The NCAA’s top priority is the safety of the student-athletes, coaches, officials, staff, family and fans who may attend our championships. The nature of COVID-19 is such that each of our individual actions affect not only our well-being, but also those of every other person we interact with or every person who uses the same spaces we use.

In order to keep our championships as safe as possible, it is important that every Tier 1 and Tier 2 participant is aware of, and their actions are informed by, the health and hygiene recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NCAA resocialization documents.

Therefore, the following requirements must be followed at all times when a team or individual student-athlete is selected to participate in a 2021 NCAA Championship. The applicable sport committee has full authority with respect to the administration of this championship, including the issuance of sanctions against individuals, as well as any participating team. Failure to comply with COVID-19 requirements may result in sanctions, including but not limited to, elimination from competition or participation in the championship for reckless or egregious conduct that places others at unnecessary increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. The sport committees will be informed by medical experts in reaching their decision, which shall be immediate and final.

Requirements:

● All individuals in the official travel party will be considered Tier 1 and must be tested and provide documentation prior to traveling to a host/competition site, or meet the criteria for not undergoing COVID-19 testing*. Tier 1 individuals will complete all necessary consents and releases with respect to personal and health information.

*Criteria for COVID-19 testing exemption:

● Documentation of COVID-19 infection between 14 days following infection up to 90 days following infection. Documentation is either a PCR test, or antigen test with supporting medical record documenting COVID-19 infection.

● Any Tier 1 participant who chooses not to participate in testing for COVID-19 (and does not qualify for a testing exemption) for any reason will be in violation of the protocol, removed from the COVID-19 Tested Zone (CTZ) and will not participate in the championship.

● If a Tier 1 individual tests positive prior to arrival or is determined to be in close contact, that person will be managed by the local public health authority and cannot travel to the host/competition site until their period of isolation or quarantine is completed and local health officials clear the individual to do so.

● It is each institution’s responsibility to ensure that each person in the official travel party is COVID-19 negative prior to travel. All teams and individual participants under consideration for the championship will submit test results on previous positive COVID-19 PCR tests within 90
days of the event and/or records of vaccination dates for all members of the official travel party. For individuals who tested positive by antigen only, there must be supporting medical records supporting a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19. All records must be official including the date and location of the test or vaccine.

- Upon arrival at the host/competition site, all Tier 1 individuals who are not exempt from testing will be subject to COVID-19 testing, and any additional testing as directed by the onsite COVID-19 testing coordinator and team health officers.

- When traveling or at a host/competition site, Tier 1 individuals, including student-athletes, must engage only in scheduled team activities. Individual or group trips, appointments, and activities or meetings with individuals who are not a part of the tested community are strictly prohibited. Masking and physical distancing protocols apply to all Tier 1 individuals, including those who have previously contracted COVID-19 within 90 days or already received the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Physical distancing and wearing a mask must be followed at all times when Tier 1 individuals are not within the CTZ at the competition venue, except during actual testing.

- If a Tier 1 participant has close contact (defined as less than 6 feet of physical distance for 15 cumulative minutes or more) with someone that is not a part of the tested community, they must inform their team health officer and onsite COVID-19 testing coordinator immediately. Additional testing or quarantine may be needed before they can join team activities.

- A Tier 1 individual who believes that any other violation of protocol has occurred (whether their own or another Tier 1 individual) should report the concern immediately to the team health officer.

- Physical distancing and wearing a mask must be used when in the presence of others, including other Tier 1 individuals, except during practice competition and in designated meal areas while eating. Physical distancing and wearing a mask are also expected at all times except in the individual’s hotel room or eating and drinking, provided guidelines to do so are followed.

These requirements are necessary to allow for Tier 1 individuals to participate safely in the 2021 NCAA Championships. The respective sport committee reserves the right to alter these requirements based on advice of medical experts. If a need to do so arises, the committee will inform Tier 1 participants via email or text communication established prior to the championship.