

Division: I

Legislative Cite: Figure 17-2

Title: First Practice, Contest or Date of Competition, and End of Season Dates

FIGURE 17-2

First Practice, Contest or Date of Competition, and End-of-Season Dates

Sport	First Practice Date	First Contest Date or Date of Competition	End of Regular Playing Season
Women's Acrobatics and Tumbling	The first day of classes for fall term.	February 1 of each year.	Conclusion of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association National Championships.
Baseball (Championship Segment)	35 days before the first permissible contest date. If the ABCA Convention occurs within 35 days before the first permissible contest date, the Monday immediately following the day of adjournment of the ABCA Convention.	February 19, 2027; February 18, 2028; February 16, 2029.	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 1 of each year.	September 1 of each year.	November 30 of each year.
Men's Basketball	42 days before first regular season contest.	November 2, 2026; November 1, 2027; October 30, 2028 [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.5.3.1 and 17.5.3.2].	NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship game.
Women's Basketball	42 days before first regular season contest.	November 2, 2026; November 1, 2027; October 30, 2028 [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.5.3.1 and 17.5.3.2].	NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship game.
Women's Beach Volleyball – (Championship Segment)	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	February 25, 2027; February 24, 2028; February 22, 2029.	NCAA National Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	
Women's Bowling	October 1 of each year.	October 1 of each year.	Last day of final exams for the regular academic year.
Cross Country	16 days before first scheduled date of competition.	September 1, 2026; September 1, 2027; September 1, 2028.	Last day of final exams for the academic year.
Field Hockey	21 days before first scheduled date of competition.	August 28, 2026; August 27, 2027; August 25, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Flag Football, Women's	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	Memorial Day.
Football			
FBS	31 days before first scheduled intercollegiate game [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.13.3.1 and 17.13.3.2].	September 3, 2026; August 26, 2027; August 24, 2028 [Exceptions: See Bylaw 17.13.4].	Second Saturday or Sunday in December [Exception: See Bylaw 17.13.5].
FCS	31 days before first scheduled intercollegiate game [Exceptions: See Bylaw 17.13.3.1]	August 20, 2026; August 19, 2027; August 17, 2028.	Second Saturday or Sunday in December [Exception: See Bylaw 17.13.5].
Golf	Third Thursday in August or five days before the first day of classes, whichever occurs earlier [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.14.2.1 and 17.14.2.2].	Fourth Thursday in August or five days before the first day of classes, whichever occurs earlier [Exception: See Bylaw 17.14.3.1].	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Golf Championships.
Men's Ice Hockey	11 days before the first permissible contest date.	October 2, 2026; October 1, 2027; September 29, 2028.	NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship game.
Women's Ice Hockey	11 days before the first permissible contest date.	September 18, 2026; September 17, 2027; September 15, 2028.	National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship game.

Men's Lacrosse (Championship Segment)	January 7	February 6, 2027; February 5, 2028; February 3, 2029.	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	
Women's Lacrosse (Championship Segment)	Second Saturday in January.	February 5, 2027; February 4, 2028; February 2, 2029.	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	
Women's Rugby	Date that permits 21 "practice units" before first scheduled contest.	September 1, 2026; September 1, 2027; September 1, 2028.	Last date of final exams for the regular academic year at the institution or the conclusion of the USA Rugby College 7s National Championship or the Collegiate Rugby 7s National Championship, whichever occurs later.
Men's Soccer	16 days before first scheduled date of competition.	August 27, 2026; August 26, 2027; August 24, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Soccer	14 days before the first permissible contest date.	August 12, 2026; August 11, 2027; August 9, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Softball (Championship Segment)	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever is later or September 15. [See Bylaw 17.23.2]	February 11, 2027; February 10, 2028; February 8, 2029.	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Softball Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever is later or September 15. [See Bylaw 17.23.2]	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever is later or September 15. [See Bylaw 17.23.3-(a)]	
Women's Stunt	The first day of classes.	February 1, 2027; February 1, 2028; February 1, 2029.	Conclusion of the NCAA National Collegiate Women's Stunt Championship.
Women's Triathlon	Date that permits 21 "practice units" before first scheduled contest.	September 1, 2026; September 1, 2027; September 1, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Volleyball (Championship Segment)	17 days before first date of scheduled competition (excluding an alumni game).	August 28, 2026; August 19, 2027; August 17, 2028.	NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship game [See Bylaw 17.1.9-(b)].
(Other Segment)	January 1 of each year.	January 1 of each year.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Men's Water Polo	16 days before first scheduled date of competition.	August 28, 2026; August 27, 2027; August 25, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Water Polo (Championship Segment)	16 days before first scheduled intercollegiate contest.	January 15, 2027; January 21, 2028; January 19, 2029.	Conclusion of the National Collegiate Women's Water Polo Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 7 or the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.	September 7 or the institution's first day of classes, whichever is earlier.	
Men's Wrestling	October 10 of each year.	October 30, 2026; October 29, 2027; October 27, 2028.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Wrestling	October 10 of each year.	November 1 of each year.	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Other Team Sports Women's Rowing Men's Volleyball	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I or National Collegiate Championship, whichever is applicable.

Other Individual Sports Equestrian Fencing Gymnastics Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Tennis Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor)	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	In Gymnastics, USA Gymnastics or National College Gymnastics Association (NCGA) collegiate gymnastics championships, whichever is later. In tennis and track and field, the conclusion of the NCAA Division I Championship. In equestrian, fencing, rifle, skiing and swimming and diving, the last day of final exams for academic year.
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Note: Dates set off by a gray background reflect legislation that becomes effective for the 2026-27 academic year.
