

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 13, 2026; February 19, 2027; February 18, 2028	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 3, 2025; November 2, 2026; November 1, 2027 [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 3, 2025; November 2, 2026; November 1, 2027 [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 19, 2026; February 25, 2027; February 24, 2028	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.	August 29, 2025; September 1, 2026; September 1, 2027	Last day of final exams for the academic year.
Field Hockey	16 days before first scheduled date of competition.	August 29, 2025; August 28, 2026; August 27, 2027	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Football			
FBS	31 days before first scheduled intercollegiate game [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.12.3.1 and 17.12.3.2].	August 28, 2025; September 3, 2026; September 2, 2027 [Exceptions: See Bylaw 17.12.4].	Second Saturday or Sunday in December [Exception: See Bylaw 17.12.5].
FCS	31 days before first scheduled intercollegiate game [Exceptions: See Bylaw 17.12.3.1]	August 28, 2025; [Exceptions: See Bylaw 17.12.4]. August 27, 2026; August 26, 2027; [See Proposal No. 2025-7]	Second Saturday or Sunday in December [Exception: See Bylaw 17.12.5].
Golf	September 1 or five days before the first day of classes, whichever occurs earlier [Exceptions: See Bylaws 17.13.2.1 and 17.13.2.2].	September 1 or five days before the first day of classes, whichever occurs earlier [Exception: See Bylaw 17.13.3.1].	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Golf Championships.
Men's Ice Hockey	11 days before the first permissible contest date.	October 3 2025; October 2, 2026; October 1, 2027	NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship game.
Women's Ice Hockey	11 days before the first permissible contest date.	September 19, 2025; September 18, 2026; September 17, 2027	National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship game.
Men's Lacrosse (Championship Segment)	January 7	January 31, 2026; February 6, 2027; February 5, 2028	Conclusion of the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship.
(Other Segment)	September 7 of the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.	

Sport	First Practice Date	First Contest Date or Date of Competition	End of Regular Playing Season
Women's Lacrosse (Championship Segment)	Second Saturday in January.	February 6, 2026; February 12, 2027; February 11, 2028	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.	August 29, 2025; September 1, 2026; September 1, 2027	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 28, 2025; August 27, 2026; August 26, 2027	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Soccer	16 days before first scheduled contest or date competition.	August 21, 2025	Last day of final exams for academic year.
	14 days before the first permissible contest date.	August 12, 2026; 2027 date to be determined. See Proposal No. 2024-62.	
Softball (Championship Segment)	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever is later or September 15. (See Bylaw 17.22.2)	February 5, 2026; February 11, 2027; February 10, 2028	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 17.22.3-(a)].	September 1 or the first day of classes, whichever is later or September 15 [See Bylaw 17.22.3-(a)].	
Women's Stunt	The first day of classes.	February 1.	Conclusion of the College Stunt Association National Championship.
Women's Triathlon	Date that permits 21 "practice units" before first scheduled contest.	August 29, 2025; September 1, 2026 September 1, 2027	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 29, 2025; August 28, 2026; August 27, 2027	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 29, 2025; August 28, 2026; August 27, 2027	Last day of final exams for academic year.
Women's Water Polo (Championship Segment)	16 days before first scheduled intercollegiate contest.	January 16, 2026; January 15, 2027; January 21, 2028	Last day of final exams for academic year.
(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.	November 1 of each year.	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.

<p>Other Individual Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equestrian Fencing Gymnastics Rifle Skiing Swimming and Diving Tennis Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor) 	<p>September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.</p>	<p>September 7 or the first day of classes, whichever occurs first.</p>	<p>In Gymnastics, USA Gymnastics or National College Gymnastics Association (NCGA) collegiate gymnastics championships, whichever is later.</p> <p>In tennis and track and field, the conclusion of the NCAA Division I Championship.</p> <p>In equestrian, fencing, rifle, skiing and swimming and diving, the last day of final exams for academic year.</p>
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Note: Dates set off by a gray background reflect legislation that becomes effective on or after August 1, 2025.