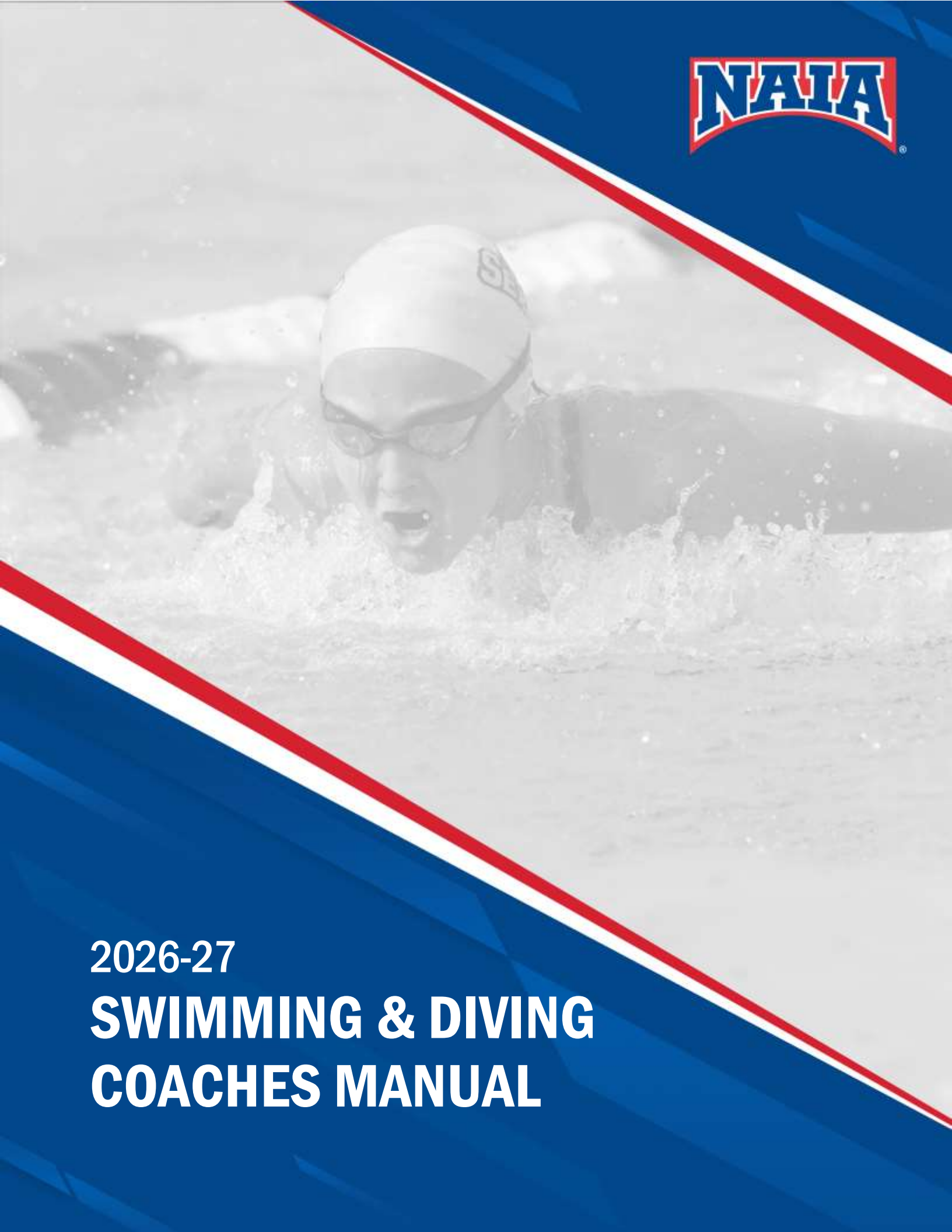




2026-27
**SWIMMING & DIVING
COACHES MANUAL**



Table of Contents

IMPORTANT DATES	3
FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR.....	3
MEET RULES AND REGULATIONS	4
CONDUCT IN COMPETITION	4
POSTSEASON COMPETITION	4
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	5
TRAVEL	11
NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION	12
REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS.....	13
AWARDS	13
COACHES ASSOCIATION	15
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS	16

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IMPORTANT DATES

2026-2027 SWIMMING & DIVING SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1	START – Practices, Scrimmages, Exhibitions, and Competitions
OCTOBER 14	START – Player of the Week Releases <i>Dates: Oct 14, 28, Nov 11, 25, Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 3</i>
OCTOBER 21	START – Rankings from Swimcloud <i>Dates: Oct 21, Nov 20, Jan 8, Feb 5, Feb 19</i>
JANUARY 20	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
JANUARY 31	DEADLINE – Nominations NAIA Scholar-Athletes in NAIA Connect
FEBRUARY 15	DEADLINE – Submit Champions of Character Nominee
FEBRUARY 17	DEADLINE – Completion of conference/CAC/unaffiliated tournaments
FEBRUARY 17	DEADLINE – Submit men's and women's swimming and diving entries through Swimcloud and the NAIA by 11:59pm CST
FEBRUARY 18	RELEASE – Initial Psych Sheet sent via email to all coaches
FEBRUARY 18	DEADLINE - Submit final roster declaring the maximum 18 athletes for competition by 5:00pm CST.
FEBRUARY 19	RELEASE – Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving National Championship Qualifiers by 5:00pm CST
FEBRUARY 22	DEADLINE – Submit Diving Entries into DiveMeets DEADLINE – Submitting Official Postseason Rosters in NAIA Connect
MARCH 1	DEADLINE – Sport Motion Submissions
MARCH 2	RELEASE – Final Psych Sheet sent to all qualified coaches at 4:00pm CST / 5:00pm EST
MARCH 3-6	NAIA Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving National Championships <i>Jones Natatorium, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich.</i>
MARCH 6	RELEASE – NAIA Men's & Women's Swimming and Diving Coaches of the Year
MARCH 29	NAIA Swimming & Diving Coaches Association Annual Business Meeting – 1:00pm CST
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Submit Scholar Team Award Nominations in NAIA Connect
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for Hall of Fame

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Entry Deadline	February 17	February 16	February 14	February 20	February 19
National Championship	March 3-6	March 1-4	Feb 28-Mar 3	March 6-9	March 5-8

National Championship Website – [Click Here](#)



MEET RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

NAIA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving will use NCAA Rules with approved NAIA modifications. These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular-season, and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA. A complete listing of the NCAA Rulebook is available and may be downloaded for free [here](#). Approved Rule Changes for the 2026-2027 season can be found [here](#).

SEASON RECORDS

Win-loss records for all member institutions participating in Swimming and/or Diving shall include only those contests played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall not include contests against junior college, club, 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](#).

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by an 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/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the 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).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will normally be 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.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest. [Ejection Report Form](#)

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Swimming and Diving Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, 11:59pm CST FEBRUARY 17, 2027.

- Swimming entries into [Swimcloud](#).
- Diving entries into the [Swimcloud](#) and the [NAIA](#).

Diving entries must be submitted to [DiveMeets](#) after the release of invited Divers on February 19, 2027, and no later than Monday, February 22, 2027.

Each institution is REQUIRED to submit a fee of \$5.00 per individual for each event entered and \$20.00 for each relay entered.



1. There will be no refund for swimmers who fail to compete.
2. No entry form will be accepted unless accompanied by the fees.

In addition to the registration fee, there is an athlete surcharge. The surcharge is \$25.00 per athlete. 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 must attend all event functions including but not limited to – Student-Athlete experience events, coaches’ meetings, 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. This person shall accept responsibility for the conduct of their 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 members of its official party.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

DATES AND LOCATION

The NAIA Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving National Championships will be held at the Jones Natatorium on the campus of Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan March 3-6, 2027.

ADMINISTRATION

The National Championship is planned and implemented by the NAIA Championships Department under the guidelines and standards established by the NAIA-Swimming & Diving Coaches Association (NAIA-SDCA) and approved by the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC). The NAIA Swimming & Diving Championship is under the direct control and supervision of the NAIA in guidance with the Rules Committee and the Executive Committee. All national champions should be determined in competition, with national championships played to conclusion. Playability should be determined by the onsite rules 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.

The men's and women's swimming and diving committees shall be selected by the membership at the annual meeting of the NAIA-Swimming and Diving Coaches Association. The NAIA will not consider a protest regarding the eligibility of a duly certified student-athlete within 15 calendar days prior to the beginning of national competition. The protest shall be investigated following the event.

Rules governing qualification for and at the national swimming and diving championships are specified in the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules, except those changes approved by the NAIA-Rules and Sites Committee.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

Maximum of 300 Swimmers (140 Men & 160 Women) and maximum of 8 Divers per Board, per Gender

*In the event of a tie for the invited student-athlete 140th & 160th slots, an exception will be made for the meet cap.

The current maximum number of swimmers does not include the addition of any Relay Only Swimmers.

QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

AUTOMATIC QUALIFYING STANDARD

Based on the average of the previous three years' third place finish in finals at the NAIA National Championships. If the third-place times are slower in future years, the current time standards will remain.

PROVISIONAL QUALIFYING STANDARD

Using the Automatic Standard as the baseline, the new Provisional standard for event individual event will be 8.25% slower than the automatic. This number correlates similarly with the current standard (Indicated in **RED** in the qualification table).

[Link for Qualifying Standards in Swimming and Diving.](#)



The current years' Executive Committee will review the previous three-year results and produce next year's Automatic and Provisional Qualifying Standards.

QUALIFICATION PROTOCOL/SELECTION PROCESS

INVITE PROCESS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES:

- Swimmers achieving automatic qualifying standards are invited to the Meet.
 - Once a swimmer is invited to the Meet, they can swim two additional individual events, provided they have achieved the provisional time standard in said events.
 - A swimmer is permitted to swim in all five relays provided their team has the required number of swimmers for relays.
- The next fastest swimmers in each event are added until every event has the same number of entries.
 - For example, if the 50 free were to have the most "A" cuts of any event with 5, then every other event would get swimmers with the top 5 fastest times in.
- Finally, one entry is added to each event to keep the entries in each event as even. This process is repeated until all the swimming spots (140 for men, 160 for women) are filled.
- The swimmers with entry times closest to the NAIA AUTOMATIC cut will get added first in the final row, and when the 140th man or 160th woman is added, the process stops.
 - In the case of a tie for the final spot, a "+1" will be added to the meet.*
- Any school that has 3-5 individual swimming qualifiers and achieves an automatic **relay** qualifying time in a single event may bring one additional relay only swimmer for the qualified relay.
 - Automatic Relay Standards are to be the average of 10th place in the previous three (3) national championships.
 - Relay only swimmers may not swim in any individual event.

New for 2026-2027 – Relay-Only Swimmer Clarification and New Policies:

- No more than one relay-only swimmer is permitted per qualifying team.
- The relay-only swimmer provision does not apply to teams adding an officially invited swimmer through the scratch/alternate process.
- Teams utilizing the scratch process remain governed solely by existing alternate procedures and do not receive additional relay-only swimmer eligibility as a result.
- The relay-only swimmer may compete in any of the 5 available relays provided that the school has achieved at least one NAIA relay standard.

- Schools with 4 or more qualifiers are automatically entered into all relays.
- An alternate list of 10 swimmers is compiled in case a student athlete is scratched prior to the Meet.
 - Alternate swimmers will not be permitted on the deck and will not receive credentials, unless they are officially invited/added due to another swimmer being scratched. Alternate swimmers can receive wristbands to give them free access to the facility; however, they will not receive Credentials unless officially added into the Meet.
- In the event an institution enters more than 18 athletes per gender (including alternates) for selection consideration, that institution will be required to submit a final roster declaring the maximum 18 athletes for competition. If an institution does not enter more than the maximum of 18 scorers, then no further action is necessary. Divers count as ½ of an athlete, swimmers counting as one (1) athlete, and a qualifier that is both diving and swimming count as one (1) athlete.

Qualifying Times – All times which are placed on the Official Entry Form are the final times to be used in the placement of swimmers in Heats. All entry times **MUST** be in yards. If a time standard was made in meters, the coach should be prepared to supply calculations to yards, if challenged. Qualifying times must have been achieved in a bona fide competition between September 1, 2026, and the entry deadline.

The formula to be used for conversion from short course meters to yards:

Event	Factor
400 Meters to 500 yards	x 1.143
1500 meters to 1650 yards	x 1.003
All other events	x .0896

Altitude factor times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or above may be adjusted as indicated below:

	I	II	III
	3000-4250 Ft. Elev.	4250-6500 Ft. Elev.	Above 6500 Ft. Elev.
100 Yards (individual event)	.00	.10	.15



200 Yards (individual event)	.50	1.20	1.60
400-500 Yards (individual event)	2.50	5.00	7.00
1650/1500 Yards/Meters	11.00	20.00	32.50

Subtract the time indicated above from the actual time achieved. This is the time to be used on the entry form.

Information relative to the adjustment MUST be shown in a separate statement and returned with the Official Entry Form. The statement MUST include the name of competitor, actual time, corrected time and signature of the coach.

All diving entries MUST meet the qualifying standards for the minimum point total in a bona fide championship or certified Diving Meet. The award of three judges must be submitted on the official entry and a copy of the Diving Sheet shall be included with the entry.

Proving Times – All entry times submitted for the National Swimming and Diving Championship must be pre-proven. Any times not found in Swimcloud must be proved by the 'Tuesday' 5:30pm CST Scratch Deadline. Proof of time must be provided through a printed copy of certified meet results; this copy must provide Meet location, date of event and time.

DIVING STANDARDS:

- Limited to the Top 8 Divers per Board and per Gender.
- A Diver must compete with at least the minimum degree of difficulty in all championship competitions. Divers perform only six dives in preliminaries and finals.
- Divers who fail to meet the minimum diving score by 40 points or more at the national competition will be disqualified from that discipline and therefore will not score points.

New for 2026-2027 – Select the top 8 divers per board, per gender. Divers will need to have the national qualifying score and degree of difficulty

- Qualifying Standards (6 Dives)
 - 1-Meter Board
 - Men's – Score of 200, 12.0 Difficulty
 - Women's – Score of 180, 10.8 Difficulty
 - 3-Meter Board
 - Men's – Score of 200, 12.0 Difficulty
 - Women's – Score of 180, 12.0 Difficulty
- Divers will count as ½ person toward a team's overall roster number.
- If the number of qualified divers is less than 8, in either Gender, no additional spots are available for swimming.

Any Diving Entry not reported to the [NAIA](#) could result in a Diver not being eligible for the National Championships.

MEET RULES

Rules governing qualification for and at the national swimming and diving championships are specified in the NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules, except those changes approved by the NAIA-Rules and Sites Committee.

Exceptions:

1. The order of relay events differs from the NCAA format: Wednesday – 200 Medley Relay and 800 Free Relay; Thursday – 200 Free Relay; Friday – 400 Medley Relay; Saturday – 400 Free Relay.
2. All relays will be timed finals.
3. There are no logo limitations at the championship for coaches or athletes.
4. Scratch deadlines are by 5:30pm (time zone of National Championship location) the evening prior to the athletes' competition.
5. Further deviation from the NCAA Swimming Rules may be instituted at the NAIA Championships only upon majority rule of the coaches at the Championship Meet meeting.
6. Appeals are to be submitted in writing at Championships Meets up to 30 minutes after the final event of the session in which the appeal is applicable.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is 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 on school letterhead and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE – The NAC Sport Liaison will be on the call to listen to the discussion of championship selection. The NAC Liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the selection. The oversight committee will review ratings to prevent any ratings process violations or unethical use of the ratings process.

FORMAT

The NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships are conducted in a four-day format with preliminaries in the morning/afternoon and finals in the same events conducted in the evening. There are 20 events for men and 20 events for women. Both men's and women's individual champions are determined.

The NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships will be a USA Swimming observed sanctioned meet.

SCORING

The top eight competitors from the preliminaries advance to the evening finals, with the 9th through 16th positions advancing to the consolation final. Championship scoring is in accordance with NCAA rules.

In the case of a tie in prelims for 9th or 16th position, the following will be utilized (from NCAA Rulebook):

1. All ties for 9th or 16th positions shall be determined by a swim-off or alternate tie breaking method if agreed upon by both coaches (option: coin toss).
2. Swim-off Heats and lanes shall be decided by lot.
3. In case of a disqualification, see NCAA Rulebook, Pg. 60.
4. Swim-offs may be held at a mutually agreed upon time by the teams involved. If a mutual time cannot be agreed upon, the Meet Referee will have the authority to set a time which may be no sooner than 30 minutes following the last event of that session.
5. If there are multiple ties in the same event and for different positions, all swimmers may swim in the same swim-off, if mutually agreed upon by the coaches. Otherwise, those tied for 16th position will swim first, followed immediately by those tied for 9th position.

EVENT ORDER

The order of events for the 2026-27 National Championship:

DAY 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
200 Med Relay (W&M)	500 Free (W&M)	100 Fly (W&M)	1650 Free (W&M)
3m Diving (M)	200 IM (W&M)	400 IM (W&M)	200 Back (W&M)
800 Free Relay (W&M)	50 Free (W&M)	200 Free (W&M)	100 Free (W&M)
	3m Diving (W)	100 Breast (W&M)	200 Breast (W&M)
	200 Free Relay (W&M)	100 Back (W&M)	200 Fly (W&M)
		1m Diving (M)	1m Diving (W)
		400 Med Relay (W&M)	400 Free Relay (W&M)

**All women's events are held first at all NAIA Championships.*

In dual or invitational swimming competitions, coaches from all teams involved may agree to combine heats of Men's and Women's 500 Freestyle, 400 IM and 1650 events. There will be a lane of separation between the two genders.

SCRATCH PROCEDURES

Scratch deadlines will be at 5:30pm (time zone of National Championship location) on the day previous to the final in any such event. Entry/scratch boxes will be accessible at the facility from 10:00am to 5:30pm each day. The 5:30pm deadline shall be Tuesday for all Wednesday events, Wednesday for all Thursday events, Thursday for all Friday events, and Friday for all Saturday events.



All contestants must have someone, other than an undergraduate, duly appointed by their institutions, to represent their interests at the time of scratch and draw meetings, and throughout the championships.

When declaring your roster of 18 athletes, having the first right of refusal to add an alternate if you must scratch an athlete before the scratch deadline.

CREDENTIAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL PARTY

The official party for each team (men's or women's) will be limited to the number of qualifying athletes for each team (maximum of 18) along with up to two (2) support staff. One additional support staff credential may be issued at check-in for a Diving Coach for any school that qualifies at least one Diver. Only one Diving Coach Credential permitted per school. Separate Credentials will be available for Athletic Trainers, Sports Information Personnel, Athletic Directors and University Presidents. Those individuals listed as Alternates will not receive Credentials, unless they become officially invited to the Meet.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Any traveling Athletic Trainer will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the pool deck. 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 to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration, only with a photo ID, or receive them directly from the onsite Head Athletic Trainer.

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

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

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 directly from the onsite Media Coordinator, only with photo ID. Media credentials will not be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

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

ADMINISTRATOR PERSONNEL

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two VIP credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office/will call.

All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

ROSTER DECLARATION

Each team must declare with their entries their maximum 18-athlete roster when submitting their official entries.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via [NAIA Connect](#). If you do not have a login account, please contact naiaconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

TEAM HOUSING

The host shall be responsible for designating the championship hotel properties or providing an approved list of hotels to choose from for participating institutions. Each competing institution is obligated to make its own reservations. All participating teams **MUST** stay at the designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team **INELIGIBLE** for **participation**.

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 – coaches' meetings and student-athlete experience events. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team competing in the National Championships, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Championship Sport Manager and the Rules Committee to make changes to accommodate such delays.

It is the responsibility of the host Medial Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The Head Athletic Trainer is to notify the NAIA



Championship Sport Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (Host and Competition Committee, and NAIA National Office), will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

RELATED INFORMATION

Code of Conduct - All swimmers and divers participating in the NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships have agreed to abide by the following standards of conduct:

1. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited.
2. Exemplary conduct is expected in team travel, at eating establishments, the championship site, and overnight accommodations before, during, and after the national championships.
3. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in either or all of the following actions:
 - a. University or college president and athletics director to be notified by letter;
 - b. The athlete be banned from the following year's championships (if the athlete is a senior, his/her team be ineligible for the following year's championships); and/or
 - c. All honors and awards, including All-America status and all points scored, are taken away from the offending athlete.
4. Upon notification of any violation of the Code of Conduct, the NAIA-Swimming and Diving Coaches Association will review the case and take prompt, appropriate action, which may include the above.

It is the RESPONSIBILITY of NAIA Swimming and Diving coaches to ensure that their teams adhere to these rules of conduct.

Student-Athlete Experience Event – All NAIA institutions will be required to attend the student athlete experience event. Information about the event will be shared with all qualifying teams prior to the championship.

Teaming Up For Character Event – The Host will provide an opportunity for student athletes to sign up and participate in a meaningful event during the week of the championship.

Meetings – There will be a pre-championship coaches meeting held the day before the competition begins. The NAIA Swimming and Diving Coaches Association's Annual Business Meeting will take place in the weeks following the championship.

Admission – All athletes and coaches must have credentials (participant passes) on their person in order to be admitted into the facility and on to the pool deck.

Medical Care – Training facilities and certified trainers will be available to the competing teams from the host. Medical doctors and access to a medical facility will be available.

New for 2026-2027 – Pool Deck Seating Draft - Prior to the Championship, a seating assignment chart of the pool deck will be developed and organized based on the previous season's final scores at Nationals and conducted as a draft.

1. A point average will be calculated for each scoring team by combining each program's men's and women's final score.
2. The top 16 teams' head coach will choose their seating area in order of highest to lowest average. Institutions that sponsor only one gender will retain their whole score (not average).
3. After the top 16 teams, deck assignments will be chosen based on the remaining teams' overall swimmer/diver count for the current meet. Those coaches will work with the meet committee to identify their team's seating areas.



TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

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.

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 PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying 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, the [National Administrative Council Drug Testing Policy Manual](#), the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – www.naia.org/wellness

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](#)

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/SUBMITTING SCORES

You must report all results from all varsity contests against four-year or upper-level, degree-granting, accredited institutions. Meet results need to be submitted to SwimCloud. The responsibility of uploading times to the SwimCloud platform will fall under each team's head coach by the following Tuesday of the competition. Results into HyTek are also encouraged but may not be used for the NAIA National Championships.

Times not submitted by Tuesday following the completion of the Meet are ineligible for consideration for use as NAIA National Championship qualifying times. Coaches, SIDs, and NAIA administrators will have real-time access to the top times database.

New for 2026-2027 – The National Office, using SwimCloud's Championship ranking tool, will promote/publish 7, Top 10, NAIA Swimming and Diving Men's and Women's Team Rankings each season.

AWARDS

Nomination details and forms for the following national awards can be found [HERE](#).

NATIONAL SWIMMER OR DIVER OF THE MONTH

There will be bi-weekly recognition of an outstanding performance at the national level, with honorees selected from athletes nominated by their institution's Sports Information Directors. Honorees are released by 10:00am CST during the selected dates. All nominations must be submitted in PrestoAwards.

Honorees will be selected by a national voting committee. Only one athlete from each team will be allowed for national consideration during each honors period.

ALL-AMERICA

Official NAIA individual awards will be presented to the top eight individuals in each event and the individuals on each of the top eight relay teams who swim in the finals at the championship meet.

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 (January 31).
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 **January 31, 2027** 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 the NAIA Connect admin website at <https://www.naiacconnect.org/s/login/>. **NAIA Connect is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.**

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 **January 31, 2027**.

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 for 2026-2027 – 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**. For the NAIA Scholar Team Award go to [NAIA Connect](#).

NATIONAL SWIMMER OF THE YEAR

Each year the NAIA-SDCA names a Female and Male Swimmer of the Year at the National Championship. The National Swimmer of the Year will be the athlete who scores the most points for their team. In the event of a tie, the swimmer breaking the most individual National Championship records, at the competition, will be acknowledged as the National Swimmer of the Year. If the athletes are still tied, the highest scoring single swim from the competition based on the Hy-Tek Open Points system (or other approved system) will be used to determine the winner.

SWIM OF THE MEET

An award will be presented to the male and female athlete who had the best single event National Championship swimming performance of the year, based on Hy-Tek Open Points (or other approved system).

COACH OF THE YEAR

The Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving Coach of the Year will be selected by coach peer votes.

New for 2026-2027 – In the event of a tie in the voting for NAIA Coach of the Year, the tie shall be broken by a vote of the NAIA onsite Rules Committee, Host Director, and onsite Media Coordinator, which will determine the final recipient of the award.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. Team trophies are awarded to the National Championship team, second-place team, and third-place teams. Individual plaques are awarded to the top eight finishers of every event (M & W). Other National Championship Awards that are presented are the Swim of the Meet (M & W), Swimmer of the Year (M & W) and Diver of the Year (M & W).



The determination of team scoring at the National Championships is based on points earned throughout the event in both swimming and diving. Points are awarded for 1st through 16th place in both individual events in swimming and diving as well as relays. The top overall combined scores in Men's and Women's will be considered the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving National Champions. The points chart is listed below.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th
Ind.	20	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	9	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Relay	40	34	32	30	28	26	24	22	18	14	12	10	8	6	4	2

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

COACHES ASSOCIATION

NAIA-SWIMMING AND DIVING COACHES ASSOCIATION

The NAIA-SDCA is an organization of collegiate swimming and diving coaches at NAIA member institutions. The NAIA-SDCA meets annually, conducting its business in conjunction with the NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships or in the following weeks.

The NAIA-SDCA elects officers who serve one-year terms and provide leadership for the Association. The NAIA-SDCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation of all action affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA Swimming and Diving Association.

AMERICAN SWIMMING COACHES ASSOCIATION

The American Swimming Coaches Association (ASCA) is a professional service organization based on a central theme of Leadership in American Swimming through Education, Certification, and Cooperation. ASCA is dedicated to creating and enhancing progressive and highly visible programs that are effective in strengthening and improving the coaching profession and building a stronger swimming community.

COLLEGE SWIMMING COACHES ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The mission of the College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) is to promote collegiate swimming and diving and provide educational, professional and competitive services and opportunities of its membership and to those generally interested in collegiate aquatic activities.

NAIA-SDCA 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 NAC. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.

**STANDING COMMITTEES****NAIA SWIMMING & DIVING COACHES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

Position/Title	Name	Contact Information	School
President:	Alicia Kemnitz	270-384-7343 kemnitza@lindsey.edu	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)
VicePresident:	Curren Bates	661-755-2502 cbates@masters.edu	The Master's University (Calif.)
Secretary:	Rob Zamorano	770-946-1236 rzamorano@scad.edu	SCAD Savannah (Ga.)
Past President:	Kristen Hepp	616-632-2470 heppk@aquinas.edu	Aquinas College (Mich.)
National Office Liaison:	Tommy Chasanoff	606-539-4479 Thomas.chasanoff@ucumberlands.edu	University of the Cumberlands (Ky.)

SWIMMING & DIVING RULES AND CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

POSITION/TITLE	NAME, SCHOOL & CONTACT INFO
Past President and Chair	Kristen Hepp , Aquinas College (Mich.), heppk@aquinas.edu
At-Large Swimming Representative	Adam Epstein , Keiser University, aepstein@keiseruniversity.edu 2 nd Year
At-Large Swimming Representative	Rob Zamorano , SCAD Savannah, rzamorano@scad.edu – 1 st Year
At-Large Swimming Representative	Casey Bradstreet , Campbellsville University, cabradstreet@campbellsville.edu – 1 st Year
At-Large Diving Representative	DD Blankenship , U. of the Cumberlands, dd.blankenship@ucumberlands.edu – 2 nd Year

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**CONSTITUTION****PREAMBLE**

Active coaches engaged in the area of competitive swimming and diving at an NAIA institution recognizing the need for concerted and coordinated efforts in fulfilling the objectives of education through the significant and unique achievements of competitive swimming and diving do establish and adopt this constitution for the Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA-SDCA).

ARTICLE I – NAME

The organization shall be called the Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

ARTICLE II – AIMS

Section 1 – The aims of the Association are parallel to and support the aims of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The primary aim of the Association is to serve as a coordinating unit for those concerned with competitive swimming and diving within the NAIA.

Section 2 – Supplementing and completing the general aims of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Association supports the following purposes:

- A. To promote and improve the program of intercollegiate competitive swimming and diving.
- B. To make intercollegiate competitive swimming and diving an interesting and meaningful activity for the participant and the spectator.
- C. To promote superior teaching and coaching in the areas of competitive swimming and diving.
- D. To promote greater understanding and friendship among the members and the member institutions of the NAIA.
- E. To act in an advisory capacity whenever possible in order to promote and coordinate the swimming and diving activities of the NAIA.



- F. To promote uniform rules, interpretations, and officiating at swimming and diving meets.
- G. To encourage more colleges and universities to participate in competitive swimming and diving programs.
- H. To improve the professional status of the Association through mutual assistance and cooperation of the members and the member institutions.
- I. To promote NAIA swimming and diving on the international level.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association shall be open to all active swimming and/or diving coaches of member institutions that are in good standing in accordance with the policies of the NAIA-Swimming and Diving Coaches Association.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT

Section 1 – The officers shall consist of the president, vice president, secretary and past president. All shall be elected to office in accordance with the procedures as provided for in the Bylaws. The officers shall be referred to as the Executive Board, collectively.

Section 2 – The business of the Association shall be conducted by an executive board, general assembly and committees, constituted as hereinafter provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 3 – Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for conducting meetings.

Section 4 – The established operating codes for the Executive Board and committees shall guide those responsible for carrying out their particular duties. Said operating code must be formally adopted by the Executive Board through a majority vote.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1 – The official business meeting of the general assembly of the Association shall be held annually at the site of the national swimming and diving championships.

- A. Items for the agenda shall be sent, in writing, to the president by the members 21 days prior to the annual business meeting.
- B. The membership at the national championships site shall be informed of the proposed agenda, time and place of the meeting at least one day prior to said meeting.

Section 2 – The Rules Committee shall meet on the Wednesday prior to, and at the site of, the national swimming and diving championships at a time determined by the past president.

Section 3 – The Executive Board shall meet on the Wednesday prior to, and at the site of, the national swimming and diving championships. They shall be charged with the final draft of the agenda for the annual business meeting and receive any amendments or adoptions to the Association Constitution and Bylaws or operating codes.

ARTICLE VI – HONOR AWARDS

Honor awards may be recommended for meritorious service by this Association to the NAIA Awards/Hall of Fame Committee.

ARTICLE VII – PUBLICATIONS

Section 1 – The official publication of the Association shall be the newsletter of the Swimming and Diving Coaches Association and the NAIA News.

Section 2 – The Association may publish and distribute any other materials as authorized by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII – ADOPTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – Any active member may submit amendments to the NAIA-SDCA Constitution and/or Bylaws.

- A. Such proposed amendments may be submitted in writing to the Executive Board prior to its meeting on the Wednesday prior to the national swimming and diving championships, OR
- B. Such proposed amendments may be submitted to the president and must be postmarked 15 days prior to the opening of the national swimming and diving championships.

Section 2 – All proposals submitted in accordance with Section 1 must be submitted to the general membership at the annual business meeting following receipt of the proposal.



Section 3 – All proposed amendments and adoptions shall be voted upon by the general membership at the annual business meeting.

Section 4 – The membership shall be notified by e-mail of all approved changes when reviewed and acted upon by the NAIA-Council of Athletics Administrators.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Individuals actively engaged in coaching competitive swimming and/or diving in one of the NAIA member institutions are eligible for membership in the Association.

Section 2 – Active membership shall entitle the person to one vote at the annual business meeting.

For the Council for Student-Athletes, there is a scheduled rotation of all NAIA championship sports (men's and women's), with each sport having representation on the CSA for a two-year term. The selected individual must be a NAIA Women's Volleyball Head Coach.

ARTICLE II – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1 – The duties and responsibilities of the general assembly shall be as follows:

- A. To approve the Constitution, Bylaws, operating code, policies and procedures of the Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of the NAIA.
- B. To initiate such business as it seems desirable.
- C. To receive and approve all annual reports submitted to the Executive Board or any one of its members.
- D. To receive and approve all special committee reports.
- E. To nominate and elect officers.
- F. To approve any general operation budgets.

Section 2 – The duties and responsibilities of the men's and women's team coaches shall be as follows:

- A. To hold a meeting at the site of, and during the week of, the national men's and women's swimming and diving championships. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held jointly so long as the championships are conducted jointly.
- B. To establish the rules and procedures for the men's/women's section of the national meet that pertain to their respective events.
- C. To elect members to the respective men's/women's National Swimming and Diving Championship Meet Committee.

ARTICLE III – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 – The duties and responsibilities of the Executive Board (which consist of the president, vice president, secretary and past president) shall be:

- A. To initiate and transact all business necessary for the conduct of the Association as directed by the general assembly.
- B. To suggest and promote needed changes to the Association or the NAIA.
- C. To draft the final agenda for the annual business meeting.
- D. To receive and review any amendments or adoptions to the Constitution and Bylaws or operating code.
- E. To act upon all rules, regulations and mandates passed by the general assembly.
- F. To inform the membership of all actions taken by the Executive Board.
- G. To make recommendations for appointments to all national aquatic committees.
- H. To carry out all other duties as indicated in the operating codes.

Section 2 – The duties and responsibilities of the president shall be:

- A. To hold office for one year.
- B. To hold the annual business meeting of the Association at the site of the national swimming and diving championships.
- C. To act as chair of all meetings of the general assembly of the Association and to preside at Executive Board functions.
- D. To appoint persons to fill any vacant office or committee position until the time of the next annual business meeting.
- E. To be responsible for conducting business not otherwise provided for.
- F. To formally request expenditures of the Association's budget to the National Office.
- G. To appoint president's committees as the need arises.
- H. To make an annual report to the membership at the annual business meeting.
- I. To notify the NAIA National Office of candidates for appointments to all national aquatic committees.
- J. To carry out all other duties as indicated in the operating codes.



Section 3 – The duties and responsibilities of the vice president shall be:

- A. To hold office for one year prior to assuming the office of president, unless serving in an appointed position.
- B. To act for the president in their absence and in case of death or resignation of the president; to succeed him or her for the unexpired term.
- C. Responsible for reviewing results in Swimcloud every Tuesday and taking any necessary steps to make any corrections.
- D. To be the coordinator of the annual membership drive.
- E. To serve as a member of the Executive Board.
- F. To carry out all other duties indicated in the operating codes.

Section 4 – The duties and responsibilities of the secretary shall be:

- A. To hold office for one year prior to assuming the office of vice president, unless serving in an appointed position.
- B. To record the proceedings of all Executive Board and annual business meetings of the Association and to forward such information to the NAIA National Office for dissemination to the membership.
- C. To forward to the editor of the newsletter of the NAIA-SDCA within five days after their receipt of any petitions for constitutional adoptions or amendments.
- D. To serve as a member of the Executive Board.
- E. The National Championship Meet will be a USA Swimming Observed Sanctioned Event. Duties of the Secretary include,
 - a. Forty-five (45) days prior to the meet, send in an application for the meet to be an observed sanction (season culminating) event.
 - b. Following the event, follow up with any necessary USA Swimming associations.

Section 5 – The duties and responsibilities of the past president shall be:

- A. To hold office for one year.
- B. To serve as a member of the Executive Board.
- C. To serve as chair of the Rules Committee.

Section 6 – The duties and responsibilities of the Rules Committee (chaired by the past president and consisting of three members elected at-large for each division and one member elected at-large to represent diving) shall be:

- A. To evaluate potential sites for the national championship and make recommendations to the membership.
- B. To serve in an advisory capacity to the host institution as to the preparation and conduct of the national championship meet.
- C. To seed all heats during the entire national championship and rule on the validity of any questionable entries within the division of responsibility.
- D. To interpret, enforce and make recommendations to the membership concerning the rules and regulations of the championship meet operation.
- E. To function during the national swimming and diving championships as the meet committee along with the meet director, swimming referee, starter and diving referee for their respective division.
- F. To be responsible for (directly or through appointment) the naming of the coach of the year in accordance with the approved selection procedures.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS

Section 1 – All nominees shall be from the active membership of the Association.

Section 2 – The slate of candidates shall be listed and made public to the membership present at the championship meet site the day prior to the annual business meeting.

Section 3 – Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting of the general assembly, but the person making the nomination must have the written consent of the nominee and present it in evidence at the time of nomination.

Section 4 – Election of the officers and Rules Committee members shall occur at the annual business meeting of the Association. To be elected, candidates must poll a majority of votes cast.

Section 5 – In the event that an officer or committee member is unable to complete a term of office, the president shall appoint a successor to assume the office until the next annual business meeting of the Association.

Section 6 – The term of office for the president, vice president, secretary and past president shall be one year.

Section 7 – The Rules Committee shall consist of three at-large members. Terms shall be for three years each. The initial election was for a one-year, two-year and three-year term to ensure continuity of office.

Section 8 – One diving representative shall be elected to the Rules Committee. The term shall be for three years.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1 – The official business meeting of the general assembly of the Association shall be held annually at the site of the national swimming and diving championships.

- A. Items for the agenda shall be submitted to the president by the members, 15 days prior to the annual business meeting.
- B. The membership at the national championship meet site shall be informed of the proposed agenda, time and place of the meeting, at least one day prior to said meeting.

Section 2 – The Rules Committee shall meet on the Wednesday prior to and at the site of the national swimming and diving championships at a time determined by the past president.

Section 3 – The Executive Board shall meet on the Wednesday prior to and at the site of the national swimming and diving championships. They shall be charged with the final draft of the agenda for the annual meeting and receive any amendments or adoptions to the Association Constitution and Bylaws or operating codes.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1 – There shall be standing committees, president's committees and continuing committees.

Section 2 – The standing committees shall function in matters which involve long-term attention and continuity and shall receive their original structuring from the Executive Board.

Section 3 – The president's committees shall be appointed for relatively specific duties and such duties will usually be of limited duration. The members of said committee shall be appointed by the president at his or her discretion.

Section 4 – Continuing committees are established for indefinite terms and are not dependent upon the president's term of office. The committee shall originate with the appointment by the president, but the Executive Board can terminate any continuing committee if it so desires, because of the completion of the original goal or because of inefficiency.

ARTICLE VII – HONOR AWARDS

Section 1 – The Association may recommend individuals for meritorious service in competitive swimming to the NAIA Awards/Hall of Fame Committee.

Section 2 – The Association may recommend the honoring of individuals by the NAIA after due process of research and the approval of the NAIA-Council of Athletics Administrators