

18.2 Criteria for Establishment or Continuation of Championships. The establishment or continuation of an NCAA championship in a given sport shall be determined on the basis of the requirements in the following bylaws, with sponsorship of a sport based on the Association's records as of September 30 each year.

18.2.1 National Collegiate Championship. A National Collegiate Championship for which any active member in good standing is eligible (per Bylaw 20.9) may be established by action of all three divisions acting through each division's governance structure, subject to the requirements, standards and conditions regarding the required number of members sponsoring the sport as prescribed in this bylaw. *(Revised: 1/14/97 effective 8/1/97)*

18.2.2 Division Championship. A Division I championship in a particular sport may be established by a majority vote of the Board of Directors subject to the requirements, standards and conditions regarding the required number of members sponsoring the sport as prescribed in this bylaw. *(Revised: 1/9/96 effective 8/1/97)*

18.2.3 Championships Existing During 1993-94. A National Collegiate Championship or a division championship that existed during the 1993-94 academic year may be continued if at least 40 member institutions sponsor the sport. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94)*

18.2.3.1 National Collegiate and Division Championship in Same Sport. If a National Collegiate Championship and a division championship exist in the same sport, sponsorship of the sport in the division in which the division championship is conducted shall not count toward the minimum sponsorship number for the National Collegiate Championship. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94)*

18.2.4 Minimum Sponsorship for Championships.

18.2.4.1 Men's Sports. A National Collegiate Championship or a division championship may be established in a men's sport if at least 50 institutions sponsor the sport. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94, Revised: 1/17/09)*

18.2.4.2 Women's Sports. A National Collegiate Championship or a division championship may be established in a women's sport if at least 40 institutions sponsor the sport. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94, Revised: 4/22/98 effective 8/1/98, 4/25/02 effective 8/1/02, 1/17/09)*

18.2.4.3 Sponsorship Criteria.

18.2.4.3.1 Minimum Period. In men's sports, the applicable minimum sponsorship number must exist for two consecutive academic years in order for a championship to be established. Legislation to establish the championship may be proposed during the second year in which the minimum sponsorship number exists. In women's sports, the applicable minimum sponsorship number must exist for one academic year in order for a championship to be established. Legislation to establish the championship may be proposed during the year in which the minimum sponsorship number exists. Varsity sports sponsored prior to August 1, 1994, shall count toward the minimum year sponsorship requirement. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94, Revised: 10/28/99 effective 8/1/00)*

18.2.4.3.2 National Collegiate and Division Championship in Same Sport. If a National Collegiate Championship and a division championship exist in the same sport, sponsorship of the sport in the division in which the division championship is conducted shall not count toward the minimum sponsorship number for the National Collegiate Championship. *(Adopted: 1/11/94 effective 8/1/94)*

18.2.5 Establishment of Single Championship in Sport. If only one championship is established or continued in accordance with Bylaws 18.2.3 and 18.2.4, it shall be a National Collegiate Championship for which any active member institution in good standing can be eligible.

18.2.6 Establishment of Three Championships in Sport. If a National Collegiate Championship and two division championships exist in the same sport, the National Collegiate Championship automatically shall become a division championship for the remaining division that does not sponsor a division championship in that sport.

18.2.7 Establishment of Two Championships in Sport. If a National Collegiate Championship and one division championship exist in the same sport, only the members of the division sponsoring the division championship may participate in the division championship, and that division's membership may not participate in the National Collegiate Championship in that sport.

18.2.8 Determination of Sponsorship Requirements.

18.2.8.1 Single-Gender Athletics Programs. For purposes of meeting the required minimums set forth in Bylaws 18.2.3 and 18.2.4, member institutions sponsoring no varsity intercollegiate athletics programs for men shall not be included in making calculations concerning men's championships, and member institutions sponsoring no varsity intercollegiate athletics programs for women shall not be included in making calculations concerning women's championships.