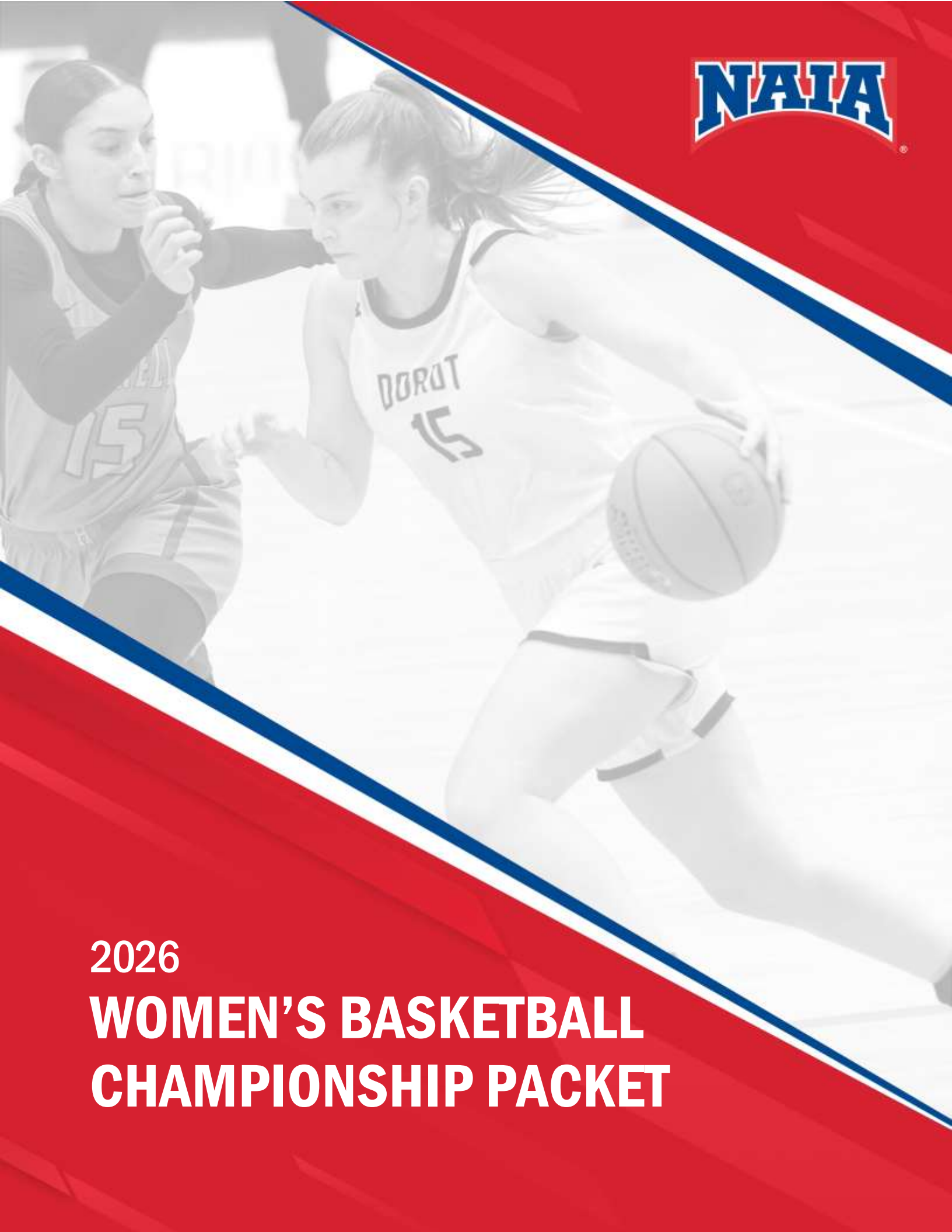




2026

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP PACKET

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Welcome

On behalf of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), congratulations on your qualification to the 2026 Women's Basketball National Championships! The National Championship final site games will take place the Tyson Event Center in Sioux City, Iowa on March 19-24. This championship packet will serve as an in-depth guide for the championship.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sioux City 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 serve as an integral part of education.

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

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	Cell Number	Email
Senior Championship Sport Manager	Abby Schultz	616.610.4436	aschultz@naia.org
Senior Athletic Communications Manager	Katie Green	618.571.1932	kgreen@naia.org
Coordinator of Officials	Tracey Mulligan	573.268.0144	naiabasketballofficial@gmail.com
Co-Tournament Director	Corey Westra	712.226.4722	Corey.westra@gpacsports.com
Co-Tournament Director	Mike Skaggs	712.253.6749	naiascia@gmail.com
Tournament Committee	Shawn Chaffin (Indiana East)	404.925.0434	shchaff@iu.edu
Tournament Committee	Michael Trujillo (Embry-Riddle)	208.479.4221	Trujilm4@erau.edu
Tournament Committee	Torie Murillo (Baker)	785-594-8344	Tmurillo22@me.com

Schedule of Events

Monday, March 16		
11:00am	Coaches Meeting	Zoom
Tuesday, March 17		
4-6pm	Optional: Team Venue Walk Throughs	Tyson Event Center
Wednesday, March 18		
9:30-11am	TUFC: Special Olympics	Tyson Event Center
10-11:30am	Coaches Check-In	Tyson Event Center
4:30-6pm	Student Athlete Experience	Sioux City Convention Center
Thursday, March 19		
1pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
3pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
6pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
8pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
Friday, March 20		
11am	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
1pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
6pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
8pm	Round of 16	Tyson Event Center
Saturday, March 21		
1pm	Quarterfinals	Tyson Event Center
3pm	Quarterfinals	Tyson Event Center
6pm	Quarterfinals	Tyson Event Center
8pm	Quarterfinals	Tyson Event Center
Sunday, March 22		
11-11:50am	Practice #1 – Cramer Winner	Tyson Event Center
12-12:50pm	Practice #2 – Naismith Winner	Tyson Event Center
1-1:50pm	Practice #3 – Liston Winner	Tyson Event Center
2-2:50pm	Practice #4 – Duer Winner	Tyson Event Center

3-4pm	TUFC: Youth Clinic – Naismith/Duer	Tyson Event Center
4-5pm	TUFC: Youth Clinic – Cramer/Liston	Tyson Event Center
Monday, March 23		
11-11:50am	Shootaround #1 – Cramer Winner	Tyson Event Center
12-12:50pm	Shootaround #2 – Naismith Winner	Tyson Event Center
1-1:50pm	Shootaround #3 – Liston Winner	Tyson Event Center
2-2:50pm	Shootaround #4 – Duer Winner	Tyson Event Center
6pm	Semifinal Game #1 – Naismith/Cramer	Tyson Event Center
8pm	Semifinal Game #2 – Duer/Liston	Tyson Event Center
Tuesday, March 24		
11-12pm	Shootaround #1 – Naismith/Cramer	Tyson Event Center
12:30-1:30pm	Shootaround #2 – Duer/Liston	Tyson Event Center
7pm	National Championship Game	Tyson Event Center

Qualifier Call

There is an administrative qualifier call for all final site teams on **Monday, March 16 at 11:00am CST**. Zoom link - <https://naia-org.zoom.us/j/89751293650>

Team Check In

Coaches Check-In will occur between 10-11:30am on Wednesday, March 18 in the lobby of the Tyson Events Center. Coaches need to bring the four basketballs from their First & Second Round sites and a signed copy of their official postseason roster.

Practices

All practices will be held off site beginning as early as Sunday, March 15. Basketballs will be provided at each site. Practice time slots are set for 75 minutes.

Practice times at off-site locations for all days before a participating team's first game will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis, and should be arranged through our off-site practice coordinator, Mike Skaggs.

Practice Coordinator – Mike Skaggs – (712) 253-6749

Practice Location Address:

- Bishop Heelan Catholic High School – 1231 Grandview Boulevard, Sioux City, Iowa
- The Arena Sports Academy – 4501 Southern Hills Drive, Sioux City, Iowa
- CNOS Fieldhouse – 300 Centennial Dr. North Sioux City, South Dakota
- Tyson Event Center – 401 Gordon Dr. Sioux City, Iowa (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday ONLY)

Coaches should contact Mike Skaggs directly for available practice times/locations through a team's first scheduled game (either Thursday or Friday). You may start contacting Mike Skaags at **1pm CST on Sunday, March 15** to arrange practice times for your team.

As teams advance in the tournament, coaches should work with the Tournament Committee to sign up for practice times.

Pre-game Timeline: First Game of the Day

The following time schedule should be followed for the first game of the day at the National Championship Final Site:

1. The court will be set up and available 60 minutes prior to the start of each Final Site game.
2. Officials shall be required to report to the playing area at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each game. Their jurisdiction begins upon arrival on the court.
3. A countdown shall be started on the visible clock 60:00 prior to game time.
4. Pre-game protocol follows the following schedule:

60 minutes on the clock	Court available for shared warm up (Visible clock time: 60:00 – 19:00)
20 minutes on the clock	PA – Opening remarks and sponsor reads
0 minutes on clock	Players to Bench National Anthem Visiting Team Starters/Head Coach Introduced Home Team Starters/Head Coach Introduced
Immediately following intros	Tip Off

5. Team Introductions – Following team warm-up, the following protocol will be used for the National Anthem and player introductions:
 - Teams return to their benches for team huddles, announcements.
 - Teams stand at their benches for the National Anthem.
 - The starting lineup and head coach of the designated visiting team will be announced first. Players proceed from the team bench as their names are called.
 - Home team starting lineup and head coach introductions will follow visiting team introductions.
 - Referees are introduced after the home team.

Pre-game Timeline: Subsequent Games of the Day

The following warm-up schedule should be followed for all remaining games at the Final Site:

- A minimum of **25 minutes** will be permitted between games on **Thursday** and **Friday**. A minimum of **30 minutes** will be permitted between games on **Saturday** and **Monday**.
- The arena clock will run during the pre-game period to indicate when the warm-up period is concluded. There will be two minutes allowed for introductions of teams and coaches prior to game time. The clock will be set at 25 minutes on Thursday and Friday and at 30 minutes on Saturday and Monday.

On-Deck Team Area

If your game is the next up, your team will have a seating area on the far side of the court to use as "on-deck" seating. We ask that your teams don't crowd the locker room hallways leading to the court. Volunteers will direct you to your team's location courtside.

Player Introductions

Following team warm-up, the following protocol will be used for the National Anthem and player introductions at the Round of 16:

- Teams return to their benches for team huddles, announcements.
- Teams stand at their benches for the National Anthem.
- The starting lineup of the designated visiting team will be announced first. Players proceed from the team bench as their names are called.
- Alternating starting lineups with home and visiting team's starting lineups.
- Game officials are introduced after the home team.

Starting Lineup Submission

Each coach is responsible for supplying the Tournament Committee with the following –

- Name and number of each squad member who may participate
- Five starting players designated.

This may be done at the halftime intermission of the game immediately preceding your game and must be done no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of your game.

Team Benches

Each team's bench will include 20 chairs for the following personnel –

- Up to 17 players in uniform
- Six additional personnel
- Up to two athletic trainers

The head coach is responsible for designating bench personnel. **No additional personnel are allowed on the bench for any games.** Players shall remain seated while game is in progress.

Student-Athlete Experience Event

Student-Athlete Experience event will take place on Wednesday, March 18 from 4:30-6p at the Sioux City Convention Center. There will be photo opportunities, recognition of each team, and Champions of Character awards. This will be a social event 30-45 minutes, followed by a brief welcome & recognition of all teams. Teams are encouraged to dress up. **All teams are required to attend.**

There are streets blocked off for bus parking. Please see the map below for parking locations.



Teaming Up for Character

Special Olympics

The NAIA & Women's Basketball Championship, along with Special Olympics Iowa will provide a Special Olympics Clinic on Wednesday, March 18 from 9:30-11am at the Tyson Event Center. **All teams are required to attend.**

Youth Basketball Clinic

Semifinal teams will run two youth clinics for 3rd-6th graders on Sunday afternoon, March 22 from 3-5pm at the Tyson Event Center.

- 3-4pm: Naismith & Duer Bracket Champions
- 4-5pm: Cramer & Liston Bracket Champions

Qualification Process

Sport Rules

The official NCAA Women's Basketball Rules are followed with exceptions as specified in the NAIA Women's Basketball Coaches Manual.

Tournament/Championship Format

NAIA Women's Basketball Bracket format is a true 64-team bracket with teams advancing from the First & Second Rounds to the Final Site on the same bracket lines from start to finish. Once the bracket is set, the championship will be played all the way through without adjusting matchups based on original seeds at the Final Site.

Timeout Policy

The [Team & Media Timeout Format](#) will be used for all NAIA Women's Basketball Championship games.

Film Exchange

All NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship games should already be uploaded into the Hudl exchange pool by the First & Second Round host. NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Final Site games will be uploaded following all games at the final site.

Post-Championship

Awards

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championship events. NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Final Site awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. In addition, awards are presented to the All-Tournament team (10 players including the Tournament MVP), a Hustle Award recipient, and a Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Bracket Champions will be given their semifinals trophy upon advancing to the Semifinals. After the semifinal games, the non-advancing team will have plaques in their locker room.

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.

Uniforms

Uniform Policy

The higher seed in each National Championship Final Site game will be the home team and will wear the light colored uniforms. The lower seeded team will be the visiting team, and will wear dark colored uniforms. If any team has a home uniform color other than white and a clear contrast does not exist, the home team will change. If a contrast still does not exist, the visiting team will change.

All teams must bring both home and away uniforms to the final site.

Equipment

Official Ball

The Spalding FSR100-NAIA is the Official Women's Basketball of the NAIA and is the only ball to be used in all NAIA National Championship Final Site competition.

Instant Replay Information

Instant Replay is used at all NAIA Women's Basketball Championship games.

Venue Information

Official Team Entrance

Teams will enter through the back entrance of the arena.

Bus Parking

Busses can park on the west side of the building closest to Burger King. Bus Drivers can pick up a complimentary ticket at the box office.

Student Section Assignments

Based on matchups, student sections may be implemented accordingly.

Ticketing Information

Tickets are available online and at the box office. To purchase online, please click [HERE](#).

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.

Tournament Committee

Our tournament committee will assist with all operations & logistics of the tournament and available for any questions that you may have. The 2026 NAIA Women's Basketball Tournament Committee is:

Shawn Chaffin, Indiana East

Michael Trujillo, Embry-Riddle (Ariz.)

Torie Murillo, Baker (Kan.)

On-Site Communication

GroupMe for updates, urgent communication, & general questions. Specific questions, please reach out to Abby Schultz or a Tournament Committee Member directly.



Team Travel & Information

NAIA Travel Policy

Participating teams are responsible for any transportation expenses incurred when traveling to and from campus to the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Final Site.

Institutions located less than 750 miles from the National Championship Final Site must use ground transportation.

Institutions located more than 750 miles from the National Championship Final Site location (distance verified and approved by the NAIA) may travel by air.

Participating teams are responsible for making all travel arrangements to the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Final Site. Schools do not need to have a quote from Short's to qualify for potential reimbursement.

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 21 members of the official party.

Travel and lodging reimbursement to member institutions participating in postseason events is not guaranteed by the NAIA for any event. All transportation and housing expenses incurred to attend an NAIA National Championship Final Site shall be the financial responsibility of the institution. Reimbursement will be generated from First & Second Round bid guarantees and will be approved by the NAIA Council of Presidents following the completion of all winter sport National Championships.

Team Travel Expense Report

The traveling team's institution is responsible for transportation expenses incurred to and from campus to the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship. Expense reports should be turned in on the [online form](#) by April 15 to be considered for potential reimbursement.

Hotels

Team Hotels

All participating teams will be assigned to a hotel by the NAIA and National Championship Final Site host and must stay at that property for the duration of the National Championship. **A team representative should contact the assigned hotel property between 8a-5p CST on Monday, March 16 and provide a rooming list, date/time of arrival and a method of payment for all hotel charges.**

A room block of 14 double/double hotel rooms will be reserved on behalf of each participating team, however, each participating team is financially responsible for the cost of the rooms (as well as all other travel expenses and meals). If traveling teams need hotel rooms in addition to the room block provided by the host, traveling teams will be responsible for requesting and securing those needs.

All traveling teams must stay at the designated hotel or assigned property for the duration of their stay at the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Final Site to be eligible for possible reimbursement.

Mike Skaggs will be connecting Head Coaches with their respective hotels upon qualification of their team to the final site.

Medical

Athletic Training

Ashley Culver will be the Host Medical Director for the Championship, phone number 608-728-0171. She will be in contact with your athletic trainers prior to arriving in Sioux City. Athletic Trainers must fill out this [LINK](#) to receive their credentials.

Local Hospitals

Nearest Hospital: MercyOne Medical Center – 801 5th Street Sioux City, IA 51101

Nearest Urgent Care: Unity Point Sunnybrook – 5885 Sunnybrook Dr. Sioux City, IA 51106

Credentials

Team Credentials

Team credentials will be picked up at Coaches Check-In when turning in their postseason rosters. At check-in, teams will pick up their packets with up to 17 student-athlete credentials and six official party credentials. Athletic Trainers will need to be present to pick up their 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 a phone ID. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

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

Hospitality/Concessions

Concessions

Concessions are available on the concourse throughout the arena. Concession stands are cashless.

Official Roster

Submission Process

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 23, with no more than 17 players in uniform. A maximum of 25 credentials may be issued per team which includes up to 17 uniformed players, six additional personnel and up to two athletic trainers.

All Official Party members should be included in the NAIA Connect submission. Postseason rosters will be processed electronically and coaches will bring signed copies to coaches check in.

The initial list of 17 eligible players for the National Championship Final Site **MUST** be submitted by **Monday, March 16 at 12pm NOON CST**. Teams are allowed to make changes up to 30 minutes prior to their Round of 16 game, however any changes made after the deadline will not be reflected in the program.

A copy of this roster **MUST** be hand-carried to the National Championship Final Site and handed in at Coaches check-in.

The deadline for certifying the official roster of 17 players is 30 minutes prior to each team's first game of the National Championship Final Site. If making a roster change at the Final Site, the individual must have been included in the initial submission of the Official Party before the National Championship Final Site.

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the Conference Tournament and the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship First & Second Rounds and between the First & Second Rounds and the Final Site by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the current season.

Once the National Championship Final Site begins, no player may play who is not included on the initial submission of the Official Party roster before the National Championship Final Site.

Programs and Merchandise

Program

Electronic game programs can be found on the [NAIA Women's Basketball website](#).

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 2025-26 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship website can be found by visiting: <https://www.naia.org/sports/wbkb/index>

The official national championship website contains the tournament schedule and results, game box scores, official bracket, photo galleries, historical archives, ticketing information, and more.

Social Media

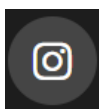
Follow the NAIA on social media for the most up-to-date information surrounding the NAIA SPORT National Championship. Please use the hashtag "#NAIAWBB" & "#BattleForTheRedBanner" for all X(Twitter), Facebook, Instagram content around the event and tag the NAIA.



@NAIA



Play NAIA



playnaia

Championship Results

The 2025-26 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship official live statistics and box scores will be available by visiting:

For questions regarding official live statistics or box scores, please contact:

Katie Green

Senior Athletic Communications Manager

kgreen@naia.org

Championship Photo and Video Requests

All media parties requesting access to photos from the 2025-26 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship should contact Tim Tushla, tushlas@yahoo.com will be the official photographer for the national championship. Please contact 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 2025-26 NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship stream will be accessible through the Urban Edge Network: <https://watch.urbanedgenetwork.net/page/naia>

On demand video will be available on the NAIA Network: <https://naianetwork.com/> following the championship.

NAIA Sportsmanship and Code of Conduct Policy

Ejections

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Association of Independent Institutions. An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

The NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach and the athletic director of the ejected student-athlete or coach must complete ejection reports. 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 game (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.

Basketball Sport Rule – In addition to being disqualified, an individual who is ejected shall leave the playing court and floor area and report to her team's locker room until the game is over.

NAIA NAC Policy Article IV – Conduct in Competition – A player or coach serving a game suspension shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches, bench personnel and/or game officials from the start of game to its completion, including any overtime periods. While the suspended coach or player is allowed on the field and in the bench area during pregame activities, the suspended player may not be dressed in their game uniform, and they may not take part in any warm-up activities.

**A one-game suspension is required by sports rule (not appealable through NAIA process); An additional one-game suspension is only required by NAIA bylaw and therefore is appealable through NAIA process.*