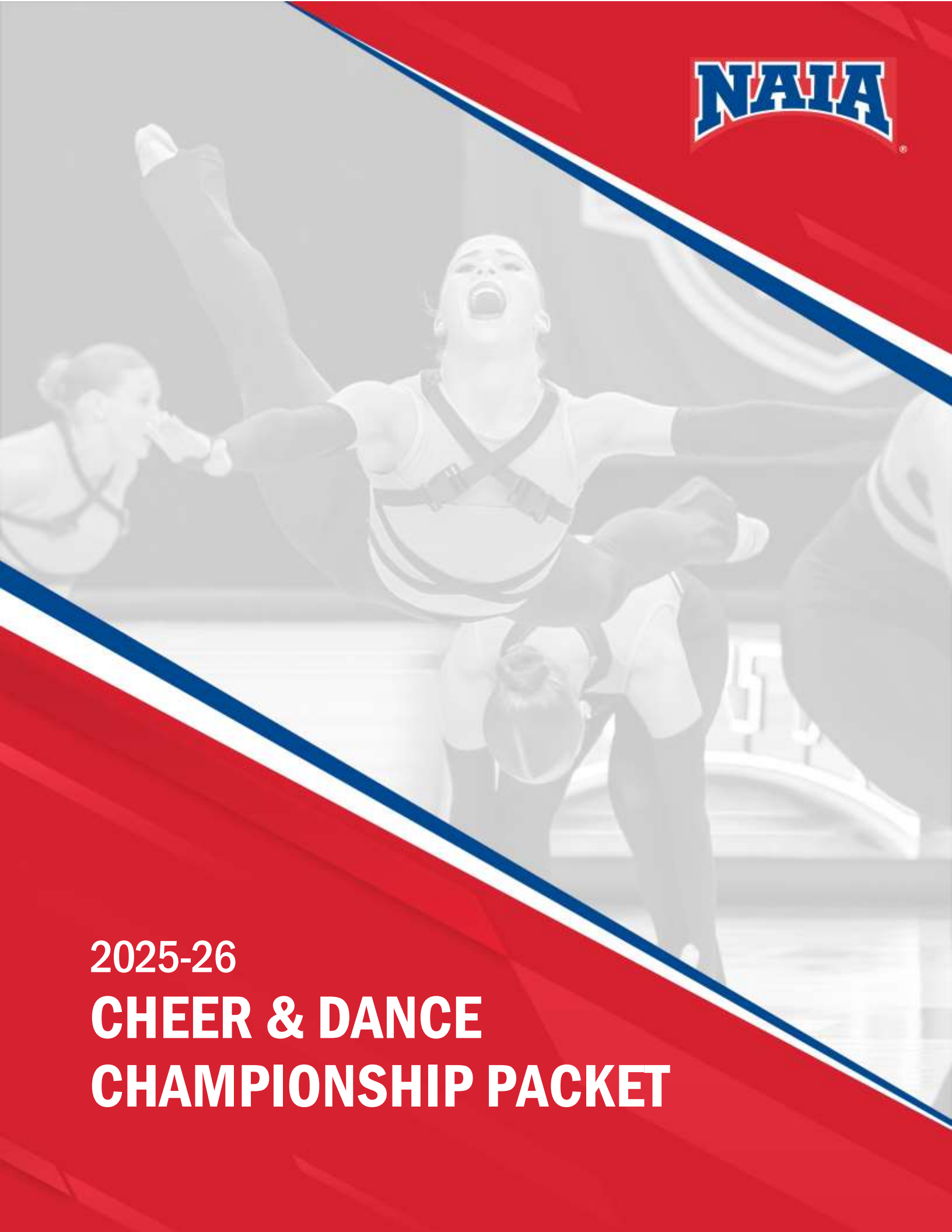




2025-26

CHEER & DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP PACKET

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Welcome

On behalf of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Visit Topeka, Inc. and Baker University, congratulations on your qualification to the 2026 Competitive Cheer and Dance National Championships! The event will be held at the Stormont Vail Events Center in Topeka, Kansas on March 27-28, 2026. This championship packet will serve as an in-depth guide for the championship.

We look forward to welcoming you in Topeka and wish you the best of luck!

Mission Statement

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 serves 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.)

About the NAIA

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) was founded in 1940 as the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball (NAIB) to provide small colleges with a championship basketball tournament. In 1952, the organization expanded to include other sports and became the NAIA. The NAIA was a pioneer in college athletics, being the first to offer championships for African American student-athletes and the first to sponsor a national championship for women's sports in 1980. Today, the NAIA supports smaller colleges and universities, emphasizing character-driven athletics and student-athlete development.

Tournament Personnel

Position	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Director	Mike Bell	785-221-1495	mike@visittopeka.com
Assistant Director	Melissa Sowers	913-370-3007	melissa@visittopeka.com
NAIA Championship Sport Manager	Fred Aubuchon	816-595-8339	faubuchon@naia.org
NAIA Manager of Athletics Communications	Reanne Kietlinski	816-595-8349	rkietlinski@naia.org
Official Scorer	Kyle Pattrick	785-594-8495	kyle.patrick@bakeru.edu
Assistant Scorer	Matt Hevel	785 594-4569	matt.hevel@bakeru.edu

Schedule of Events

Thursday, March 26, 2026		
9:00am-10:45am	Registration/Check-in (pre-assigned)	Stormont Vail Events Center (SVEC) – Team Entrance
9:00am-10:45am	Music Testing (assigned)	SVEC – Arena Floor
11:15am-12:30pm	Coaches Meeting-Mandatory	Hotel Topeka-Emerald I-II
12:30pm-1:00pm	Sports Medicine Meeting-Mandatory	Hotel Topeka-Emerald I-II
4:00pm-5:30pm	Teaming up for Character	Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka
6:30pm-8:00pm	Student Athlete Experience Event	Kansas Museum of History

Friday, March 27, 2026		
7:30am-3:00pm	Cheer and Dance Practices (pre-assigned). Interviews 15 minutes prior to practice.	SVEC – Arena Floor and Exhibition Hall
2:30pm	Cheer Warm-ups Begin	SVEC – Exhibition Hall
3:00pm	Doors Open for National Championship-Prelims	Stormont Vail Events Center
4:00pm	Cheer Preliminary Round Begins	SVEC – Arena Floor
5:30pm	Dance Warm-ups Begin	SVEC – Exhibition Hall
7:00pm	Dance Preliminary Round Begins	SVEC – Arena Floor
Saturday, March 28, 2026		
9:00am	Doors Open for National Championship-Finals	Stormont Vail Events Center
9:20am	Cheer Warm-ups Begin	SVEC – Exhibition Hall
10:00am	Cheer Final Round Begins	SVEC – Arena Floor
1:00pm	Awards Presentation – Cheer	SVEC – Arena Floor
1:20pm	Dance Warm-ups Begin	SVEC – Exhibition Hall
2:30pm	Dance Final Round Begins	SVEC – Arena Floor
5:00pm	Awards Presentation – Dance	SVEC – Arena Floor

Qualifier Call

A Qualifier Call will take place Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00am CST. Click here for the [Zoom Link](#).

Team Check In

Team check-in will take place at the Stormont Vail Events Center, use the Team Entrance. A member of the coaching staff is responsible for officially checking in the team, receiving all team credentials and verifying or completing all entry fees.

Practices

Each team will be assigned a specific practice time that will exist in 30-minute increments between 7:30am-3:00pm on Friday, March 27. Dance groups will practice in the Main Arena while cheer practices will be in Exhibition Hall.

New – Interviews will take place approximately 15-minutes prior to each team's official practice time. Coaches will select one member of their team to be interviewed.

Prior to Friday, March 27, teams wishing to practice will be responsible for finding their own practice locations. If you need assistance, please contact the Baker University Coaches.

Cheer, Melissa Shipman, 785-594-4531, melissa.shipman@bakeru.edu

Dance, Lynsey Payne, 785-594-8499, lynsey.payne@bakeru.edu

Pre-competition Timeline

During Preliminary Rounds, teams will also have their Photo taken.

Sample schedule:

2:30p Team Check-in

2:55p Team Photo

3:20p Stretch

3:30p Tumble or Turns/Tricks

3:40p Run Through

3:50p On-Deck

4:00p Performance Time

During Finals, sample schedule (no check-in or photo):

9:20a Stretch

9:30a Tumble or Turns/Tricks

9:40a Run Through

9:50a On-Deck

10:00a Performance Time

Weather Policy

In the event of Inclement Weather, the Championship Committee, Host Committee and Head Athletic Trainer will make all determinations related to potential delays and adjustments to the Championship Schedule.

Student-Athlete Experience Event

Topeka is excited to invite you to the Kansas Museum of History. The Kansas Museum of History is open again after a three-year-long renovation. New exhibits, new artifacts, same incredible history!

The new gallery spaces ask visitors to consider What is Kansas? What was Kansas? And why Kansas? Kansas has tornadoes, sunflowers, is the Free State, the Wheat State, and is known for the *Wizard of Oz*. But there is so much more. The stories of everyday people accomplishing incredible things, the heartland, a crossroads, a place of innovation, and a celebration of numerous cultures and traditions.

Link below includes ticket purchases for all Official Party members, non-Official party members, and team entry fees.

[Registration Link for Entry Fee and Student-Athlete Experience Event.](#)

Teaming Up for Character

Boys and Girls Clubs of Topeka – Student-Athletes will have the opportunity to share the Champions of Character Core Values and lead local youth using Cheer and Dance Skills. Each team is requested to send at least two athletes to this event; please consider sending your Champions of Character representative. Teaming up for Character Event takes place Thursday, March 26, 4:00pm – 5:30pm CST. There will be two different locations for this event, and an email will be sent out prior to your arrival in Topeka.

Coaches Meeting

There will be a pre-championship coaches meeting held the day before the competition begins on Thursday, March 26 at 11:15am CST, located in the Hotel Topeka-Emerald I-II, adjacent to the Stormont Vail Events Center. This meeting is mandatory for all Head Coaches.

The NAIA Competitive Cheer and Dance Coaches Association's Annual Business Meetings will take place Wednesday April 29 for Dance and Thursday, April 30 for Cheer, both meetings will begin at 12:00pm CST.

Qualification Process

The NAIA National Championship includes a field of 15 teams for Competitive Cheer and 12 teams for Competitive Dance. Qualification plans are approved by the NAC (National Administrative Council) and can be found in NAIA Connect.

1. Conferences and the CAC automatically qualify one berth per six sponsored teams and two for 12. Automatic berths are awarded based on the approved qualifying tournament plans for each conference and the CAC.
2. At-large berths will be selected by each Cheer and Dance National Selection Committee.
3. The host institution (if one exists) may receive 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.
4. There are no limits on the number of at-large berths a conference or the CAC may receive.

Sport Rules

[Cheer Coaches Corner Link](#) (Rulebook, Coaches Manual, etc.)

[Dance Coaches Corner Link](#) (Rulebook, Coaches Manual, etc.)

Coaches Box and Support for Performing Cheer and Dance Teams

1. Only members of the competing team (athletes in uniform and spotters in Cheer) will be permitted to enter the Performance Area when their team is announced.
2. A designated Coaches Box will be placed in front of the performance area for members of the Official Party (approved staff and alternates).
3. Credentials will be required to be in the Coaches Box.
 - a. Dance – maximum of 4 Staff and up to 4 Alternates.
 - b. Cheer – maximum of 4 Staff and up to 4 Alternates.
4. All members of the approved Staff and Alternates will be required to adhere to the Coaches' Code of Conduct.
5. During the Competition, members of the approved Staff and Alternates are not permitted to stand, distract the Judges panel, generate sounds (hitting the floor or wall), or attempt to add to the performance.
6. Violations of the Coaches Box may result in an Unsportsmanlike Behavior Violation (5-point deduction, applied to that day's score) and potential removal from the competition.
7. All non-performing teams and spectators are expected to view the competition from the bleachers or other approved viewing areas.

- a. Any team that is not directly related to the current performing team is not permitted to be on the competition floor, adjacent floor, or coaches box. This includes a dance team that may be from the same school as a performing cheer team (and vice versa).
 - b. Violations of this policy will result in the removal of the team from the competition.
 - c. Removal of any team will result in an overall score of zero.
8. The Host will plan to secure the first two rows of bleachers for support groups of the competing team. However, once the team has finished their performance, the support groups will need to vacate the first two row for the next competing team.

Championship Format

The National Championship is a two-day event with the preliminary round completed on Friday and the final round completed on Saturday.

National prelim performance order: Teams receiving automatic bids will receive the last performance order spots determined by random draw. The remaining at large bids prelim performance order will also be determined by random draw for the earlier performances.

National final performance order: Teams will be reordered for finals and will be performing in ascending order based on preliminary round scores.

Team Player Replacement/Substitution

Cheer – The official party for each team participating in post season play is up to 24 players allowed in uniform – 20 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates.

Dance – The official party for each team participating in postseason play is up to 20 players in uniform – 16 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates.

Scoring Method

Both Cheer and Dance Championships will consider the results of the Preliminary Round (weighted at 25%) and the Final Round (weighted at 75%).

Example: Preliminary Round Score: 91.5; Final Round Score: 89.3; Take 25% of 91.5 = 22.875; Take 75% of 89.3 = 66.975. Add 22.875 and 66.975 for a final event score of 89.85.

Cheer – Teams will be scored in three (3) primary categories. Scores within each category will vary and will be given to the tenth of a point. Deductions may be applied.

Objective Categories:

- Building
 - Stunts (Level of Skill, Athlete Participation, Number of Bases Used, Creativity, Variety)
 - Pyramids (Level of Skill, Athlete Participation, Number of Bases Used, Variety)
 - Tosses (Level of Skill, Athlete Participation (not including front spots), Variety, and Synchronization)
 - Overall Effect (Performance Impression, Overall Appeal and Creativity of the Scoring Section Including Readability)
- Tumbling
 - Standing Tumbling (Level of Standing Tumbling Skills, Synchronization, Athlete Participation, Variety & Technique)
 - Running Tumbling (Level of Running Tumbling Skills, Synchronization, Athlete Participation, Variety & Technique)
 - Jumps (Advanced Jumps- EX. Toe Touch, Front or Side Hurdler, Pike)
 - Overall Effect (Performance Impression, Overall Appeal and Creativity of the Scoring Section Including Readability)
- Overall
 - Routine Composition (Seamless Movement & Patterns, Flow, Transition, Dance & Motions)
 - Collegiate Image (Performance Integrity, Sportsmanship, Uniform, and Overall School Representation)
 - Overall Effect (Performance Impression, Overall Appeal and Creativity of the Scoring Section Including Readability)

Dance – Teams will be scored in eight (8) categories. Scores within each category are worth 10 points and each will be given to the tenth of a point. Deductions may be applied.

- Collegiate Image (Sportsmanship, Integrity, and School Representation)
- Performance Impression (Projection, Expression, and Appeal)
- Jazz Execution (Execution of Jazz Style, Extension, Control, Musicality, Difficulty, and Uniformity)
- Jazz Choreography (Creativity, Originality, Musical Interpretation, Difficulty, and Staging)
- Pom Execution (Motion Placement, Control, Strength, Difficulty, and Uniformity)
- Pom Choreography (Creativity, Originality, Musical Interpretation, Motion Variety, Difficulty, and Staging)
- Hip Hop Execution (Hip Hop Style, Control, Approach, Musicality, Proper Extension of Elements, Difficulty, and Uniformity)

- Hip Hop Choreography (Creativity, Originality, Visual Effects, Difficulty, and Staging)

Post-Championship

Awards

National Championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams in both Competitive Cheer and Competitive Dance. Team trophies are awarded to the National Championship teams, National Runner-up teams, third-place teams and fourth-place teams.

National Coach of the Year and NAIA All-America teams are announced and awarded the week following the National Championships.

Championship Satisfaction Survey

During NAIA Championships, NAIA membership and student-athlete experience is of the utmost importance. The NAIA National Office and Championship Hosts dedicate themselves to planning the best experiences for all involved. The NAIA is committed to providing the best experience possible for its members and student-athletes and are able to provide feedback based on their experience and what improvements can be made for future NAIA Championships.

[2025-26 NAIA National Championship Satisfaction Survey](#)

Following the championship, coaches and administrators will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to forward the survey to student-athletes. Additionally, this survey will be accessible via a QR code found on the back of the NAIA-issues championship credentials.

Tournament Deadlines

Submission Deadlines

All Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated tournaments must be completed no later than Saturday, March 14, 10:00pm CST.

Entry Forms

Final Site [Qualifier Forms](#) are due by March 18 to Fred Aubuchon, faubuchon@naia.org at the NAIA National Office.

Rosters

Submit all post-season rosters directly to [NAIA Connect](#). If you do not have a login account, please contact naiaconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#). Postseason Rosters are due by March 18.

Performance Music

All music must be uploaded to a Google Drive Folder as an MP3 file (no other form or file will be accepted). Submit and label (team name and sport) music directly to Fred Aubuchon ([Cheer Link](#) / [Dance Link](#)). Performance Music is due by March 19, no later than 4:00pm CST. Reminder to download the [Music Wavier Form](#) and bring to check-in.

Hype Video and Walk-Out Song

The NAIA Athletics Communications Manager will contact qualifying schools directly to request their Hype Video and Walk-Out Song. Video recording requirements:

Format: .MP4 only

Codec: h.264

Size/Frame: 1280X720 at 60fps

Orientation: Horizontal ***only***. No vertical videos, please.

Length: 30-45 seconds recommended. 60 seconds maximum.

Team Photo

Please upload your team photo by March 18 to be included in the National Championship Program. Information on how to upload will come from the NAIA Athletics Communications Manager.

Logo

[Championship Logos](#)

[NAIA School Logos Shared File](#)

Entry Fee

The Entry Fee is \$500 per Cheer or Dance Team, along with \$10/person fee for the Student-Athlete Experience Event.

Entry Fee payment must be completed no later than check-in on March 26.

[Registration Link for Entry Fee and Student-Athlete Experience Event.](#)

Uniforms

Uniform Policy

Cheer – All uniforms must represent each institution and individual in a positive and respectful manner. No risqué, sexually provocative or lingerie inspired uniform, or garments are permitted. Garments should be securely fastened to eliminate any possibility of accidentally exposing an intimate part of the body or undergarments. Appropriate undergarments must be worn.

1) Male cheer tops must be full torso length, covering shoulders to waist and/or the top of the uniform bottom in standing position and must be short or long sleeves, covering at least midway between shoulder and elbow. Tops may be round or V-neck.

2) Male cheer bottoms, if full length pants, must cover waist to feet. If shorts, must fall no higher than mid-thigh.

3) Female cheer tops: Standard shell, crop, or midriff top. No “bra top” style tops – material must fall at least one inch below the bra line. No tube tops, extremely low-cut necklines, excessively bare or backless style tops. Tops must have solid material around the back and be secured by straps or material over at least one shoulder or around the neck.

4) Female cheer skirts must fully cover the hips, completely cover briefs when feet are shoulder width apart, and in the back, fall at least 1.5 inches below boy-short briefs or 2 inches below standard briefs. No excessively short or tight skirts. No ultra-low-rise waistbands (no lower than 2 inches below navel) when worn in conjunction with a cropped or midriff-bearing top.

Dance – All uniforms must represent each institution and individual in a positive and respectful manner. No risqué, sexually provocative or lingerie inspired uniform, or garments are permitted. Garments should be securely fastened to eliminate any possibility of accidentally exposing an intimate part of the body or undergarments. Appropriate undergarments must be worn. Officials discretion may result in uniform warning or deduction.

1) No “bra top” style or size tops – material must fall at least one inch below the bra line. No tube tops, extremely low-cut necklines, excessively bare or backless style tops. Tops must have solid material around the back and be secured by straps or material over at least one shoulder or around the neck.

2) Dance bottoms or one-piece garments: Skirts and/or pants must fully cover the hips. Skirts must completely cover briefs when feet are shoulder width apart. No ultra-low-rise waistbands (no lower than 2 inches below navel) when worn in conjunction with a cropped or midriff baring top. Leotards are allowed; briefs must completely cover the buttocks.

Equipment

Cheer – Soft-soled athletic shoes must be worn while competing. No gymnastics shoes or jazz shoes/boots are permitted. No bare feet, socks-only or footed-tights-only.

No student-athlete may wear jewelry of any kind in accordance with USA Cheer guidelines.

Dance – Soft-soled athletic shoes must be worn while competing. No bare feet, socks-only or footed-tights- only. Dance paws and pirouette shoes are permitted.

Poms, handheld props, and costuming may be used. Standing items such as chairs, stools, ladders, etc. are not permitted.

Venue Information

Official Team Entrance

Teams will use the main entrance to the Stormont Vail Events Center, however there will be specific doors dedicated to the teams only (far right).

Ticketing Information

[Ticket Link](#)

Ticket Prices:

- 2-Day General Admission Seating: \$40**
- 1-Day General Admission Seating: \$30**
- Ages 5 and under free (for General Admission only)

** Excluding fees

Parking

The Stormont Vail Events Center offers over 2,500 spaces in large on-site lots east, south, and north of the buildings, accommodating thousands of vehicles, with accessible spots available.

Games Committee

The Games Committee will be comprised of the Host Committee (Tournament Director), the NAIA Championship Manager and three Championship Committee members.

Tournament Director – Mike Bell, Visit Topeka

NAIA Championship Manager – Fred Aubuchon

Championship Committee Members – TBD

Red Banner Interns – TBD

Team Travel & Information

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship. The Official Travel partner of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please contact Short's Travel (816-323-6405) to book your travel arrangements. Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground 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.

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.

Airport Information

Kansas City International Airport (71.9 miles from event center)

(816) 243-5237, 1 International Square, Kansas City, MO 64153

American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit, United Airlines

Local Charter Buses

Cortez Transportation
1016 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 233-5466 Tami Cortez Cortez@Corteztc.com

Black Label Transportation
2600 SW 10th Street, Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 383-7099 Janlyn Nesbett-Tucker Info@blacklabel-vip.com

Local Rental Cars

Avis Car Rental (0.2 miles from event center)
1732 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 234-2470
Hours: 7 am to 6 pm Mon to Fri / 8 am to 1 pm Sat / 10 am to 2 pm Sun

Enterprise Rent-A-Car (1.9 miles from event center)
323 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 267-4468
Hours: 8 am to 5 pm Mon to Sat

NAIA Travel Policy

All teams will be responsible for their travel to and from the National Championships.

Hotels

Team Hotels (below)

Family and Friends Hotels

Hotel Topeka (connected to Stormont Vail Events Center)-1717 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 431-7200, team booking contact Jennifer Owen,
owenj@gfhotels.com

Hilton Garden Inn-Topeka 1351 SW Arvon Place Topeka, KS 66615 (785) 350-2069

Courtyard by Marriott 2033 SW Wanamaker Rd. Topeka, KS 66604 (785) 271-6165

SpringHill Suites Topeka 2745 SW Fairlawn Rd. Topeka, KS 66614 (785) 596-9650

Medical

Ambulance

Service will be onsite throughout the Championship.

Call 9-1-1 for additional ambulance services.

Address of Stormont Vail Events Center, 1500 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66604.

Athletic Training

Please apply here for medical personnel credential: [LINK](#)

Head Athletic Trainer – Sarah Edwards, 785-979-4886, Sarah.Edwards@bakeru.edu.

Athletic Training Room will be located in Exhibition Hall on the east side of the building.

Local Hospitals

Stormont Vail Health

(2.1 miles from event center)

1500 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604

(785) 354-6100 Open 24 hours

University of Kansas Health

(2.3 miles from event center)

1700 SW 7th Street, Topeka, KS 66606

(785) 295-8000 Open 24 hours

Topeka ER & Hospital

(4.7 miles from event center)

6135 SW 17th Street, Topeka, KS 66615

(785) 670-6760 Open 24 hours

Local Pharmacies

Walgreens Pharmacy

(1.1 miles from event center)

1001 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66612

(785) 354-1470

Hours: 8 am to 1:30 pm / 2 pm to 10 pm Mon-Fri | 9 am to 1:30 pm / 2 pm to 6 pm

Sat | 10 am to 1:30 pm / 2

pm to 6 pm Sun

Walmart Pharmacy
(3.2 miles from event center)
335 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 379-2341
Hours: 9 am to 9 pm

CVS
(2.5 miles from event center)
3901 SW 21st Street, Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 273-1106
Hours: 8 am to 1:30 pm / 2 to 8 pm

Credentials

Team Credentials

Cheer – The official party for each team participating in post season play is up to 24 players allowed in uniform – 20 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates, and up to 7 support staff (coaches, institutional representatives, and 3 optional safety spotters). Each team will receive a maximum number of 31 credentials, 24 student-athlete credentials and 7 official party credentials.

Dance – The official party for each team participating in postseason play is up to 20 players in uniform – 16 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates and up to 4 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 24 credentials, 20 student-athlete credentials and 4 official party credentials.

Media Credentials

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up at team check-in or by contacting the host media coordinator if arriving outside of the check-in window, only with phone ID. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

Please apply here for Media credentials: [LINK](#)

Hospitality/Concessions

Coaches Hospitality

The **Coaches' Hospitality Room will be located in Exhibition Hall near the entrance** to Landon Arena. Take a moment to relax and recharge with a selection of complementary soft drinks, chips, and other snacks.

It's the perfect spot to unwind between sessions and connect with fellow coaches. We look forward to seeing you there!

Concessions

Main Concessions:

- Classic Fare: Arena staples, including burgers, hot dogs, and nachos.

Featured Sub-Contractors

- Tom's Coffee Truck: Specialty coffee and hot beverages.
- Kona Ice: Snow cones.
- Punchin Franks: Cinnamon rolls, snack boxes, protein balls, and shakes.

Official Roster

Submission Process

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

Official Party Size

The official party maximums for each team are shown below.

Cheer – Up to 20 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates. Up to 7 support staff (coaches, staff, and a maximum of 3 safety spotters).

Dance – Up to 16 athletes on the floor and a maximum of 4 alternates. Up to 4 support staff.

Separate Credentials will be available for Athletic Trainers, Sports Information Personnel, Athletic Directors and University Presidents.

Programs and Merchandise

Program

The NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance Championship Program can be found [HERE](#) once it is produced.

Fine Designs

Official NAIA National Championship merchandise is provided exclusively by Fine Designs with an expansive list of items and customization options. Participating teams can order merchandise on-site or directly from Fine Designs prior to the national championship. Please see below for details on both options:

1. Order and Pay Onsite: A team order can be placed on-site via a team order form and working directly with a Fine Designs rep. Payments can be made by credit/debit card or cash. Merchandise will be provided on-site. Team order forms will be provided on-site at the national championship and can be accessed by visiting: Onsite Team Order Form. The Team order form must be submitted on-site and is not able to be submitted prior to the event
2. Order Direct: Fine Designs can be contacted via email or phone to place a custom order for merchandise prior to the invitational. The order can be paid by check or directly by the college. Merchandise will be shipped to the address and shipping method selected by the college. Contact Information for Fine Designs to place an order is below. Direct orders are not able to be shipped to the invitational site and will not be available for pick-up at the merchandise booth. For any Fine Designs customer service inquiries, please contact:
Inna Kasaev, Fine Designs
inna@fdkyteam.com
(859) 241-1265

Media Relations

NAIA Sport Page

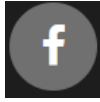
The official 2026 NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance National Championship website can be found by visiting: [NAIA Cheer](#) or [NAIA Dance](#). The official national championship website contains the tournament schedule and results, broadcasting information, historical archives, ticketing information, and more.

Social Media

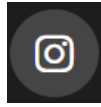
Follow the NAIA on social media for the most up-to-date information surrounding the NAIA Competitive Cheer & Dance National Championship. Please use the hashtags “#NAIACheer” “#NAIADance” & “#BattleForTheRedBanner” for all X(Twitter), Facebook, Instagram content around the event and tag the NAIA.



@NAIA



Play NAIA



playnaia

Championship Results

The 2026 NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championship official schedule and results page can be found on each Sports Main Page ([Cheer](#) | [Dance](#)).

For questions, please contact: Reanne Kietlinski, rkietlinski@naia.org, Athletics Communications Manager.

Championship Photo and Video Requests

All media parties requesting access to photos or video highlights from the 2026 NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championship should contact Reanne Kietlinski, rkietlinski@naia.org. The official photographer for the national championship is Jesus Gallegos, jesus.gallegos@topekapartnership.com. Please contact photographer directly to order championship photos.

Marketing Resources

[Championship Logos](#)

[NAIA School Logos Shared File](#)

Radio and TV Broadcasting Policies

The NAIA owns the rights to all championship streaming. No additional live streams outside of the official stream produced by the NAIA will be allowed.

The 2026 NAIA Cheer and Dance National Championship stream will be accessible through the [NAIA Network](#) and [Urban Edge Network](#). On demand video will be available on the NAIA Network following the championship.

NAIA Sportsmanship and Code of Conduct Policy

Ejections

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a judge consistent with the playing rules in that sport. Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA judge ejecting a student-athlete or coach and 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.

Ejection Report Form

In the NAIA, any ejection in any sport carries a mandatory suspension of at least one contest (see NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 7). In addition, the specific sport itself may also carry a suspension, as determined by rules of competition for that sport. If both an NAIA and sport rule suspension apply, the two suspensions run concurrently.

If a suspension is mandated by an NAIA bylaw it may be appealed starting with the Conference/CAC Commissioner. 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 NAIA 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).

A suspended person cannot be in the competition venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or judge the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will be normally removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

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).

NAIA Championship Property

All NAIA-branded signs, banners, and displays are the property of the NAIA and must be treated with care and respect. Any student-athlete, coach, or team found damaging, removing, or stealing these materials will be held accountable. The offending institution will be responsible for the full cost of repair or replacement and may be subject to an administrative fine of up to \$500, as well as additional disciplinary action under NAIA Conduct and Ethics policies.