

**2004 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship (66TH Annual)
Media Information – Draft, December 10, 2003**

Credentials criteria are listed in this guide.

For preliminary-round credentials, contact each site's media coordinator (see Page 29.)

For the Final Four, the deadline for submitting credential applications is Friday, February 20. Applications may be submitted either online or on the official form provided by the NCAA (Bill Hancock, bhancock@ncaa.org.)

To order a **telephone** at any site, call the NCAA Telecommunications Center, 888-838-8080.

To reserve a **hotel** room at the Final Four, use the credential application. At all other rounds, contact each site's media coordinator.

NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	
For selected news conferences (see below), media representatives may call 913/981-5507 to participate by telephone. Normal long-distance charges apply. PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THE PHONE NUMBER TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.	
Wednesday, February 25 3 p.m. Eastern	Q and A with Division I Men's Basketball Committee chair Bob Bowlsby
Wednesday, March 10 3 p.m. Eastern	Q and A with Division I Men's Basketball Committee chair Bob Bowlsby
Sunday, March 14 6:30 p.m. Eastern	Q and A with Division I Men's Basketball Committee chair Bob Bowlsby
Wednesday, March 31 Noon-1 p.m. Central	Q and A with Final Four coaches
Friday, April 2 1-3 p.m. Central	Listen-only with Final Four coaches and student-athletes, in conjunction with practices from Alamodome
Saturday, April 3 Approximately 7-8 p.m. and 10-11 p.m. Central	Listen-only, postgame with Final Four coaches and student-athletes from Alamodome
Sunday, April 4 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Central	Listen-only with championship-game coaches and student-athletes from Alamodome
Monday, April 5 Approximately 10 p.m.-midnight Central	Listen-only, postgame with Final Four coaches and student-athletes from Alamodome
News conferences also will take place at the preliminary-round sites: (all times are local) Day before opening round: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Day before first round: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Day before second round: 1:35-4:30 p.m. Day before regional semifinals: 1-3 p.m. Day before regional finals: 1:30-3:30 p.m.	

Helpful Links

Bracket:
http://www.ncaa.org/library/programs/brackets/d1_m_basketball_bracket.pdf

Logo:
www.ncaa.org. Then "Press Room" to "Logo Downloads" to "NCAA registered logos for media use." The password is "media." Then "Event-Site Specific Logos."

Records: www.ncaa.org. Then "News and Publications" to "NCAA Publications, View Online," then "Records Books," then "Final Four (Men's)," then "View Online."

Dates and Sites

Opening Round

Dayton, March 16; UD Arena (University of Dayton, host)

First and Second Rounds

Buffalo, March 18 and 20; HSBC Arena (Canisius College, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Niagara University, co-hosts)

Raleigh, March 18 and 20; RBC Center (North Carolina State University, host)

Kansas City, March 19 and 21; Kemper Arena (Big 12 Conference, host)

Orlando, March 19 and 21; T.D. Waterhouse Center (Stetson University, host)

Columbus, March 19 and 21; Nationwide Arena (Ohio State University, host)

Milwaukee, March 19 and 21; Bradley Center (Marquette University, host)

Denver, March 18 and 20; Pepsi Center (Colorado State University and Mountain West Conference, co-hosts)

Seattle, March 18 and 20; Key Arena (University of Washington, host)

Regionals

East Rutherford, New Jersey, March 25 and 27; Continental Airlines Arena (Rutgers University, host),

Atlanta, Georgia, March 26 and 28; Georgia Dome (Georgia Institute of Technology, host)

St. Louis, March 26 and 28; Edward Jones Dome (Missouri Valley Conference, host)

Phoenix, March 25 and 27; America West Arena (Arizona State University, host)

Final Four

San Antonio, April 3 and 5; Alamodome (University of Texas at San Antonio, host)

Final Four Information

Alamodome, San Antonio (Texas-San Antonio, host institution)
Semifinal Games—Saturday, April 3, 5:07 p.m. (Central time)
Championship Game—Monday, April 5, approximately 8:21 p.m. (Central Time)

NCAA Media Office, Indianapolis: 317/917-6499
Alamodome, 210/207-3663
NCAA Media Coordination Office in San Antonio,
(phone TBD) (begins March 27)

Media Credential Distribution: Alamodome, SW tunnel
Media Work Rooms:

Arena—South floor

Hotel—Marriott Riverwalk, Salon A

News Conferences: Alamodome

Media Hospitality: Marriott Riverwalk, Salons B-C

MEDIA HEADQUARTERS HOTEL (Beginning
Thursday, April 1)
Marriott Riverwalk, (210/223-1000)

TEAM HEADQUARTERS HOTELS

East Rutherford Regional: Omni (210/691-8888)

Atlanta Regional: Adam's Mark (210/354-2800)

St. Louis Regional: Westin (210/224-6500)

Phoenix Regional: Plaza San Antonio (210/229-1000)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Hyatt Regency San Antonio (210/222-1234)

DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE

Bob Bowlsby, University of Iowa, chair

Karl Benson, Western Athletic Conference

Floyd Kerr, Southern University, Baton Rouge

Jon LeCrone, Horizon League

Craig Littlepage, University of Virginia

Jim Livengood, University of Arizona

Gerald Myers, Texas Tech University

Les Robinson, The Citadel

Judy Rose, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Gary Walters, Princeton University

NCAA STAFF

Tom Jernstedt, Executive Vice-President

Greg Shaheen, Vice-President of Division I Men's

Basketball and Championship Strategies

Jeanne Boyd, Director of the Division I Men's

Basketball Championship

L. J. Wright, Director of the Division I Men's Basketball

Championship

Tammy Lee, Assistant Coordinator of the Division I

Men's Basketball Championship

Bill Hancock, Consultant to the Division I Men's

Basketball Championship (media coordinator)

ACCESS TO MEDIA AREAS

Credentials are required for all activities at the Alamodome from Friday through Monday. Credentials are required for entrance to the venue, to the media seating area, to the work room and to the interview room.

A media credential permits admittance to the Alamodome through any turnstile; the south dock entrance will give the easiest access to the media work room and the playing floor.

CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

All credentials must be claimed in person; government-issued identification is required. Security representatives will check all bags. Members of the media may claim working credentials at the Alamodome's southwest dock entry, at the following times:

Thursday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to tip-off.

Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monday, 4 p.m. to tip-off.

MEDIA WORK ROOMS

Media guides, participant releases, updated statistics, other information and a limited number of telephones will be available in the media work rooms at the Marriott Riverwalk and at the Alamodome. The work room in the Alamodome will open at 9 a.m. daily beginning Friday, April 2. The work room at the Marriott Riverwalk will open at 8 a.m. daily beginning Thursday, April 2.

MEDIA HOSPITALITY

Either the championship souvenir pin or a media credential is required for admittance, to ensure that admission is limited to media representatives and their guests. There will be a \$2 charge for beer and wine; no charge for soft drinks. The media hospitality room will be open at the following times:

Thursday, noon to 1:30 a.m.

Friday, 6 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Saturday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and postgame to 1:30 a.m.

Sunday, 6 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Monday, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and postgame to 1:30 a.m.

The NCAA will provide a buffet for the media in the Marriott Riverwalk after the championship game Monday night.

FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(tentative, all times Central)

Thursday, April 1

11:30 a.m.—NABC news conference, Marriott Riverwalk, D-E-F
3 p.m.—NCAA media seminar with NCAA President Myles Brand, Alamodome.

Friday, April 2

11 a.m.—The Associated Press coach- and player-of-the-year news conference, Marriott Riverwalk D-E-F
Noon-4 p.m.—Team practices, Alamodome (credentials required).
1-3 p.m.—Team news conferences, Alamodome (credentials required).
7 p.m.—NABC all-star game, SBC Center (contact NABC)

Saturday, April 3

8 a.m.-noon—NCAA YES Clinics, (Lackland AFB, Sam Houston HS, UTSA, Trinity)
5:07 p.m. —National semifinal games, Alamodome.

Sunday, April 4

11 a.m.-2 p.m.—Team news conferences, Alamodome.

Monday, April 5

9 a.m.—United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) annual meeting, open to all journalists, Marriott Riverwalk E-F

Approximately 8:21 p.m.—Championship game.

Tuesday, April 6

10 a.m.—NCAA and SALOC administrative wrap-up news conference, Marriott Riverwalk Ballroom A

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

The USBWA will distribute ballots to certified media representatives at the conclusion of the championship game to elect a five-person all-tournament team, which includes the most outstanding player. The team will be announced immediately after the game.

BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE

The NCAA will provide shuttle service from the media hotels to the Alamodome, Thursday through Monday, although it is anticipated that many media representatives lodging at the Marriott Riverwalk will prefer to walk. The NCAA will also provide shuttle service for the media to and from the hotels and the airport at these times:

Wednesday, March 31	10 a.m.—midnight (airport to hotel)
Thursday, April 1	9 a.m.—midnight (airport to hotel)
Friday, April 2	9 a.m.—midnight (airport to hotel)
Tuesday, April 6	5 a.m.—6 p.m. (hotel to airport)

NEWS CONFERENCE SATELLITE SERVICE

The NCAA will uplink the four formal interview sessions. Television stations are welcome to use this footage without restriction.

Friday: 1-3 p.m., Central time

Saturday: After both semifinal games

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Central time

Monday: After championship game.

Contact Bill Hancock at the NCAA (317/917-6222, or bhancock@ncaa.org) for satellite coordinates.

PARKING FOR MEDIA

Limited reserved media parking will be available at the Alamodome. Media should submit parking requests to Bill Hancock at the NCAA, 317/917-6499.

PARKING FOR SATELLITE TRUCKS

Limited reserved satellite truck parking will be available at the Alamodome; the fee will be \$250. Media should submit requests to Danielle Ambrose at the Alamodome, (dambrose@alamodome.com; 210/207-3607; 100 Montana Street, San Antonio 78203.)

RADIO FREQUENCY COORDINATION

Agencies using portable radios should contact the frequency coordinator, Robbie Llanos at the Alamodome, 210/207-3607, rllanos@alamodome.com.

USBWA PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

The "Oscar Robertson College Player-of-the-Year Award," as voted by the USBWA, will be presented (TBD).

WAITING AREA FOR SPOUSES AND DATES

After the final game of each session, spouses or dates of media representatives may wait in the lower portion of Section No. 125 at the Alamodome for their escorts. This will permit arena personnel to begin securing the property and will provide a comfortable waiting area.

LODGING

A valid credit card is required for all hotel reservations. There is a four-night minimum, which must include Friday, April 2 through departure Tuesday, April 6. Those arriving earlier or departing later will be charged for the additional nights.

NCAA HOOP CITY

The NCAA Hoop City, an interactive basketball event, will be at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, April 2-5. Tentative hours of operation are:

Friday, April 2	10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Saturday, April 3	10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sunday, April 4	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Monday, April 7	10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 (ages 12 and up) and \$3 (ages 3-11, senior citizens and college students with proper ID). Children ages 2 and under are admitted free. Media will

be admitted free of charge with their Final Four credential. Media wishing to purchase tickets in advance can do so by contacting Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

NABC ACTIVITIES

Final Four media credentials will be honored for admission to working-media facilities at the NABC's events during the Final Four. Kevin Henderson (kevin@nabc.com; 913/469-1001, ext. 105) is media liaison for the NABC. His headquarters will be at the Hyatt Regency during the Final Four.

Credentials Criteria

The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has reiterated its opposition to all forms of sports wagering, and encourages the media to assist in the education of the public with regard to the hazards of sports wagering.

Requests for working media credentials for first/second rounds and regionals shall be directed to the host media coordinator. Requests for the Final Four shall be directed to the NCAA national office.

A "press agency" for purposes of these criteria shall mean a daily or weekly publication, cable system, radio or television station and network requiring immediate news coverage. "Immediate news coverage" for purposes of these criteria shall mean that the editorial, audio and/or visual deadline for the tournament action being documented occurs no later than 48 hours after the competition at the site has been completed.

Media agencies that have not been certified for the Final Four, but represent the geographic area and/or locale of a participating institution, shall staff the participant's first- and second-round action in order to receive credentials to the regional competition. (An entity must staff the first-round session to receive a credential for the second-round session; an entity must staff the regional-semifinal session to receive a credential to the regional final.) Only those media agencies that have staffed all of the participant's tournament competition may qualify for credentials if that institution advances to the national semifinals and championship game.

A press agency or television or radio station in the immediate geographic area and/or locale of a participating or host institution that has staffed its games on a regular basis throughout the season and does not otherwise meet the criteria may be designated by the participating or host institution as a "minority media enterprise." A "minority media enterprise" shall mean a business enterprise involved in the dissemination of sports news to individuals socially or economically disadvantaged from cultural, racial or chronic economic circumstances or other similar cause. Such persons include, but are not limited to, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Spanish-speaking Americans and American Indians.

Except for television photographers, a credential may be issued only to an authorized full-time, salaried representative of, or a representative who regularly and customarily performs services for, such an entity. Credentials are not transferable.

Membership in a writer's or broadcaster's association (e.g., United States Basketball Writers Association) does not automatically qualify an agency for credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, credentials at all sites shall be assigned in accordance with the following priorities:

Writers

Separate publications sharing common ownership may not be combined for purposes of meeting circulation or other criteria.

1. An agency, regardless of circulation, in the geographic area of a participating institution qualifies for credentials if it has staffed at least 90 percent of the institution's home games throughout the season and each of its games in the NCAA championship. This includes newspapers or other periodicals specifically designed to cover the activities and events of a single institution.
2. An agency, regardless of circulation, qualifies for credentials if it has staffed at least 90 percent of the home games of the host institution throughout the season.
3. A daily agency with circulation greater than 60,000, a weekly with circulation greater than 500,000 or a monthly with circulation greater than 750,000 will be identified as "national media" and will qualify for credentials even if it does not meet the provisions in No. 1 or No. 2 above. Press agencies may receive credentials according to the following circulation requirements:

<u>Daily Circulation</u>	<u>Credentials</u>
60,000 - 99,000	one seat
100,000 - 249,999	one seat, one limited access

250,000 - 349,999	two seats, one limited access
350,000 - 449,999	three seats, one limited access
450,000 - 649,999	four seats, one limited access
650,000 - 999,999	five seats, two limited access
1 million and above	six seats, two limited access

<u>Weekly Circulation</u>	<u>Credentials</u>
500,000-3 million	two seats, two limited access
3 million and above	four seats, two limited access

<u>Monthly Circulation</u>	<u>Credentials</u>
750,000-3 million	two seats, two limited access
3 million and above	four seats, two limited access

(Note: A limited-access credential only permits access to the working-press room, locker rooms and interview room. A hotel room will be available for an individual who receives a limited access credential only if space is available.)

4. Any press agency that has been certified for a Final Four credential shall receive a first-/second-round and/or regional credential upon request.
5. The Associated Press and the primary newspaper(s) that provide daily coverage for the host institution each may receive a maximum of eight seats and two limited-access credentials at the Final Four.
6. The media coordinator may authorize a media agency to receive a credential for a "special need."
 - a. A specialty publication that is distributed nationally on a regular basis during the basketball season is a media agency that may have a "special need" and may receive one seat in the overflow press section if space is available.
 - b. A "special need" entity that normally provides specific services for a media agency (e.g., scores) shall not receive credentials if many of its clients have been accredited to staff the event.
 - c. A "special need" entity shall be limited to one credential.
7. At the media coordinator's discretion, one credential may be issued to a reporter representing the "news side" of the major newspaper of the participating and/or host institution.
8. A newspaper included on a team's local media list may receive additional credentials at a regional site not to exceed the total number of credentials it received covering first-/second-round competition at all sites.
9. Credentials may be issued to two individuals, certified by the director of athletics or designated representative of each participating and host institution, who will be the sole representatives of all

media organizations affiliated with any such institution.

Television

1. Television stations from the tournament host city each may be represented by two crews if they are representing multiple, regularly scheduled news programs.
2. Television stations from the locale of a participating institution that have staffed at least 90 percent of its home games each may be represented by one crew.
3. Each participating institution may be granted a maximum of three television-compound credentials to accommodate representatives of a "coach's show" (i.e., one announcer, one producer/director and one camera operator.)
4. Credentials may be assigned to an individual or one crew designated by a national television network—which may include separate requests from the sports, news, entertainment and affiliate divisions—or cable entity that originates a daily sports news program. (Approved agencies are: CBS News Path, CBS World News, CBS News, CBS This Morning, NBC News Channel, NBC Nightside, NBC World News, NBC Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN, ESPN, FOX, ABC News One, ABC Weekend News and World News Tonight.)
5. Credentials may be assigned to an individual or one crew representing a television station in a market area estimated to have represented a minimum of one million U.S. television households the previous year by the A. C. Nielsen Company.
6. Credentials may be assigned to the following news services: NPI (one seat, one TVC), Conus Communications (one seat, two TVC), and SNS Sports New satellite (one seat, two TVC), National Sports and Entertainment (one seat, one TVC), and Christian Broadcasting Network (one seat, one TVC).
7. A crew includes a maximum of three people: one talent (media credential), one photographer and one audio technician or producer (television-compound credentials) plus a fourth for a technician who is responsible for maintenance of a satellite truck that may be parked at the arena (television-compound credential.)

Radio

1. One media credential may be assigned to the following radio entities: AP, ABC, CBS, CNN Radio, ESPN Radio, Fox Sports Radio, Sporting News Radio, USA Radio Network, Mutual Broadcasting, NBC, Echlin Sports Service, National Public Radio, Voice of America, Sports Byline USA and UPI Audio.

2. One media credential may be assigned to a radio station in a market area representing at least one million radio homes that airs six or more daily sports reports or a daily "sports talk" program and 10 or more college basketball games during the regular season.
3. One media credential may be assigned to a radio station in the geographic area of the host or a participating team that airs six or more daily sports reports or a daily "sports talk" program and 10 or more college basketball games during the regular season, or that has staffed at least 90 percent of the home games of that team.

Each radio station that has purchased live broadcasting rights is limited to the number of individuals required to originate 90 percent of its games during the regular season, up to a maximum of four credentials. If an institution is represented by more than one originating radio outlet, Host Communications, Inc., will work with the NCAA and the host institution to determine the number of seats that shall be assigned to each agency.

Online

1. The official NCAA Web site will receive credentials.
2. The official Web site of a competing institution, as approved by that school's sports information department, may receive a maximum of two credentials in addition to the two credentials noted under Print, No. 10.
3. A print, radio or television agency will not receive more credentials than the number provided for elsewhere in this document. An agency may allot one (or more) of its credentials to its online entity.
4. An online entity not associated with another media agency (e.g., a "traditional" print, radio or television agency) may qualify for one credential unless otherwise noted in these policies.
5. Only a full-time, salaried employee of an online news agency intending to provide actual game coverage (as opposed to producing feature stories) may receive a credential.
6. To qualify for a credential, online entities not associated with one of the competing teams must have registered at least one million unique users per month in each of the past 12 months.
7. An online entity may receive a credential only if its own full-time staff writes an overwhelming percentage of that site's material.
8. Only online agencies that staff college basketball games regularly (weekly at a minimum) and publish material regarding college basketball will receive credentials.

9. Online entities will not receive photography credentials.
10. Representatives of online agencies will receive seats in the courtside media-seating area on a space-available basis only. If courtside seats are not available, these representatives shall sit in the upper press box (if space is available) or the backstage media work area during the games.
11. Any online service that is recognized as an outlet intended primarily for the purpose of delivering news related to the recruitment of student-athletes will not qualify for credentials.

Other

1. Credentials will not be issued to persons solely for the purpose of writing or gathering material for books.
2. SportsTicker is eligible for one credential for a full-time staff member.
3. Credentials shall not be issued to representatives of syndicated television or cable programmers who are not producing programs for immediate news coverage (i.e., to air within 24 hours.)

Print Photographers

Sports editors must request all photography credentials.

Subject to limitations of space, photography credentials shall be assigned as follows:

1. Two photographers, certified by the director of athletics or designated representative of each participating and host institution, will be the sole representatives of all media organizations affiliated with such institutions and all media organizations whose coverage primarily is directed to any such institution and its activities.
2. The primary agencies at the competition site that have staffed at least 90 percent of the home games of the host institution or conference may receive a maximum of three (two floor) credentials.
3. The Associated Press may receive four (three floor level) credentials. Sports Illustrated magazine, Reuters and USA Today each may receive three (two floor level) credentials. The Sporting News magazine and Knight-Ridder each may receive two (one floor) credentials. Getty Images may receive one photo credential. Each of the above agencies may also receive two photo compound credentials.
4. An agency with a minimum daily circulation of 350,000, a weekly circulation of 500,000, or a monthly circulation of one million may receive one photo credential and one photo-compound credential. An agency with a daily circulation of

500,000 is eligible for a second credential. Agencies with lower circulations are not eligible, except as noted in No. 5 below.

5. A participating institution may identify a maximum of four credentials for media agencies that do not meet the minimum daily or weekly circulation requirements in No. 4 above. These agencies must have staffed at least 90 percent of the institution's home games throughout the season and each of its games in the championship.
6. A "special need" publication shall not receive a photography credential.

Photo Couriers

A maximum of 10 courier credentials will be available at each site. Seven will be available to The Associated Press and three will be reserved for Reuters News Service. AP Photo will be responsible for coordinating the courier service in the arena at all sites for all newspapers except those serviced by Reuters. No other agency will receive a courier credential.

International Media Agencies

When space is available, credentials (writer and/or photographer) will be issued to a full-time, salaried employee, or a representative who regularly and customarily performs services, for:

- a. A newspaper that has a minimum circulation of five percent of the total population of the country;
- b. A specialty publication that has a minimum circulation of one percent of the total population of the country;
- c. The official publication of the country's basketball federation;
- d. A television station that has a signal reaching 25 percent of the homes in the country;
- e. Each of the two largest television or radio sports networks in the country.

Terms and Conditions for Use of Credentials

Each individual or entity signing for or using a credential for access to any tournament game or practice (the "Events"), and his/her/its employers (each signer, user and employer, a "Bearer"), agrees to the following:

General:

Each Bearer attending one of the Events using a credential represents that such Bearer is acting on a specific assignment for a media agency. Bearer is an accredited agency's full-time salaried employee who has a legitimate working function in connection with the

championship. The credential is not transferable and may be revoked at any time without cause.

The rights and privileges granted to Bearer shall automatically terminate if any term of this credential shall be breached. The unauthorized use of this credential subjects the Bearer to ejection from the facility and prosecution for criminal trespass.

While within the venue, Bearer shall, at all times, be subject to the direction and/or supervision of the NCAA and its designated agents.

Bearer assumes all risks incidental to the performance by the Bearer of Bearer's services in connection with the Events and assumes all risks incidental to the Events, whether occurring prior to, during or subsequent to the actual playing of the Events, and agrees that the NCAA, its member institutions, and their respective employees, directors, officers, student-athletes, coaches, and contractors shall not be liable for injuries or loss of personal property or equipment resulting in such causes.

In the event that the name or likeness of any individual using this credential is included in any broadcast, telecast, photograph, film, video or other media taken in connection with the Events, such individual grants the NCAA the non-exclusive, transferable, perpetual right and license to use (and to sub-license the use of) such name and likeness in any media worldwide whether now known or thereafter devised.

Bearer agrees to indemnify the NCAA and save harmless the NCAA, its officers, agents, contractors, employees, and each of its member institutions, their officers, agents and employees, of and from any and all claims, demand and causes of action arising out of anything done or purported to have been done by Bearer or his/her employer, including but not limited to Bearer's breach of any term of the credential. With respect to any claim that might give rise to liability of the Bearer as an indemnitor, the NCAA shall: (a) have the right to fully participate in the litigation of such claim with counsel selected by Bearer and approved by the NCAA at the sole expense of the Bearer; and (b) not be obligated, without their consent, to participate in any settlement of such claim.

Media:

The use of any account, description, picture, photograph, video, audio, reproduction, or other information concerning the Events (the "Event Information") other than for news coverage of, or magazines, books or stories about, the Events, or for First Amendment-protected purposes, is prohibited, except (a) with the prior written consent of the NCAA or (b) as specifically licensed herein. Nothing in these terms and conditions authorizes or allows Bearer to violate any of the NCAA trademarks, copyright and other proprietary rights.

Television agencies taping game action shall use the network feed via the video and audio distributing facilities provided by the NCAA. These agencies recognize that any videos may be used only in connection with a regularly scheduled television newscast within a seven-day period after the game and the film clip or video portion of each such showing shall not exceed three minutes in length and shall adhere to the specific policies that govern the length of video and times that it may be aired. Television entities may not air highlights of a game until the CBS broadcast "window" that includes that game has been completed.

Television stations, networks, cable systems, participating institutions or their designees, are prohibited from making available game film or video to any other organization without advance written permission from the NCAA, even though the planned use may be editorial in nature. Such film or video may be aired only by the specific station or entity to whom this credential is issued. These rights may not be assigned, transferred or otherwise disposed to any person, firm or corporation. Any agency wishing to use NCAA film or video in any other manner must obtain written permission for such usage from the NCAA.

Real-time transmission of streaming video, digital images, real-time audio, including play-by-play and statistics, of any game of the championship is exclusive to the NCAA's web site and/or any other web site designated by the NCAA and its rightsholders. "Real-time" is defined as "live, continuous play-by-play or description of an event."

The NCAA is the owner of trademarks, copyrights, and other proprietary rights connected to the championship. Member institution name, logo, mascot, and other intellectual property of a school is controlled by each member institution. The member institution name and team name may be used for news purposes and consistent with the First Amendment.

The credential confers on Bearer a limited, non-exclusive and non-transferable license to take photographs of the Events, and to allow the entity that engaged the Bearer to take the photographs to use such photographs only for news coverage of, or magazines, books or stories about, the Events, other editorial purposes, and reprints of news pages from such entity's publications, provided that such use is not likely to create, or does not actually create confusion in the minds of the trade or public that Bearer or its reprints or any elements therein, or the items on which they are reprinted, are sponsored or endorsed by, or associated or affiliated with the NCAA or that the NCAA licensed Bearer to use their trademarks or copyrights.

In exchange for the access granted by the credential, the NCAA shall have the right to purchase prints of any published photographs taken by the Bearer in connection with the credential, at the best financial terms offered to third parties, and such the NCAA shall be licensed at no additional charge to use the

photographs for news coverage purposes only. The NCAA may not distribute reproductions of the photographs to others or license others to reproduce the photographs.

Bearer shall obtain all necessary licenses, consents or releases permitting the use of any party's proprietary material, including, but not limited to any party's copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity, rights of privacy or other proprietary of personal rights, however denominated included in any photograph taken or other material obtained in connection with the credential. The Bearer is solely responsible for determining which licenses, consents and releases shall be obtained. Bearer shall indemnify, defend (if requested) and hold the NCAA harmless against and from any and all liability, loss, damage or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) against third party claims arising out of or relating to: (a) Bearer's use of any Event Information taken or obtained in connection with the credential, including, without limitation, any claim that any use of such information infringes any third party's copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity, rights of privacy, or other proprietary of personal rights, however denominated; and (b) the presence on the premises of any cameras, wires, cable or other equipment brought thereon by Bearer.

Any secondary use of any picture, audio description, videotape/film or drawing of the game taken or made by the accredited organization or individual to whom this credential has been issued (including, but not limited to, use in delayed editorial or noneditorial, advertising, sales promotion or merchandising) is prohibited without prior specific written approval of the NCAA.

Radio stations that have not purchased rights shall not carry any broadcast report from courtside on a live basis or any live description of any game action while it is still in progress and are subject to all other requirements as listed in the "NCAA radio policies."

Bearer further agrees to release the NCAA and all persons and educational institutions involved in the management or production of the competition from any claim or liability arising from failure to provide space for telecasting/broadcasting, or other facilities for the television/radio station, Internet media, network or cable system.

12/9/03

POSTGAME INTERVIEW POLICY

All coaches and student-athletes will be available for interviews.

The coach shall designate before a game a minimum of two starters to report to the interview area immediately after the locker room opens. The NCAA will distribute the names of these individuals before the end of the game. The media coordinator also may require the coach to include a non-designated student-athlete to join or replace the announced group in the interview room should the athlete's performance merit it.

If requested, both the winning and losing coaches shall grant postgame interviews (not to exceed four minutes) to CBS and/or the NCAA Radio Network, provided that the network is still providing live coverage from the arena.

Neither network shall inordinately delay the coaches' return to the locker rooms. If the networks are not prepared to conduct live interviews immediately, it may be necessary for the interviews to be taped. The losing-coach interview would be taped off the court near the locker room. (The NCAA media coordination committee will be responsible for terminating the four-minute interview period.)

A "cooling-off period" has been set aside for a coach to be with his student-athletes in the locker room after the game. The period begins when the coach enters the locker room immediately after the game or interview with CBS or the NCAA Radio Network. The period will be five minutes for the winning team; 15 minutes for the losing team, plus five minutes for student-athletes who wish to shower. A coach may shorten the cooling-off period but may not extend it.

The locker room shall be open to the media until 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends, provided that media representatives are present the entire time. Student-athletes who do not play in the game may depart earlier.

The winning coach and athletes shall be scheduled in the interview room before the losing coach and athletes except after the national championship game, when the losing coach and student-athletes will appear first.

Regardless of any personal regular-season radio or television contract, the coach first is obligated to the entire media staffing the tournament and must report to the interview room immediately after the cooling-off period. After fulfilling this commitment to the media staffing the tournament, the coach and athletes may participate in a special interview.

The coach cannot delay a postgame interview with the covering media to conduct a program for a single newspaper, radio or television reporter unless requested to grant the short interview with CBS or the NCAA Radio Network.

Should a coach permit one media representative to enter the locker room before the cooling-off period has expired, the locker room shall be open to all other media representatives desiring access to the area.

The coach shall accompany the student-athletes to the news conference.

All electronic media desiring to record the proceedings in the interview room must use the connecting devices supplied by the NCAA. No individual filming of the interviews will be permitted.

TELEVISION

A representative of a cable entity, television station or network that has not purchased rights to the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship shall not air live game action or description of any game while it is in progress.

1. Videotaped, filmed or audio excerpts of a National Collegiate Athletic Association ("NCAA") game of the Division I Men's Basketball Championship ("Highlights") may be used for news purposes only in regularly scheduled news programs up to 72 hours after they become available for news use under the following guidelines. A "news broadcast" shall be a regularly scheduled program devoted exclusively to general news and/or sports news. Sports entertainment programs do not qualify under this provision.
2. An approved telecaster may use a maximum of three minutes of footage on a sports news broadcast. Television entities may not air highlights until the CBS "window" for that competition has been completed. The graphic "Courtesy CBS Sports" must accompany all highlights.
3. A station/network may not broadcast live reports and/or live programming from the site of the tournament competition (e.g., arena proper, hallways, interview, working media or dressing rooms) on practice or game days.
4. Highlights may not be sold, traded, loaned or given away to any other entity and may not be used commercially for on-air promotion or in any other manner not specifically set forth in these policies without prior written permission from the NCAA. By way of illustration, but not limitation, without a specific separate license from NCAA, championship game footage may not be used (i) in pregame shows, (ii) in weekly sports highlights shows, (iii) in commercials, (iv) in a "sponsored segment" of a program, (v) in "on-air" promotions (e.g., "tune-in" promotion or "tease"), (vi) as "file footage," or (vii) for any other use (e.g., archival) not specifically permitted by these policies.
5. Telecasters may broadcast live feeds of news conference taken from the video and audio distribution facilities provided by the NCAA.
6. No television entity — broadcast or cable — may incorporate, superimpose, or "burn in" into any tournament highlights a logo, trademark, advertisement, scoreboard or other graphic without prior written permission from the NCAA.
7. Highlights from NCAA tournament game telecasts may only be used by a telecaster if such telecaster

is party to a reciprocal agreement with CBS Sports for highlight usage.

8. In consideration for access to video and/or record audio excerpts of a tournament game, the television entity agrees, upon the request of the NCAA, to supply the NCAA with a videotape or audio recording (as may be the case) of any program incorporating highlights and hereby consents to the use of excerpts from such a program by the NCAA.
9. NCAA and CBS Sports shall have the authority to withdraw permission for the use of highlights by appropriate notice at any time and for any reason.
10. Under no circumstances may any highlights be broadcast or otherwise distributed on the Internet or via any other online service or computer service without the prior written consent of NCAA and CBS Sports.
11. Neither these policies nor the rights granted herein may be assigned or otherwise transferred in any manner without the prior written consent of NCAA.

Use of highlights constitutes acceptance of these policies in the form of a licensing agreement between the telecaster and NCAA.

MINI-CAMERA POLICIES

1. CBS is the only television entity that may transmit live from inside the arena from open-practice day until the day after competition ends at that site, with the following exception:
 - a. At the open practice day at the Final Four, ESPN may broadcast the practices in their entirety, and,
 - b. ESPN may broadcast from a single designated courtside position until five minutes before the beginning of the CBS broadcast of the national championship game.
2. Only CBS Sports and NCAA Productions are authorized to use mini-camera equipment in the arena during tournament competition. CBS Sports and NCAA Productions have no time restrictions except when the arena is closed for team practice or other activities approved by the basketball committee.

3. If a non-originating television station, network or local cable origination channel desires to receive videotape and audio of tournament games, international sound, crowd/team "color" activities and all formal news conferences, it must take a feed from the video and audio distribution facilities provided by the NCAA at the arena. Any videotape or audio highlight excerpts received from the distribution facilities that are aired by a telecaster shall include an on-air "Courtesy CBS Sports."
4. Camerapersons representing these non-originating agencies are not permitted to photograph game action or formal news conferences and will not have courtside access except as noted below.
 - a. Non-originating telecasters have access to the arena floor until 75 minutes before the first game in each session. During this time, mini-cam operators may work from the end zones only.
 - b. Access for the second session at a first-round site begins when CBS Sports discontinues its first-session coverage from the site and continues until 75 minutes before tip-off of the first game of the next session. (NOTE: The floor may not be available, depending upon the time between sessions.)
 - c. From that point on, the floor (and all other areas from which the playing floor may be seen) shall remain off limits to all television or cable cinematographers until CBS Sports has discontinued its coverage of the session.
 - d. Camerapersons shall not return to the arena floor between games of a session.
 - e. The media coordinator will identify an area off the court for all television and cable representatives to wait until CBS has discontinued its coverage from the site. They then will be escorted to the court when it is available.
 - f. Video equipment is limited to the locker rooms, interview room or work room during the restricted-access times.
5. On open practice day, representatives of non-originating agencies may videotape from the end zones or behind the last row of media seating or from the public seating area.
6. Locker rooms are open for postgame coverage.
7. Editing in the video distribution area is permitted any time the workroom is open to the media.

RADIO POLICIES

1. Westwood One has radio broadcast rights to all sessions of the championship, including Internet audio rights (See section 14). Westwood One will originate live broadcasts via a national network. In addition, rights shall be granted to each participating institution's official radio station or network.
2. Institutions' stations or networks must contact Mike Dodson at Host Communications, 859/226-4390, or mike.dodson@hostcommunications.com to obtain the broadcast rights. All stations broadcasting any game of the championship must complete a radio agreement and submit it to Host Communications before the game that will be broadcast.

Westwood One or its designee will authorize the form and submit it to the site's media coordinator. On-site radio-network personnel also should retain a signed copy of the radio agreement for reference.
3. No exclusive rights shall be granted, except in those instances when a competing institution shall request such rights for a station or network that contracted for exclusive coverage of the institution's regular-season games. Such exclusive rights then shall be restricted to the markets where exclusivity existed during the regular season. If more than one institution has radio stations in the same market, then exclusive rights shall not be granted in that market.
4. All rights fees must be paid to Westwood One or its designee in advance. Stations will be charged for each game broadcast. If the originating station or any station within the network intends to stream the broadcast over the Internet via their station's Web site or any other third-party Web site, then the station's representatives should contact the NCAA for information. The station streaming the broadcast is required to supply a link to the official NCAA Championships Web site, www.ncaasports.com.

The per-game rights fees are as follows:

Originating commercial station - \$600

All affiliates joining a network - \$150 per station

Non-commercial station that feeds a commercial station - \$250

Additional Internet streaming fee - \$100 (See Section No. 13)

Commercial Internet-only fee - \$100 (See Section No. 13)

(A rights fee will be waived for any non-commercial, university-funded, student-run radio station. The rights fee will be waived for Internet-only broadcast if there are no commercials, sponsored elements or underwriting spots within the broadcast itself. In addition, there cannot be any advertising on the audio player itself. Any of the aforementioned circumstances will result in a rights fee for an Internet-only broadcast.

5. Each station or network may use only the maximum number of seats it required to originate 90 percent of the institution's games during the regular season, but in no instance shall more than four seats be reserved. Each participating institution shall provide Westwood One or its designee the names of the broadcast crew each station or network employed for all home and away games. If it is represented by multiple radio originations, the institution shall designate to Westwood One or its designee the priority of stations or networks and the number of credentials distributed to outlets—not to exceed a total of nine seats.
6. A participating or host institution shall make no additional charge or receive any additional consideration for the rights accorded hereunder to the originating station or network.
7. No commercial may relate, directly or indirectly, the advertising company or the advertised product to the participating institutions or their student-athletes, or the Association itself, unless prior written approval has been granted by the NCAA president.
8. Westwood One and the NCAA reserve the right of final approval for all advertising in any championship.
9. Any station that does not broadcast a game of a championship, after contracting for such space, shall be required to pay a forfeiture fee of 50 percent of the initial rights fee for that particular championship.
10. Only the NCAA Radio Network and CBS television may display banners at the championship site.

11. The commercial format used by radio stations shall conform to acceptable broadcast standards to ensure a quality broadcast.
12. Following are the policies governing radio originations from the facility during the tournament by agencies other than Westwood One and the institutions' official networks.
 - A. Live programming may not originate from inside the arena on game days from tipoff of the first game each day at the site until the end of the last game each day at the site.
 - B. Agencies that do not own play-by-play rights may generate live programming (e.g., news reports, call-in show participation) at times other than the period described in 12-A, as noted below. Such programming may originate only from the media workroom.
 - (1) Agencies that are affiliates of Westwood One or a participating institution's network may generate live programming for a maximum of ten minutes per hour.
 - (2) Agencies that are not affiliates of Westwood One or the institutions' networks may generate live programming for a maximum of one minute per hour.
 - C. Any station or network may report by tape delay on the events of the championship at any time for broadcast within the framework of general and sports newscasts.
13. Westwood One has exclusive Internet streaming rights and will do so in one of the following two ways: (Westwood One and the NCAA will notify participating institutions of the chosen policy.)
 - a. Any station or network intending to stream its broadcast must do so by providing the stream to Westwood One, which would then make the link available on www.NCAAsports.com as a complimentary element of a subscription package. Participating institutions, stations and/or networks would advise patrons to access the stream at NCAAsports.com. Under this scenario, the NCAA and Westwood One would waive all Internet streaming rights fees.
 - b. In the event that NCAAsports.com does not aggregate all Internet streams through its subscription package, each participating institution, station or network would provide the stream directly from its own Internet site, and would also provide a link to NCAAsports.com. Stations or networks would be charged an Internet streaming rights fee as described in Section No. 4.

PRINT PHOTO POLICIES

1. A photographer approved to work on the floor level shall secure from the media coordinator or representative an armband before the first game in each session. All other photographers are restricted to the upper photography areas.
 2. Individuals assigned by the media coordinator to assist photographers on the floor and upper photography levels will provide armbands, copies of photo policies, photographers programs and/or speed cards. Photographers should claim play-by-play and statistics in the statistical control center.
 3. Photographers working the floor level are restricted to the "photographers box" at each end of the playing court except as noted below.
 4. The media coordinator will assign reserved spaces for each floor photographer in the "photographers box."
 5. At no time may photographers work from directly behind the official table and team benches.
 6. Photographers may work from the following areas:

Practice Day: End zones or from behind Row No. 2 of the courtside media area.

Game Day From the Beginning of Pregame Warm-ups Until End of Game: End zones only.

Between Games of a Session: End zones or along the sideline opposite the team benches, to shoot the postgame celebration. When the celebration ends, the photographers must return to their end zone positions.

After the Last Game of a Session: Anywhere on the courtside apron or behind Row No. 2, of the courtside media area to shoot the postgame celebration or the awards ceremony.
 7. A photographer assigned to the second photo row may sit on an elevation not more than six inches high.
 8. Couriers. Couriers and technicians shall not photograph game action. Mike Feldman, Associated Press, New York, will coordinate the assignment of couriers for AP and most newspapers. Reuters will coordinate the assignment of its couriers. No individual agency may receive a photo courier credential.
 9. Only couriers have "in-and-out" access to the arena and these individuals are required to display a credential and an armband. They shall not loiter around the playing court or obstruct the view of any ticket patron.
 10. No photography equipment (i.e., cameras, strobes) shall be attached to the backboard or goal standards.
 11. The media coordinator may approve "special need" requests to place photography equipment in upper arena areas or under the first row of press tables opposite the official table. Cameras may not protrude more than four inches from under the draping. The media coordinator should consult with Bill Hancock before authorizing an unmanned camera at any courtside position.
 12. Cameras shall not be installed over the playing court without special permission from the media coordinator. If permission is granted, the camera shall be double-secured and in position 24 hours before the start of the first game. Requests for such placement shall be made to the media coordinator before March 1.
 13. See Appendix 12-C for information regarding strobe lights.
 14. No tripod may be placed on or beside the playing floor.
 15. A still photographer shall not use a flash attachment to the camera or any other courtside location.
 16. Photographers will not be admitted to any potential working position over the playing court from 60 minutes prior to the first game of a session until 30 minutes after the second game.
- Newspapers covering a particular team are not guaranteed a floor location when that team is not playing.

STROBE-LIGHT POLICIES

A maximum of three sets of strobe lights may be installed at an arena for media agencies requiring

immediate news coverage. The placement of the units must be approved by the NCAA.

The purpose of this policy is to provide the fullest high-quality still photographic coverage possible for media agencies in deadline situations without seriously affecting the quality of the network telecasts of the games.

1. Following are the strobe-use priorities:

- a. Sports Illustrated.
- b. The Associated Press, Reuters and USA Today. (These agencies shall pool one set of strobe lights unless Priority "a" or "c" is not enacted.)
- c. A single pool unit for all other media agencies may be installed upon the approval of the NCAA.

Should Sports Illustrated, the Associated Press, Reuters or USA Today elect not to install strobe units, the unused priority may be transferred to another agency, provided that the policies in No. 2 below are observed.

Porter Binks of Sports Illustrated (212/522-3325)—or another individual designated by the NCAA—will coordinate the installation of strobe units at each site and identify for the media coordinator those photographers who will use the strobes. A fee may be assessed by the strobe coordinator to cover installation, power, arena fees and equipment costs on a shared basis among the users.

No single agency may install more than one set of strobes at a site, regardless of the number of units that will be used.

2. The following procedures govern the placement of the strobe units.

- a. Representatives of each media agency installing a unit shall meet with the media coordinator and CBS producer assigned to the site at 4:30 p.m. local time on the open practice day to test the placement of the strobes and determine if the strobes potentially have a negative impact on the telecast. The basketball committee representative has the final authority to determine if adjustments in the placement or angle of the units must be altered.

- b. Strobes only may be used if approved by the basketball committee representative after the foregoing test.
- c. All hanging or installed strobes must be placed as close to the playing court as possible, depending upon the physical structure of the arena, near the corners of the playing court, but not behind the baskets. If the physical structure of an arena prevents a media agency from meeting these specifications, the agency may petition the basketball committee for an exception.
- d. No hand-carried strobe lights may be used during the game. They may be used during awards ceremonies and postgame celebrations.
- e. No strobes may be directed toward a television lens.
- f. The approved strobe-light setup shall consist of three sets of four heads each, installed in the catwalks at the four corners of the arena. The placement should be as close to directly over the corners of the court as possible. If, because of the configuration of the arena and the catwalks, an adjustment of the placement is necessary, a variation must be approved by the basketball committee.
- g. The strobe lights for a conventional (non-dome) arena must not exceed 2,400 watt-seconds for each power pack, and the flash duration should be less than 1/1000-second. A typical approved installation would consist of four power packs with four-tube heads on each pack. In the instance of unusually high-ceilinged buildings or domes, additional power units and strobe heads may be used, as long as they are producing an equivalent light on the court and the flash duration meets the criteria.
- h. Strobe use is intended for coverage of game action by media involved in news coverage of the championship. Strobe use is not permitted by photographers who have been assigned feature profiles for current or future publications such as books or preview magazines, e.g., photograph(s) of a individual players, coaches or fans.

**CONFERENCES ELIGIBLE
FOR AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION**

Thirty-one Division I conferences are eligible for the automatic-qualifying positions in the championship.

East Region — America East Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference, Big East Conference, Colonial Athletic Association, Ivy Group, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Northeast Conference, Patriot League.

Midwest Region — Big Ten Conference, Conference USA, Horizon League, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Continent Conference, Missouri Valley Conference.

South Region — Atlantic Sun Conference, Big South Conference, Big 12 Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Southeastern Conference, Southern Conference, Southland Conference, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Sun Belt Conference.

West Region — Big Sky Conference, Big West Conference, Mountain West Conference, Pacific-10 Conference, West Coast Conference, Western Athletic Conference.

BRACKET HISTORY AND CURRENT FORMAT

The tournament began in 1939 with an eight-team format and continued that way for 12 years. The bracket was expanded to 16 teams for two seasons, 1951 and 1952, and then fluctuated between 22 and 25 teams between 1953 and 1974. There were 22 teams in the tournament in 1953 and 1966; 23 in 1957, 1959, 1965, 1967 and 1968; 24 in 1954, 1955, 1958 and 1961; and 25 teams in 1956, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, and 1969 through 1974.

A 32-team bracket was adopted in 1975 and was enlarged to 40 in 1979 and 48 in 1980. In 1983, 52 teams competed and one more team was added the following year. A 64-team format began in 1985. In 1991 a play-in round was used because 33 conferences, rather than the customary 30, were eligible for automatic bids.

In 2000, the NCAA Championships/Competition Cabinet determined that, beginning with the 2001 championship, an opening-round game(s) would be played whenever more than 30 conferences qualified for automatic qualification. Unlike the "play-in" games of 1991, the teams that compete in opening-round games are considered part of the tournament field. The NCAA pays the teams' expenses, and the institution whose team loses an opening-round game will be awarded a financial "share" equal to that received by teams losing in the first round. The committee will determine the participants of opening-round games on selection weekend, based on results of that season's games. The winner of an opening-round game will play a No. 1 seed in the first round.

The placement of seeds appears in the same order in each of the four regions. The No. 1 seed will play No. 16, No. 8 vs. No. 9, No. 5 plays No. 12 and No. 4 meets No. 13 in the top half of each bracket. The lower half of the bracket includes No. 6 against No. 11, No. 3 vs. No. 14, No. 7 facing No. 10 and No. 2 plays No. 15.

The following winners play in the second round: No. 1-No. 16 vs. No. 8-No. 9, No. 5-No. 12 vs. No. 4-No. 13, No. 6-No. 11 vs. No. 3-No. 14 and No. 7-No. 10 vs. No. 2-No. 15.

The 16 second-round winners qualify for regional competition. The eight winners advance to the finals in each region, and the four champions compete in the Final Four.

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PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THE BRACKET

There are three phases in the process:

- I. **Select** the at-large teams (a minimum of 34 teams);
- II. **Seed** the teams; and
- III. **Place** the teams into the championship bracket.

General Principles for Selection, Seeding and Bracketing

The basketball committee will abide by the following principles:

1. At no point in the process shall a member vote for a team the individual represents as an athletics director or commissioner.
2. A member shall not be present in the meeting room during committee discussion regarding the selection or seeding of a team the individual represents as an athletics director. Nor may an athletics director answer questions about the team the individual represents, except for factual questions (e.g., dates of injuries, status of injured players.)
3. A commissioner is permitted to answer general questions about teams in the conference the individual represents; however, this committee member must leave the room during any discussion regarding the selection or seeding of teams the individual represents.
4. An athletics director is permitted to discuss other teams in the individual's conference only when asked.
5. When 24 or fewer teams remain in a pool of teams under consideration, a member may not participate in "list X teams" votes if a team he or she represents as a commissioner or athletics director is included. An athletics director or commissioner may not participate in cross-country votes (i.e., ballots where the members rank a selected number of teams) that involve a team the individual represents.
6. When 20 or more teams are under consideration in "list X teams" ballots, each member shall list eight.

When 14 to 19 teams are under consideration, each member shall list six.

When 13 or fewer teams are under consideration, each member shall list four.
7. At any time during the process of selecting the at-large teams, the committee may elect to

begin seeding the teams. This will permit the committee to move ahead and still consider the results of games played during selection weekend.

8. At any time during the process, the chair may designate a "quiet period", generally 15 minutes in length, to permit members to individually reflect on the way they will vote. These periods may be (a) before finalizing the vote on teams eligible for the last remaining at-large positions; (b) before the start of the seeding process, and (c) before the start of the bracketing process.
9. All votes will be by secret ballot.
10. At any time during the process, the chair may request a "nitty-gritty" report, which compares teams that are under consideration. The elements of the "nitty-gritty" report are:
 - Division I record;
 - Overall RPI;
 - Non-conference record;
 - Non-conference RPI;
 - Conference record;
 - Conference RPI;
 - Road record;
 - Record in last 10 games;
 - Record against teams ranked 1-50 by RPI;
 - Record against teams ranked 51-100 by RPI;
 - Record against teams ranked 101-200 by RPI;
 - Record against teams ranked below 200 by RPI;
 - Record against other teams that are under consideration (i.e., "board teams").

I. Principles for Selecting At-Large Teams

1. The committee shall select the best available teams to fill the at-large berths, regardless of conference affiliation.
2. There is no limit on the number of teams the committee may select from one conference.

Procedures for Selecting At-Large Teams

First and Second Ballots

1. On the Monday preceding the March meeting, the staff will forward to each committee member individual information sheets on all teams ranked 1-105 by the RPI and two ballots listing those teams. The information will be listed alphabetically by team.
2. Each committee member will submit the two ballots Thursday evening of selection weekend.
 - a. On Ballot No. 1, each committee member shall identify not more than 34 teams that should be at-large selections into the tournament based upon their successful play to date, even if they could eventually represent conferences as automatic qualifiers.
 - b. On Ballot No. 2, each committee member shall identify all other teams that should receive consideration for at-large berths.
3. Members are not limited to the 105 teams ranked by the RPI.
4. A member shall not vote for a team that has earned automatic qualification. A team that eventually could earn automatic qualification, but has not at the time of the initial voting, is eligible to receive votes.
5. The staff will collect the ballots by 8 p.m. on the committee's first meeting date.
6. Any team receiving all but two of the eligible votes on Ballot No. 1 shall be moved onto the at-large board.
7. The committee will form an "at-large nomination board" consisting of an alphabetical listing of all teams that:
 - a. Received more than one vote in either of the initial ballots but did not receive enough votes on Ballot No. 1 to move to the at-large board;
 - b. Did not receive more than one vote in the initial balloting, but subsequently was recommended by more than one member prior to closing initial nominations, or
 - c. Won or shared the regular-season conference championship or conference divisional championship.
8. After Step No. 7, the process for creating the initial "at-large nomination board" will be closed.

9. Once the "at-large nomination board" is closed, a team may be added to the nomination board at any time providing it receives more than two votes. A team may be removed from the nomination board if it receives all but two of the eligible votes. Oral nominations are permitted.

Remaining Ballots

1. The committee will begin evaluating those teams on the at-large nomination board.
2. Each committee member will submit a listing of eight teams to be added to the at-large field.
3. Those teams receiving seven of the eligible votes shall be added to the at-large field.
4. From those teams not receiving seven votes in Step No. 2, the top four vote-getters will be held for the next ballot.
5. Each committee member next will submit a listing of eight teams (see "General Procedures" No. 6) to be considered in the next at-large ballot. Those teams receiving the most votes will be included with the remaining teams from Step No. 4 to provide a pool of eight teams for the next at-large ballot.
6. Committee members rank the eight teams from Steps No. 4 and 5, using a cross-country scoring system (e.g., first is valued at one point.)
7. The four teams receiving the least amount of points shall be added to the at-large field. The other four teams will be held for the next ballot.
8. Steps No. 5, 6 and 7 will be repeated until all at-large berths are filled.
9. If a team fails to be included among the four teams receiving the least amount of points (Step No. 7) for two consecutive ballots, it shall be returned to the nomination board.
10. A team may be removed from an at-large berth by a vote of seven eligible voters. Such a team would be returned to the nomination board.
11. At any time during the process, the chair may suggest that the committee begin considering teams that should be eliminated from consideration. The same voting procedures will be used.
12. At any time during the process, the chair may call for a cross-country vote of the teams under consideration.

13. The number of teams eligible to receive votes may be increased or decreased by the chair if circumstances warrant. Further, the chair has the option to revise from four to two the number of teams to be moved into at-large berths per Procedure No. 7.

II. Principles for Seeding of Teams

1. The committee will seed (i.e. "rank") the teams 1 through 65. "
2. The "seed list" is used as a reference to ensure balance.
3. Once the "seed list" is established, it remains unchanged throughout the committee's deliberations in placing the teams into the championship bracket.
4. The bracket-placement principles adopted by the committee may preclude a team from being placed in its "true" seed (in accordance with the "seed list").

Procedures for Seeding the Teams

1. Each committee member votes for the top eight teams, not ranked in order, from the automatic qualification and/or at-large boards.
2. Committee members rank the top eight vote-getters from Step No. 1, using a cross-country scoring system.
3. The four institutions receiving the least amount of points from the cross-country scoring are moved into the seed list in order.
4. The remaining four teams are held for the next cross-country ballot.
5. Each committee member votes for four additional teams from the automatic qualification and/or at-large boards. The top four vote-getters will join the four remaining teams on the next cross-country ballot.
6. Committee members rank the eight teams from Steps No. 4 and No. 5, using a cross-country scoring system.
7. The four teams receiving the least amount of points are moved into the seed list in order.
8. Steps No. 4, 5, 6 and 7 are repeated until all the teams are seeded, 1 through 65, for the seed list.
9. After a team has been voted into the seed list, it may be moved to a different position by a vote of seven or more committee members.

Additional Consideration

The committee is not obligated to seed the lines in chronological order. For example, any time during this process, the committee may use the procedures to determine the fourth quadrant of teams in the seed list.

III. Principles for Placing Teams into Championship Bracket

1. The top priority for the committee is to balance the bracket in each region across the country.
2. The teams seeded 64 and 65 will compete in an opening-round game the week of the first round. The winner of the opening-round game will play as a No. 16 seed in the first round at a Friday-Sunday first-round site to be determined by the committee during selection weekend.
3. The committee will assign all four teams in each 'pod' (seeds 1, 16, 8, 9), (4, 13, 5, 12), (2, 15, 7, 10), (3, 14, 6, 11) to the same first-/second-round site. There will be two 'pods' at each first-/second-round site. The first-/second-round sites that feed into a regional site may be in different geographic areas from the regional. Also, the two 'pods' at a first-/second-round site may feed into different regional sites.
4. Sixteen levels are established (i.e., the seeds, 1 through 16) in the bracket that transcend each of the four regions, permitting evaluation of four teams simultaneously on the same level.
5. Each region is divided into four sections with four levels in each, permitting the evaluation of four different sections within each region against the complementing sections in every other region.
6. All seeds on each line (No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, etc.) should be as equal as possible.
7. If two teams from the same natural region are in contention for the same bracket position, the team ranked higher in the seed list shall remain in its natural region.
8. A team will not be permitted to play in any arena in which it has played more than three regular-season games, not including conference post-season tournaments.
9. A host institution's team shall not be permitted to play at the site where the institution is hosting. However, the team may play on the same days when the institution is hosting.
10. Each of the first three teams selected from a conference shall be placed in different regions.

11. No more than one team from a conference may be seeded in the same grouping of four (in line Nos. 1-4 and 13-16) in a region. (Note: The only possible exception would occur if a conference has five or more teams seeded in line Nos. 1-4. The other principles herein would apply in the exception case.)
12. In lines No. 5-12, two teams from the same conference may be placed in the same group of four providing that they would not meet until the regional championship game.
13. Conference teams shall not meet each other prior to the regional final unless a ninth team is selected from a conference. Two teams from the same conference within the same region, therefore, shall not be seeded together in either of the following groups: Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16; or Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15.
14. There shall not be more than two teams from a conference in one region unless a ninth team is selected from a conference.
15. Teams will remain in or as close to their areas of natural interest as possible.
16. To ensure equitable competitive opportunities, the committee shall not place teams seeded on the first five lines at a potential "home-crowd disadvantage" in the first round.
17. An institution may be moved one bracket line from its true seed line (e.g., from a No. 13 seed to a No. 12 seed) when it is placed in the bracket if necessary to meet the principles.

Additional Considerations

1. A team moved out of its natural area will be placed in the next closest region when possible.
2. If possible, rematches of regular-season games should be avoided in the first and second rounds.
3. If possible, rematches of previous years' tournament games should be avoided in the first and second rounds.
4. The committee will examine the previous five tournament brackets to determine the number of times a particular team or conference has been moved out of its natural region. The committee shall attempt to avoid moving a team or conference out of its natural region or geographic area an inordinate number of times.

Procedures for Placing the Teams into the Championship Bracket.

1. Place the teams seeded 1 through 4 in each of the four regions, then determine the Final Four semifinals pairings, making best effort to pair the top seed's region against the fourth seed's region and the second seed's region against the third seed's region.
2. Place the No. 2 seeds in each region.
3. Place the No. 3 seeds in each region.
4. Place the No. 4 seeds in each region.
5. After each group of four teams is determined, check for conflicts with the principles for placing the teams into the bracket.
6. After the top four lines have been assigned, determine the relative strengths of the regions by adding the true seed numbers in each region to determine if any severe numerical imbalance has been created.
7. After the committee has placed the top four teams in each region, the committee will assign those teams (and, subsequently, the other teams in their pods) to first-/second-round sites. The committee will attempt to assign each to the most geographically compatible first-/second-round site, proceeding in order of the seed list. When multiple teams are a similar distance from a site, the team with the higher seed-list ranking will be assigned to the site.
8. Place seeds No. 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the bracket per the principles.
9. Repeat steps No. 5, 6 and 7.
10. The committee will assign teams placed on lines 5-12 a bracket line number (i.e., five through twelve) rather than using the seed number. All teams on a given line, therefore, will have the same numerical value. The committee will evaluate each region to ensure that no region includes all of the highest or lowest seeds from the seed list on each line within a region's group of four. Generally, no more than five points should separate the lowest and highest total.
11. Place seeds No. 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the bracket per the principles.
12. Repeat Steps No. 5, 7 and 10.
13. Place seeds No. 9, 10, 11 and 12 in the bracket per the principles.
14. Repeat Steps No. 5, 7 and 10.

15. Review the groups of fours to ensure adherence to the principles for seeding.
16. Review the principles (Section III) for placing teams in the championship bracket.

Rating Percentage Index (RPI)

The Rating Percentage Index (RPI) was created in 1981 to provide supplemental data for the Division I Men's Basketball Committee in its evaluation of teams for at-large selection and seeding of the championship bracket.

The RPI is intended to be used as one of many resources used by the committee in the selection, seeding and bracketing process. It never should be considered anything but an additional evaluation tool. No computer program that is based on pure numbers can take into account subjective concepts, e.g., how well a team is playing down the stretch, what the loss or return of a top player

means to a team, or how emotional a specific conference game may be.

Several independent elements are combined to produce the RPI. These elements are a part of the statistical information that can be utilized by each member in an objective manner.

Each committee member independently evaluates a vast pool of information available during the process to develop individual preferences. It is these subjective opinions--developed after many hours of personal observations, discussion with coaches, directors of athletics and commissioners, and review and comparison of objective data--that dictate how each individual ultimately will vote on all issues related to the selection, seeding and bracketing process.

While the various elements of the RPI are important in the evaluation process, the tournament bracket each year is based on the subjectivity of each individual committee member to select the best at-large teams available and to create a nationally balanced championship.

Tournament Facts

1939 The first national collegiate men's basketball tournament was held. For the first 12 years, district playoffs often were held with the winner entering an eight-team field for the championship. The district games were not considered a part of the tournament. The winners of the East and West regionals were the only two teams to advance to the final site.

1940 The National Association of Basketball Coaches held its annual convention at the site of the national finals for the first time. It has been held there ever since.

1946 The championship game was televised locally for the first time in New York City by CBS-TV as Oklahoma State defeated North Carolina, 43-40. The initial viewing audience was estimated to be 500,000.

This was the first time four teams advanced to the final site. With only East and West regionals, the two regional champions played for the national title while the regional runner-ups played for third place.

1951 The field was expanded to 16 teams, with 10 conference champions qualifying automatically for the first time. Those 10 conferences were: Big Seven, Big Ten, Border, Eastern (Ivy), Missouri Valley, Pacific Coast, Skyline, Southeastern, Southern and Southwest.

1952 Tournament games were televised regionally for the first time.

The number of regional sites changed from two to four, with the four winners advancing to the finals.

1953 The bracket expanded from 16 teams to 22 and fluctuated between 22 and 25 teams until 1974.

1954 The Tuesday-Wednesday format for semifinals and final game was changed to Friday-Saturday.

The championship game was televised nationally for the first time as LaSalle defeated Bradley, 94-76, in Kansas City.

1957 The largest media group to that point in the tournament's history was assembled for the finals in Kansas City. Coverage included an 11-station television network, 64 newspaper writers and live radio broadcasts on 73 stations in 11 states.

1963 A contract to run through 1968 was effected with "Sports Network" for the championship game to be televised nationally. Television rights totaled \$140,000.

1966 Net income for the entire tournament exceeded \$500,000 for the first time.

A television-blackout provision requiring a 48-hour advance sellout was adopted.

1969 The Friday-Saturday format for semifinals and final game changed to Thursday-Saturday.

- NBC was selected to televise the championship as television rights totaled \$547,500, exceeding \$500,000 for the first time. The tournament's net income of \$1,032,915 was the first time above the million-dollar mark.
- 1971 NBC recorded the largest audience ever for a basketball network telecast during the semifinals as 9,320,000 households viewed the game.
- 1973 The Thursday-Saturday format for semifinals and final game changed to Saturday-Monday.
- Television rights totaled \$1,165,755, exceeding \$1,000,000 for the first time. NBC reported that the championship game was the highest-rated basketball telecast of all time. The contest received a rating of 20.5 and was seen by 13,580,000 television households reaching a total audience of 39 million persons. For the first time, the championship game was televised in prime time.
- TVS, with the approval of NBC, agreed to televise those games not carried by NBC for a two-year period at the rights fee of \$65,000 per year.
- First-round byes were determined on the basis of an evaluation of the conference's won-lost record over the past 10 years in National Collegiate Championship play.
- The first public random drawing to fill oversubscribed orders for Final Four game tickets was administered by the committee for the 1974 championship.
- 1974 The bracket rotation was changed for the first time, eliminating East vs. West bracketing in effect since 1939. East played West and Mideast played Midwest in national semifinals.
- The Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference was divided to receive multiple automatic qualification berths in the tournament.
- 1975 A 32-team bracket was adopted and teams other than the conference champion could be chosen at-large from the same conference for the first time.
- Dressing rooms were opened to the media after a 10-minute "cooling off" period.
- 1976 The rights for the NCAA Radio Network were awarded to Host Communications, Inc., of Lexington, Kentucky.
- Regional third-place games were eliminated.
- For the first time, two teams from the same conference (Big Ten) played in the national championship game with Indiana defeating Michigan.
- 1977 NBC televised 23 hours and 18 minutes of tournament programming.
- 1978 A seeding process was used for the first time for individual teams. A maximum of four automatic qualifying conference teams were seeded in each of the four regional brackets. These teams were seeded based on their respective conferences' won-lost percentages in tournament play during the past five years. At-large seeding in each region was based on current won-lost records, strength of schedule and eligibility status of student-athletes for postseason competition.
- NBC televised the four regional championship games and a first round doubleheader on Saturday and Sunday. NCAA Productions televised all regional semifinal games and all other tournament games.
- Complimentary tickets for all NCAA championships were eliminated.
- 1979 The bracket was expanded to 40 teams and for the first time, all teams were seeded.
- NBC received a record one-game rating with a 24.1 in Michigan State's national championship victory over Indiana State. The 38 share also is a record. There were 18 million households viewing, which ranks third.
- Committee assigned three-man officiating crews for all tournament games.
- 1980 The bracket was expanded to 48 teams, which included 24 automatic qualifiers and 24 at-large teams. The top 16 seeds received byes to the second round.
- The committee's primary objective in the bracketing process became to provide equal balance in the four geographical regions, and the committee began to assign teams to any of the four regions in order to achieve balance while, when feasible, attempting to keep teams in their areas of natural interest.
- The committee eliminated restrictions on the number of at-large teams selected from one conference.
- 1981 Principles for the seeding and placement of teams were implemented to develop a balanced tournament bracket. They included establishing 12 levels that transcended each of the four regions, dividing each region into three sections with four levels each, placing only one conference team in each regional, not assigning teams from a conference to meet before the

regional championship and placing teams in their geographic area or on their home court if the first three principles were not compromised.

A computer ranking system, the Ratings Percentage Index, was used as an aid in evaluating teams in the preparation for making at-large selections.

It became policy that "no more than 50 percent of the tournament berths shall be filled by automatic qualifiers."

Virginia defeated Louisiana State in the last third-place game conducted at the Final Four.

1982 CBS was awarded the television rights for 16 exposures to the championship for three years.

The "selection show" was shown on live national television for the first time.

North Carolina's national championship win against Georgetown received a 21.6 rating and was the 11th-ranked prime time program for that week. CBS also achieved second-round record ratings with an 11.8 rating and 27 share on Saturday, and an 11.3 rating and 28 share on Sunday.

Host Communications and the CBS Radio Network co-produced the NCAA Radio Network.

1983 An opening round was added that required the representatives of eight automatic qualifying conferences to compete for four positions in the 52-team tournament bracket. This concept permitted the committee to retain a 48-team bracket evenly balanced with 24 automatic qualifiers and at-large selections, yet award automatic qualification to each of the 28 conferences that received it the year before. The 16 top-seeded teams received byes to the second round of the tournament.

A scheduling format was established so the tournament would begin the third weekend in March, regional championships on the fourth Saturday and Sunday, and the national semifinals and championship the following Saturday and Monday.

North Carolina State's national championship victory over Houston attracted a then-record 18.6 million households to the CBS telecast. The game had a 22.3 rating (third best) and a 32 share. It was the fifth-ranked prime time television program for that week.

A national semifinal record also was set in Houston's victory over Louisville. The game had a 17.8 rating and 33 share, and it was viewed by 14,800,000 households on CBS.

It was determined that the Final Four competition venue must have a minimum of 17,000 seats.

1984 One additional open-round game was established, requiring 10 automatic qualifying conferences to compete for five positions in the 53-team bracket that included 24 automatic qualifiers and 24 at-large selections.

For the first time, awards were presented to all teams participating in the championship.

1985 The tournament bracket was expanded to include 64 teams, which eliminated all first-round byes.

The committee realigned each region and renamed the Mideast region the Southeast region. Specifically, the Southern Conference and MEAC were moved from the East to the Southeast region; the Big Ten, Mid-American and SWAC moved from the Southeast to the Midwest; the Metro and Trans America were moved from the Midwest to the Southeast and the Southland and SWC were moved from the Midwest to the West region.

The number of automatic qualifiers was capped at 30 for a five-year period (1986-90).

CBS had a record 19.8 million homes view Villanova's national championship victory over Georgetown. This game attracted a 23.2 rating (second best) and a 33 share. The game was the second-rated prime time program on television for that week.

The East regional championship game (Georgetown defeated Georgia Tech) set television records for that level of tournament competition with a 12.6 rating, a 32 share and 10.7 million homes tuned to CBS.

The NCAA Radio Network reached an all-time high radio audience for any sports event when the Villanova-Georgetown game attracted 21 million listeners.

CBS began a second three-year contract that included 19 exposures.

1986 CBS televised 40 hours, 51 minutes of tournament programming.

The NCAA Radio network included a record 426 stations, including 92 of the top 100 markets.

The bracketing policy was changed so two teams from the same conference could not compete against each other prior to the regional semifinals.

The committee determined that regional competition would be played at neutral sites; if

- an institution serving as a regional host was selected to the tournament field, it would be bracketed in another region.
- Three separate three-man officiating crews were assigned to the two national semifinals and championship games.
- For the 1986 event in Dallas, the NCAA conducted its first random, computerized drawing for the general public's allotment of Final Four tickets.
- 1987 The National Association of Basketball Coaches reaffirmed its endorsement of the policy that permits an institution to participate on its home court in the first and second rounds of competition.
- Policy was changed to prohibit teams from the same conference from competing against each other prior to regional championship game.
- All 64 teams selected for the championship were subject to drug testing.
- 1988 CBS began a third three-year contract. All regional semifinal games were televised in prime time.
- Separate three-man officiating crews were assigned to all competition at regional and national championship sites.
- The NCAA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Division I Men's Basketball Championship; the score in the Oklahoma-Kansas championship game was tied, 50-50, at halftime.
- 1989 NCAA Executive Committee expanded a moratorium enacted in 1984 limiting the bracket to 30 automatic qualification conference champions and 34 at-large teams through the 1998 championship. (August 1988)
- NCAA Executive Regulation 1-6-(b)-1 was amended to strengthen criteria governing automatic qualification for conferences. (August 1988)
- A new bracket-rotation cycle was established. East vs. West, Midwest vs. Southeast in 1989; East vs. Midwest, Southeast vs. West in 1990; East vs. Southeast, West vs. Midwest in 1991.
- It was agreed that neutral courts would be used in all rounds of the championship.
- After determining that three of the next four Final Four host facilities should have a minimum capacity of 30,000, the committee selected Charlotte, Seattle, The Meadowlands and Indianapolis to host in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997.
- 1990 Each person entering the general public random computerized ticket drawing was limited to purchasing two Final Four tickets.
- The basketball committee defined "home court" as an arena in which a team has played no more than 50 percent of its regular-season schedule, excluding conference tournament games.
- The NCAA Executive Committee approved the "play-in" concept to identify the 30 automatic qualifying conferences in December, 1989. The Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) was computed for the nonconference schedules of all eligible conferences, with those with the lowest ranking competing for the available automatic-qualifying positions. The "play-in" was implemented in 1991 with 33 eligible conferences. Six conference representatives played for three automatic-qualifying berths in the 64-team bracket.
- 1991 CBS Sports began a new seven-year contract for \$1,000,000,000, which included live coverage of all sessions of the championship.
- The definition of "home court" was amended to be a facility in which a team plays more than three games during the regular season, excluding conference tournaments.
- 1992 Duke University won its second consecutive national championship, becoming the first team to defend its title since UCLA in 1973.
- 1993 The minimum facility seating capacity for first and second rounds and regionals was established at 12,000.
- The basketball committee selected San Antonio, St. Petersburg, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Atlanta to host the Final Four in 1998 thru 2002.
- 1994 President Bill Clinton became the first sitting president to attend the tournament, when he was present at the Midwest Regional championship game in Dallas and the national semifinals and final in Charlotte.
- The use of combined shot clocks/game clocks was required at all sites.
- The committee agreed to attempt to assign the top four seeds in each region away from a site that may create a "home-crowd advantage" for their opponents. The committee recognized that it may be necessary to move lower-seeded teams from their natural regions in order to accomplish this.
- The weighting of the three factors comprising the ratings percentage index (RPI), Division I winning percentage, opponents' winning percentage and opponents' opponents' winning

- percentage, was adjusted from 20-40-20 to 25-50-25. Also a second RPI, adjusted based upon a team's good wins, bad losses and non-conference scheduling, was provided.
- 1995 The existing CBS Sports contract was replaced with a new agreement for \$1.725 billion extending through the 2002 championship.
- 1996 The NCAA created the first on-line computer page for the Final Four.
- Pool reporters were permitted to interview game officials after games under specified conditions.
- Participating institutions' seating locations were moved closer to midcourt and nearer to the playing floor.
- 1997 Bracketing policies were changed so that, once the highest-seeded team from a conference was assigned to a region, only the eighth team selected from that conference could be placed in that region.
- The NCAA's on-line computer page was expanded to include preliminary rounds.
- 1998 Bracketing policies were changed so that competition at all three sites within each particular region would be conducted on the same days of the week and tournament hosts' teams would be permitted to play on the days they are hosting.
- The name of the Southeast Region was changed to the South Region.
- The basketball committee continued selecting Final Four host facilities with a minimum seating capacity of 30,000 when it picked New Orleans, San Antonio, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Atlanta to host in 2003-2007.
- Effective 1999, bracketing policies were changed so that, once the highest-seeded team from a conference is assigned to a region, no other team from that conference could be assigned to the same region until the sixth team was chosen from the conference.
- 1999 The basketball committee extended the Final Four signs-covering policy to preliminary-round sites, effective 2002.
- The NCAA signed a new 11-year agreement with CBS Sports, commencing with the 2003 championship. The agreement, for a minimum of \$6 billion, included rights to television (over-the-air, cable, satellite, digital and home video), marketing, game programs, radio, Internet, fan festivals and licensing (excluding concessionaire agreements).
- In its continuing effort to combat the effects of gambling, the committee began conducting background checks on game officials. The NCAA checked 50 officials randomly selected from among the 96 who worked the previous year's tournament.
- 2000 Inasmuch as 31 conferences were to be eligible for automatic qualification in 2001, the committee agreed to conduct an opening-round game the Tuesday before the first/second rounds, pitting teams seeded No. 64 and 65.
- 2001 The committee determined that, effective with the 2002 championship, first- and second-round sites would no longer be assigned to specific regions. Rather, the committee would have flexibility to assign four-team "pods" to sites near the teams' natural geographic areas, if possible.
- Effective 2002, the committee eliminated the bracketing provision that, once the highest-seeded team from a conference was assigned to a region, only the sixth team from that conference could be placed in that region.
- 2002 First-/second-round sites in non-domed stadiums drew 99.5 percent of capacity, an all-time record.
- During the selection meeting, for the first time each committee member had the use of an individual computer for researching and evaluating teams.
- 2003 As part of the 1999 "bundled rights" agreement, Westwood One assumed administration of the tournament's radio rights.
- The basketball committee agreed that the minimum Final Four seating capacity should be 40,000 and picked San Antonio, Detroit, Indianapolis and Houston to host in 2008-2011.
- 2004 Rather than using the traditional annual rotation of Final Four semifinals pairings (e.g., West vs. East, South vs. Midwest) the committee will assign the pairings during selection weekend, making best effort to assign the winner of top seed's region to meet the fourth seed's region and the second seed's region to meet the third seed's region.
- The committee agreed to no longer use the regional site designations (i.e., East, Midwest, South, West.) Instead, regional sites will be known by the city in which the games are being played (e.g., Atlanta Regional).

Postseason Tournament Championship Games
For Conferences With Automatic Qualification

Saturday, March 6, 2004

Atlantic Sun Conference
Big South Conference
Ohio Valley Conference
Southern Conference

Monday, March 8, 2004

Colonial Athletic Association
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Missouri Valley Conference
West Coast Conference

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Horizon League
Mid-Continent Conference
Sun Belt Conference

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Northeast Conference
Big Sky Conference

Saturday, March 13, 2004

America East Conference
Atlantic 10 Conference
Big East Conference
Big West Conference
Conference USA
Mid-American Conference
Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference
Mountain West Conference
Pacific-10 Conference
Southland Conference
Southwestern Athletic Conference
Western Athletic Conference

Sunday, March 14, 2004

Atlantic Coast Conference
Big 12 Conference
Big Ten Conference
Patriot League
Southeastern Conference

No Postseason Tournament

Ivy Group

FUTURE DATES AND SITES

2005 (67th Annual)

Opening Round (if necessary)

Dayton, March 15, UD Arena (University of Dayton, host)

First and Second Rounds

Charlotte, March 18 and 20, Charlotte Coliseum (Davidson College, host)

Worcester, March 18 and 20, Centrum Centre (College of Holy Cross, host)

Nashville, March 18 and 20, Gaylord Entertainment Center (Ohio Valley Conference, host)

Oklahoma City, March 18 and 20, Ford Center (Big 12 Conference, host)

Cleveland, March 17 and 19, CSU Convocation Center (Cleveland State University, host)

Indianapolis, March 17 and 19, RCA Dome (Butler University and Horizon League, co-hosts)

Boise, March 17 and 19, Boise State University Pavilion (Boise State University, host)

Tucson, March 17 and 19, McKale Center (University of Arizona, host)

Regionals

Syracuse, March 25 and 27, Carrier Dome (Syracuse University, host)

Austin, March 25 and 27, Frank Erwin Center (University of Texas at Austin, host)

Chicago, March 24 and 26, Allstate Arena (DePaul University, host)

Albuquerque, March 24 and 26, The Pit (University of New Mexico, host)

Final Four

St. Louis, April 2 and 4, Edward Jones Dome (Missouri Valley Conference, host)
#

2006 (68th Annual)

Opening Round (if necessary)

Dayton, March 13, UD Arena (University of Dayton, host)

First and Second Rounds

Dayton, March 17 and 19, UD Arena (University of Dayton, host)

Philadelphia, March 17 and 19, First Union Center (Atlantic 10 Conference, host)

Dallas, March 17 and 19, American Airlines Arena (Big 12 Conference, host)

Auburn Hills, March 17 and 19, The Palace of Auburn Hills (Oakland University, host)

Greensboro, March 16 and 18, Greensboro Coliseum (Atlantic Coast Conference, host)

Jacksonville, March 16 and 18, Veterans Memorial Coliseum (Jacksonville University, host)

Salt Lake City, March 16 and 18, Jon M. Huntsman Center (University of Utah, host)

San Diego, March 16 and 18, Cox Arena (San Diego State University, host)

Regionals

Washington, D.C., March 24 and 26, MCI Center (Georgetown University, host)

Atlanta, March 23 and 25, Georgia Dome (Georgia Tech, host)

Minneapolis, March 24 and 26, Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome (University of Minnesota, host)

Oakland, March 23 and 25, Oakland Arena (University of San Francisco, host)

Final Four:

Indianapolis, April 1 and 3, RCA Dome (Butler University and Horizon League, co-hosts)
#

2007 (69th Annual)

Final Four

Atlanta, March 31 and April 2, Georgia Dome (Georgia
Institute of Technology, host)
#

2008 (70th Annual)

Final Four

San Antonio, April 5 and 7, Alamodome (University of
Texas-San Antonio, host)
#

2009 (71st Annual)

Final Four

Detroit, April 4 and 6, Ford Field (University of Detroit
Mercy, host)
#

2010 (72nd Annual)

Final Four

Indianapolis, April 3 and 5, RCA Dome (Butler
University and Horizon League, co-hosts)
#

2011 (73rd Annual)

Final Four

Houston, April 2 and 4, Reliant Stadium (University of
Houston, host)
#

2004 Preliminary-Round Sites and Media Coordinators

Media should direct requests for working media credentials for opening-round, first-/second-round and regional games to the host media coordinator at each site.

Opening Round

UD Arena March 16

Doug Hauschild
Director of Sports Information/Media Relations
University of Dayton
300 College Park Drive
Dayton, OH 45469-1230
Office: 937/229-4390
Fax: 937/449-4461
sid@udayton.edu

Kansas City

Kemper Arena, March 19 and 21

Chris Theisen
Associate Director of Media Relations
Big 12 Conference
2201 Stemmons Freeway, 28th Floor
Dallas, TX 75207
Office: 214/753-0107
Fax: 214/753-0145
Chris@big12sports.com

First and Second Rounds

Buffalo

HSBC Arena, March 18 and 20

Jill Skotarczak
Director of Media Relations
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
712 Amboy Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08837-3554
Office: 732/738-5455, ext. 105
Fax: 732/738-8366
e-mail: jill.skotarczak@maac.org

Milwaukee

Bradley Center, March 19 and 21

Blain Fowler
Sports Information Director
Marquette University
1212 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233
Office: 414/288-6980
Fax: 414/288-6519
e-mail: blain.fowler@marquette.edu

Columbus

Nationwide Arena, March 19 and 21

Steve Snapp
Director of Athletic Communications
Ohio State University
410 Woody Hayes Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Office: 614/292-3103
Fax: 614/292-8547
e-mail: snapp.1@osu.edu

Orlando

T.D. Waterhouse Center, March 19 and 21

Jamie Bataille
Sports Information Director
Stetson University
421 North Woodland Blvd. Unit 8359
Deland, Florida 32721
Office: 386/822-8130
Fax: 386/822-8132
e-mail: jbataill@stetson.edu

Denver

Pepsi Center

March 18 and 20

Bob Burda
Assistant Commissioner, Communications
Mountain West Conference
15455 Gleneagle Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920
Office: 719/488-4046
Fax: 719/487-7241
e-mail: bburda@themwc.com

Raleigh

Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena March 18 and 20

Bill Newton
Media Relations Director
North Carolina State University
112 Reynolds Coliseum
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695
Office: 919/515-1180
Fax: 919/515-2898
e-mail: bill_Newton@ncsu.edu

Seattle

Key Arena, March 18 and 20

Jim Daves
Director, Media Relations
University of Washington
Graves Building, Box 354070
Seattle, Washington 98195
Office: 206/543-2230
Fax: 206/543-5000
e-mail: jdaves@u.washington.edu

Regionals

East Rutherford, New Jersey Continental Airlines Arena March 25 and 27

Helen Strus
Vice President of Event Marketing
Continental Airlines Arena
50 Route 120
East Rutherford, New Jersey 07073
Office: 201/460-4355
Fax: 210/933-4058
e-mail: hstrus@njsea.com

and

John Wooding
Director of Media Relations
Rutgers University
83 Rockefeller Road
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854-7005
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Atlanta Georgia Dome, March 26 and 28

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St. Louis Edward Jones Dome March 26 and 28

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Phoenix America West Arena March 25 and 27

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