



## 2025 DIVISION III FOOTBALL BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS MANUAL

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **Championships Dates**

Asa S. Bushnell Bowl - November 22

Scotty Whitelaw Bowl – November 22

Clayton Chapman Bowl – November 22

#### **Location**

The 2025 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Bowl games will be held at campus sites of teams that are selected to participate.

#### **Declaration Deadline**

Monday, November 10, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

#### **Selection Date**

Monday, November 17, 2025

(Committees will meet following the NCAA selection show on Monday.)

All teams selected will be notified and match-ups will be posted online at [www.ecacsports.com](http://www.ecacsports.com).

#### **Withdraw Date**

Saturday, November 15 at 11:59, 2025

In accordance with ECAC Championships, an institution that wishes to withdraw from consideration may do so without financial penalty by the withdrawal date. In order to officially withdraw from an ECAC championship that you have previously declared for, you must email Dylan Clark at [dclark@ecac.org](mailto:dclark@ecac.org).

*If your institution is selected to participate in an NCAA championship or an alternative bowl game, your school is automatically withdrawn from consideration for the ECAC championship without penalty.*

#### **Late Declarations**

If an institution misses a declaration deadline, late submissions will be accepted up until 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, November 16. In order to declare late for an ECAC championship, you must email Dylan Clark at [dclark@ecac.org](mailto:dclark@ecac.org).

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

1. In order to qualify for consideration by the committee:
  - a. Teams must be members of the ECAC and sponsor the sport on the varsity level.
  - b. Each team must be eligible under the rules of:
    - (1) Its institution
    - (2) The ECAC
    - (3) The NCAA
2. NCAA rules governing eligibility of individual student-athletes to participate in NCAA championships shall be applied to each prospective participant, including those rules contained in the NCAA Constitution and Bylaws.
3. Please refer to NCAA Bylaw 17 (maximum allowable contests and annual exemptions) regarding regular- season play and postseason championships.
4. A team must compile an **overall Divisional win-loss percentage record** of .500 or better.

### **Team Championship Selection Criteria (Revised 12/12/15)**

The committee will review primary criteria first:

#### **Primary Criteria** (each component will be valued equally)

Head-to-head results against other declared teams

Results against common opponents

NPI

Overall Divisional win-loss percentage record of .500 or better

#### **Secondary Criteria**

Regular season conference standings

Overall winning percentage

RPI

#### **Geographic / Economic Factors**

The following factors may be considered in addition to the primary and secondary criteria during the selection process, in an effort to reduce travel costs, minimize missed class time and enhance the overall experience for competing institutions and their student-athletes.

Travel distance

Travel costs

Avoiding repeat competition from regular season or previous bowl games

*The ECAC Championships philosophy is to field the most competitive teams possible, taking into consideration all criteria and factors, understanding that some championship caliber teams may be left out.*

Note: Any extenuating circumstances regarding team selection and/or seeding shall be handled by the ECAC Championships Committee.

## SITE SELECTION (Adopted 12/12/15 Executive Council)

Any institution that wishes to host a championship must indicate “Yes” on its declaration form.

**Please note, a primary criteria for an institution to host is a live video stream.**

**Host institutions must supply a copy of their current general liability policy to the ECAC before the start of competition. The institution must name the ECAC as an additional insured for the championship dates only.**

The top seeded team in each matchup will be given first consideration for hosting. However, the football committee will consider the remaining team in accordance with these factors:

1. If the top team **does not** elect to host, the selection committee will look to minimize travel costs when determining the host.
2. Minimum facility qualifications listed on the host form.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS FORMAT

### **Seeding**

The Football Selection Committee will utilize the selection criteria to seed each team and select matchups. The committee may avoid pairing teams from repeat matchups, the same conference and consider geographic factors for the bowl games.

**Asa S. Bushnell Bowl:** Two teams will be selected to participate. The higher seeded team will serve as the host pending their availability.

**Scotty Whitelaw Bowl:** Two teams will be selected to participate. The higher seeded team will serve as the host pending their availability.

**Clayton Chapman Bowl:** Two teams will be selected to participate. The higher seeded team will serve as the host pending their availability.

***The ECAC reserves the right to add an additional bowl game if it is deemed necessary. The added game will be called the James Lynch Bowl.***

## GAME TIMES

Games are to have a start time of 1:00 pm for ECAC DIII Football Bowl games. Game times can only be adjusted with the approval of the ECAC and the consent of both institutions.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS FINANCIALS (Adopted 12/12/15 Executive Council)

Hosting: The ECAC will provide the final site host stipend of \$1500.00. Host institutions will be responsible for all expenses incurred while hosting an ECAC championship, including securing and payment of officials.

Traveling: Traveling institutions will be responsible for all their expenses except a portion of bus travel and will not share the expenses incurred by the host or other traveling institutions.

**The max cost that the ECAC will cover for a team’s travel is \$3,000.** If you have any questions, please contact Dylan Clark [dclark@ecac.org](mailto:dclark@ecac.org).

## **CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

All games shall be played in accordance with the NCAA rules as modified by the NCAA Division III Committee.

### **Max Team Size**

In accordance with NCAA rules, the maximum number of participants will be 58.

### **SCORING**

ECAC championships will use the NCAA championships scoring procedures.

### **Overtime Rules**

In Accordance with NCAA Policy the following overtime procedure shall be used when a game is tied at the end of regulation play:

- Immediately after the conclusion of the fourth quarter, officials will instruct both teams to retire to their respective team areas. The officials will assemble at the 50-yard line and review the tiebreaker procedures.
- The officials will escort the captains (Rule 3-1-1) to the center of the field for the coin toss. The referee shall toss a coin at midfield in the presence of not more than four field captains from each team and another game official, first designating the field captain of the visiting team to call the coin toss. The winner of the toss may not defer the choice and shall choose one of the following options: 1. Offense or defense, with the offense at the opponent's 25-yard line to start the first possession series. 2. Which end of the field shall be used for both possession series of that overtime period.
- The loser of the toss shall exercise the remaining option for the first extra period and shall have the first choice of the two options for subsequent even-numbered extra periods.
- Extra periods: An extra period shall consist of two possession series with each team putting the ball in play by a snap on or between the hash marks on the designated 25-yard line (unless relocated by penalty), which becomes the opponent's 25-yard line. The snap shall be from midway between the hash marks, unless the offensive team selects a different position on or between the hash marks before the ready-for-play signal. After the ready for-play signal, the ball may be relocated after a charged team timeout, unless preceded by a Team A foul or offsetting fouls.
- Possession series: Each team retains the ball during a possession series until it scores or fails to make a first down. The ball remains alive after a change of team possession until it is declared dead. However, Team A may not have a first and 10 if it again possesses the ball after a change of team possession (A.R. 3-1-3-I-IX). Team A and B designations are the same as defined in Rule 2-27-1.
- Scoring: The team scoring the greater number of points during the regulation and extra periods shall be declared the winner. There shall be an equal number of possession series, as described in (e) above, in each extra period, unless Team B scores other than on the try. Beginning with the third extra period, teams scoring a touchdown must attempt a two-point try. Although not illegal, a one-point try attempt by Team A will not score a point (A.R. 3-1-3-X)

### **Pregame Conference Call**

Pre-game conference calls will be conducted Tuesday, November 18 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. EST. Representatives from the coaching staff, administrators, tournament director, and the host SID are required to be on this call. An ECAC representative will be on will be on this call.

An agenda will be distributed to the participating institutions along with the conference call specifics in advance of this meeting.

## **FACILITY**

Alcoholic Beverages/Tobacco Products. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products shall not be sold or otherwise made available for consumption at any championship event sponsored by or administered by the ECAC. Such beverages or products shall not be brought to the site during the championship (i.e., during the period from the time access to the site is available to spectators until all patrons have left the facility or areas used for competition). In addition, the use of tobacco products is prohibited by all game personnel (e.g., coaches, trainers, managers and game officials) in all sports during practices, competition and other championship activities, such as banquets or press conferences at ECAC championships. Violations of this policy shall be handled by the ECAC Championships Committee in accordance with the NCAA misconduct provisions of Bylaw 31.1.8

Artificial Noisemakers. Artificial noisemakers, air horns and electronic amplifiers shall not be permitted, and such instruments shall be removed from the playing field and spectator areas. Bands or any component thereof shall not play while the game is in progress. The tournament manager shall be responsible for enforcing these provisions.

Crowd Control. The responsibility for crowd-control rests with the director of athletics or designated representative of the host institution. Host institutions should provide a copy of their evacuation plan as well as other crowd-control measures for review by the sports committee. The directors of athletics of the competing institutions are expected to communicate with their student-athletes and other fans to encourage enthusiastic support within the confines of good sportsmanship. Host institutions must provide adequate security and ushers, preferably in uniform, for effective crowd management. Attention should be given to seating arrangements that will alleviate crowd-control problems.

Championship Awards. An awards presentation including both teams shall be conducted after the championship game.

Playing Field and Equipment. Standard playing field and equipment as detailed in the NCAA rules and interpretations as modified by the NCAA DIII Championships Committees must be provided.

Medical Arrangements. The ECAC encourages the host institution to provide medical care consistent with the NCAA recommendations for each scheduled practice and contest.

Music. The host institution may play clean, profanity-free music throughout the championship. The national anthem will be played before the start of the first game of each day of competition.

Officials' Dressing Room. A room will be available to accommodate the appropriate number of officials (see section P. of official's manual).

Personnel. The host institution is responsible for assignment of all operations personnel.

Public-Address Announcer. The announcer represents an important role in the administration and conduct of the championship. The announcer will work in conjunction with the designated ECAC tournament staff at the site. Please note: it is recommended that the announcer introduce the starting line-ups for the visitors followed by the home team.

Signage. The ECAC requires that championship banners be displayed during all rounds of an ECAC championship tournament.

Team Locker Rooms. Locker rooms with working showers must be available for the teams. A sign reading “The ECAC Welcomes (institution’s name) to the “\_\_\_\_\_ Bowl Game” should be posted on the door.

Tickets. The ECAC asks that hosts follow their regular season ticketing policy for the championship.

Training Room. Appropriate training facilities shall be available on-site for the teams.

## **OFFICIALS**

Assigning. The ECAC **WILL NOT** be responsible for the assigning of officials.

Arrival at Site. Officials must arrive at the site no later than 60 minutes before the start of the game to attend the pre-game conference. The host institution should assign an individual to serve as the “game officials’ liaison” throughout the competition, to accommodate the game officials’ needs and to offer assistance.

Officials’ Dressing Room.

- a. Dressing room. A sign stating “ECAC Use Only” will be posted on the officials’ dressing room door.
- b. Access. Only game officials working the game, ECAC staff members and designated representatives of the host tournament staff will be permitted in the dressing room before, during or after the game. No visitors will be permitted at any time in the game officials’ locker room. The head official will be responsible for enforcing this policy.

## **ECAC INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

If inclement weather postpones Saturday games, the games will be moved to Sunday so long as it does not place undue burden on the traveling team. If games are unable to be rescheduled or the following day is cancelled due to weather two remaining teams will be declared co-champions.

The ECAC will defer to the host institutions for their inclement weather policies. Any changes from the original schedule need to be approved by the ECAC.

*The following procedures should be used when rescheduling officials:*

1. Contact officials regarding the postponement and see if they are available for the rescheduled game(s). If they are available, confirm that they must arrive 60 minutes before the game for a pre-game conference.

## **Bowl Game Tournament Director Checklist**

1. Bowl Game conference call
  - Meeting will be conducted via conference call on Tuesday, November 18 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. EST.
  - The following must attend the pre-tournament meeting:
    1. Head coaches
    2. Tournament Director
    3. ECAC staff representative
2. Confirm the format of championship with ECAC.
3. Confirm game times and travel plans with visiting schools.
  - Allow time for warm up and practice prior to the start of the first game. If there are changes in the schedule, the ECAC **must** be notified.
4. Display ECAC banner during all ECAC championship events.
  1. Banners will be provided to all host institutions.
5. Make locker rooms available for all visiting teams and officials.
  - Signage should be posted to inform visiting teams of their locker room assignments.
6. Arrange for scoreboard and public-address system.
  - The appropriate support personnel must also be provided.
7. Review responsibilities of the host sports information director.
  - The ECAC will provide information regarding programs, awards presentation, MVP selection and general promotion of the event.
  - Live video streaming
8. If awards are shipped to your institution, confirm receipt of awards.
  - Awards will be provided to the highest seed that has been selected to host any round of the ECAC championship.
  - Examine the awards for accuracy.
9. Confirm the assignment of officials with the ECAC.
10. Secure athletic and medical staff for all contests.
11. Coordinate efforts with maintenance staff to prepare fields and/or facilities well in advance of the arrival of the visiting teams.