

Form Name: NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form
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NJCAA Committee Proposal Submission Form

Your Name	Darin Monroe
Email	d.monroe@rockvalleycollege.edu
Submitting Committee	Sports Governance
Proposal Title/Topic	National Tournament Start Date
Type of Proposal	Sport Procedures Change
Proposed Effective Date of Proposal	August 1, 2026

Rationale for Proposal	Defining the National Tournament start date as the first official day of the championship event provides a clear, consistent anchor for the season. Granting Regions and Districts the authority to determine their own qualifier formats recognizes that "one size does not fit all." Region leaders are best positioned to select game formats and venues that accommodate their specific geography, facility availability, and participant numbers.
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Please specify the NJCAA Handbook section(s) affected	None
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Current NJCAA Handbook Language	None
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Proposed NJCAA Handbook Language

Tournament Structure:

- National Tournament Start Date: The National Tournament shall commence on the first official day of the National Championship event, with specific dates announced annually by the Board of Regents.
 - Regional/District Qualifier Formats: Each Region and District is granted the authority to determine the format, structure, and specific rules for their respective qualifying tournaments, including but not limited to:
 - o Number of rounds and game formats (e.g., pool play, single elimination).
 - o Award structures for qualifiers.
 - o Specific dates, times, and locations for their events, provided they conclude sufficiently prior to the National Tournament start date to allow for team travel and adherence to National qualification deadlines.
 - Alignment with Nationals: While formats may vary, Regional and District tournaments should strive to mirror the administration and spirit of the National Tournament where feasible, ensuring fair competition for all participating teams.
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