanding Offensive Player, and Outstanding Player are all part of this 14-member All-Tournament team.

ORDERING AWARDS

Appropriate conference tournament awards are to be ordered by the conference chair and are the financial responsibility of the conference or the conference tournament host institution. Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards

18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802

Contact – Brad Stout – brads@collegiateawards.com

Appendix A – NAIA Women's Soccer Leadership Responsibilities

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUPING(S) SOCCER CHAIRS

1. Serve as soccer liaison between conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/unaffiliated grouping soccer coaches and the national office and the NAIA-WSCA.
2. Serve as chief administrator of the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping soccer committee in the coordination of the soccer playoff plan and tournament.
3. Establish (along with soccer committee) schedule for hosting conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping's postseason national championship qualifying tournament.
4. Serve as, or work with respective committee to identify, national soccer ratings committee member.
5. Coordinate selection of the Conference/CAC Coach of the Year and notify national office of winner by the deadline.
6. Coordinate All-America balloting in respective conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping and send to national office by the deadline.

NATIONAL VOTERS

1. Selection: Each conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping is represented by one voter on the national rating committee, selected using their own criteria. Commissioners are responsible for notifying the national office who will be the voter each year by August 1.
2. Monitor conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping's score reporting.
3. Be consistent with polls and maintain that consistency throughout the voting process. Develop a voting philosophy and follow that philosophy week to week.
4. Be mindful of fluctuation. Gradual movements (up or down) are much more appropriate than huge jumps or plummets.
5. Do some homework and research. Utilize NAIA Stats to find scores and record of teams and opponents. Read game summaries on teams/school/conference websites.
6. Maintain open dialogue with coaches in conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping and with other national voters.
7. Refer to own polls week to week. Anticipate how fluctuations/changes will be perceived by other voters.
8. Be objective. Avoid personal feelings or bias when compiling weekly reports and national ballot.
9. Apply the same principles/philosophy in the final poll that is used during the season. Resist the temptation to bump a team into or out of the national rating for no justifiable reason.
10. Be cognizant of not being self-serving for own team and teams within the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping.
11. Maintain an understanding of overall conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping strength.
12. Not all top teams in conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping have to be voted for in the top 25.
13. Attend the national championship (strongly encouraged).
14. Attend voters meeting held during United Soccer Coaches Annual Convention.
15. Evaluate voter process and present recommendations at annual voting committee meeting.
16. REVIEW WOMEN'S SOCCER MANUAL FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES.

Appendix B - NAIA Women's Soccer All-American Guidelines & Procedures

The NAIA Women's Soccer All-Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated grouping team nomination form/ballot should be submitted by each member institution to their respective conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping chair in order to be considered in the vote tabulation. The following procedures must be followed:

1. All soccer coaches forward the All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated group ballot to their soccer chair no later than November 11.
2. Upon receipt of the ballots, the soccer chair will tabulate the voting based on the procedures indicated below, and will announce the 14-member all-conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping team consisting of two goalkeepers, four forwards, four defenders, and four midfielders. Conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping groups also have the option of having a meeting during their respective national qualifying tournament and selecting their team; however, coaches who are not in attendance must have their submitted ballots counted in this process. The Player of the Year must be the top vote getter and listed in ranking order. The Conference may only submit ONE Player and Coach of the Year.
3. The conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping chair will tabulate all of the returned (ranked) ballots from his/her conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping and e-mail a completed copy of the official All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping Team form to their conference commissioner by November 11. Conference Commissioners will take the final ballot, as presented by the sport chair, and submit final ballot to the NAIA National Office by [clicking here](#). All-Conference submissions should be submitted to the National Office by November 13. Conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping chairs are encouraged to include updated statistics and other pertinent information for any players deemed worthy of NAIA All-America consideration.
4. The NAIA Women's Soccer Sport Manager will compile all completed All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Grouping Teams and forward them to the chair of the NAIA All-American Team Selection Committee. The NAIA-WSCA Vice-President will serve as chair of the selection committee. The committee shall include two raters from each of the five ARC regions plus the three officers of the Women's Soccer Coaches Executive Committee. Only one representative from a conference/group can serve on the All-American selection committee.
5. The All-America list shall consist of a first, second and third team of 15 members per team (two goalkeepers, four forwards, four defenders, four midfielders and one utility/at-large player).
6. The NAIA Department of Athletics Communications shall release the NAIA Women's Soccer All-America teams on Tuesday, December 14, 2026.

COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORM

Coaches nominate the top two goalkeepers, the top four forwards, the top four defenders, and the top four midfielders in their conference, independent or unaffiliated group. These should be listed in order, with number one being the best player at that position, then number two, three, etc. A coach may nominate no more than three of his/her own players on the ballot.

On the second half of the form, the coach then rates the players on his/her ballot (regardless of position) from #1 to #14 with #1 being the best player on his/her ballot.



All-America Selection

The All-America team is selected by the NAIA-WSCA All-American Selection Committee during the NAIA National Championship based on the following criteria:

1. Rank of players within their conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping
2. Impact on their team's success in their conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping
3. Impact outside the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping
4. Strength of team in affiliated conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping and at national level
5. Any other pertinent information (statistics, awards, etc.)

National Player of the Year Selection

The All-American Selection Committee will select a National Player of the Year after selecting the All-America Teams (1st, 2nd, & 3rd-Teams). The following criteria will be relevant:

1. Rank of players within their conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping teams
2. Coaches' recommendations and observations
3. Strength of schedule
4. Impact on team's success at the conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping AND national levels

Addendum to USCA Ethics Statement for NAIA Women's Soccer Coaches

Coaches' Responsibilities for Polls and Awards Voting

1. Coaches involved in voting for the weekly conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/unaffiliated grouping and NAIA national polls commit themselves to ranking teams as objectively as possible, based on the overall strength of each team in question. Coaches who agree to serve as raters commit themselves to learning as much as possible about the strength of schedule of all teams under consideration for ranking and the results of those teams' games against common opponents.
2. When voting for teams in conference and national NAIA rankings, raters shall not penalize a team because of any disagreement with, or dislike for, the coach of the team. If a rater has a concern about another coach's conduct, that concern should be pursued through appropriate channels (of the NAIA and USCA) for judging possible ethics violations.
3. Raters are responsible for ranking teams according to their performance in the current season, not on reputations built in previous seasons. Coaches within a conference/CAC/unaffiliated grouping bear the obligation of helping raters stay current on teams' performances by submitting in their scores in accordance with NAIA policy.
4. In voting for postseason awards, such as All-Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated grouping and All-American teams, coaches may be advocates for their own players insofar as the rules allow. Coaches have a responsibility, however, to vote for the best players for any such awards, regardless of team affiliation. In no case is it acceptable to vote for players other than the best eligible for any given award, as when voting for players of lesser ability would make it more likely that one's own players would be selected. All coaches are responsible for nominating and voting for players for postseason awards, even if their own players do not appear likely to be chosen for such awards.
5. When voting for players for postseason awards, the ability and accomplishments of those players must be of paramount concern. Grievances against other coaches must not be held against the players of those coaches in postseason voting, but rather should be pursued through appropriate NAIA and/or USCA channels.
6. It shall be deemed unethical for groups of coaches voting for postseason awards to engage in block voting for such awards. That is, it is considered unethical for groups of coaches to consult with one another prior to voting for postseason awards for the purpose of casting identical, or similar, ballots that would enhance the prospects of their own players winning such awards.
7. Campaigning for ratings votes for one's own team or for votes for one's own players for postseason awards shall be considered inappropriate and unethical. Campaigning shall be construed as using fax, mail, or telephone to contact groups of coaches to solicit support for one's team or players. Organized public relations campaigns dedicated to that same end shall also be deemed unethical.