



COLUMBUS AWARDED TWELVE NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS FOR 2018-2019 THROUGH 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEARS

NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship & Men's Basketball Championship – 1st & 2nd Rounds Returning

COLUMBUS (April 18, 2017) – The Greater Columbus Sports Commission and five university partners in **The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Ohio Dominican University, Capital University and Thomas More College (Ky.)** collectively submitted **47 NCAA Division I, II and III bids for 19 championship events in nine sports** last August for the 2018-19 through 2021-22 academic years.

Today, the NCAA awarded Columbus **twelve (12) championship bids in six sports (basketball, bowling, golf, lacrosse, rifle and volleyball) at the Division I, II, III and National Collegiate levels** for this bid cycle.

These announcements further cement Columbus' status as a premier NCAA host community, as the number of championships were one of the highest amounts awarded for any city. In the 2014-2018 bid cycle, Columbus received nine championships, also one of the highest amounts for any city, in seven sports out of a total of 30 bids in 11 sports.

The **NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship**, which Columbus hosted in record-setting fashion for the first time in December 2016, will return to Nationwide Arena with Ohio State as host in 2021. Nationwide Arena, the host of the 2018 NCAA Women's Final Four, will also be home to the **2019 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship – First & Second Rounds**. This will mark the fifth time the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament has visited Columbus in 15 years (2004, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2019).

Additional NCAA championships returning to Columbus for a second consecutive bid cycle include the **2021 National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship**. Ohio State will host this championship in 2017 at St. John Arena May 4-6 with the team looking to repeat as champions. The Buckeyes will also host the **2022 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship – Quarterfinals** at Ohio Stadium after hosting the event in 2016.

Ohio Dominican will host the **2019 and 2021 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball National Championship** after hosting the event to sellout crowds this past March. Capital University will host the **2020 Division III Women's Basketball National Championship** after hosting the event in March 2016. This will represent seven consecutive years that NCAA men's or women's basketball is played in Columbus. Capital was also awarded the **2020 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship**.

<u>NCAA Championship Event Bids</u>	<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Host School</u>	<u>Facility</u>
Division I Men's Basketball Championship – First/Second Rounds	March 2019	Ohio State	Nationwide Arena
Division II Women's Basketball Championship	March 2019 & 2021	Ohio Dominican	Alumni Hall
Division III Women's Basketball Championship	March 2020	Capital	Capital Center
Division III Women's Volleyball Championship	November 2020	Capital	Capital Center
National Collegiate Rifle Championship	March 2021	Ohio State	Converse Hall
National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship	May 2021	Ohio State	St. John Arena
Division I Women's Golf Championship – Regionals	May 2021	Ohio State	Ohio State Golf Club – Scarlet Course
Division I Women's Volleyball Championship	December 2021	Ohio State	Nationwide Arena
National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship	April 2022	Thomas More	Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Division I Men's Lacrosse Quarterfinals	May 2022	Ohio State	Ohio Stadium
Division I Men's Golf Championship – Regionals	May 2022	Ohio State	Ohio State Golf Club – Scarlet Course

NOTE: National Collegiate Championships include participants from NCAA Division I, II and III institutions combined.

“As the Sports Commission celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2017, we feel our collective relationship with the NCAA as a premier host community is the strongest it's ever been,” said **Greater Columbus Sports Commission Executive Director Linda Shetina Logan**. “All of our university partners were amazing to work with and it's great for Columbus' future to add 12 new championships to the six we have left to host through 2018, including the NCAA Women's Final Four. We're so thankful for the community supporting all of these championships.”

“It is a privilege when the city of Columbus and The Ohio State University and its department of athletics can partner to showcase the best of what the sport and entertainment community has to offer,” said **Diana Sabau, Ohio State senior associate athletic director for external relations and strategic communications**.

The Columbus Region is set to host the following additional NCAA championship events through the 2017-2018 academic year:

<u>NCAA Championship Events</u>	<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Host School</u>	<u>Facility</u>
National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship	May 2017	Ohio State	St. John Arena
Division I Women's Golf Championship - Regionals	May 2017	Ohio State	Ohio State Golf Club – Scarlet Course
Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Championships	March 2018	Ohio State	McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion
Division I Basketball Women's Final Four	March 29 & April 1, 2018	Ohio State	Nationwide Arena
National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Regionals	April 7, 2018	Ohio State	OSU – St. John Arena

Division I Men's Golf Championship - Regionals	May 2018	Ohio State	Ohio State Golf Club - Scarlet Course
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Additional Quotes:

Greater Columbus Sports Commission *(on the number of returning NCAA championships)*

"We are pleased that the NCAA is confident in Columbus, coming off the record-setting NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship and NCAA Division II Women's Basketball National Championship, to entrust us with the number of returning championships they awarded," said **Greater Columbus Sports Commission Executive Director Linda Shetina Logan**. "We believe hosting each championship a second time will allow us the opportunity to provide an even more memorable championship experience for everyone involved."

Greater Columbus Sports Commission *(on the NCAA bids not awarded)*

"While we are disappointed we weren't awarded every championship we bid on – we know the competition was fierce from cities around the country for many of these championships," said **Logan**. "We are incredibly excited about the championships we will be hosting over the next six years and will continue to ensure Columbus delivers on its promise to make the experiences of the student-athletes, coaches and fans its top priority."

City of Columbus

"The City of Columbus continues to prove itself as a top-tier destination city, especially for sporting events," said **Mayor Andrew J. Ginther**. "We are looking forward to hosting the NCAA Women's Final Four in 2018 and I want to congratulate the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, Ohio State, Ohio Dominican and Capital University for its hard work in bringing this number of NCAA championships to the city for 2019-2022."

Columbus City Council

"As a referee and student of the game, and more simply, a college basketball fanatic, I am proud and excited that Columbus will continue hosting NCAA basketball championships, for both women and men at the Division I, II and III levels, for the 2019-2022 academic years," said **Columbus City Council President Zach Klein**. "I'm thrilled that our city will be home to all of these great events, not to mention that we're hosting six NCAA championships before 2019. Kudos to the Greater Columbus Sports Commission for ensuring that the rest of the country will have the chance to see what I see every day in our city."

Franklin County

"On behalf of my colleagues, I'd like to congratulate Linda Logan and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission for their hard work to obtain nine more NCAA Championship events for our region," said **Franklin County Board of Commissioners President John O'Grady**. "We are a proud supporter of the Sports Commission and their work to make Franklin County a premier sporting event destination. Visitor spending from sporting events and conventions is a key economic driver for our region, creating a \$9.7 billion in economic impact, supporting nearly 75,000 jobs and generating \$1.13 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue which results in \$2,384 in tax savings for county residents."

Nationwide Arena

"We are thrilled to partner with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission and the NCAA to bring back Men's Basketball – First & Second Rounds and the NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship to Nationwide Arena," said **Nationwide Arena General Manager Mike Gatto**. "We look forward to hosting guests from across the country for these two exciting high profile events."

Arena District

"We are delighted by today's NCAA announcement and the chance to host these championship events in Columbus, especially with NCAA Men's Basketball and NCAA Women's Volleyball returning to the Arena District and Nationwide Arena," said **Brian Ellis, president of Nationwide Realty Investors and chairman of the board of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission**. "These events give our community an incredible opportunity to showcase our city and our many great sports venues."

Ohio Dominican University

"We're excited to welcome the NCAA back to Columbus for the Division II Women's Basketball National Championship in 2019 and 2021. It's a tremendous honor for us to host this event again and add the Women's Volleyball Championship in 2020, said **Jeff Blair, Ohio Dominican athletic director**. "I'd like to thank the Greater Columbus Sports Commission and the community for all of their support in giving the participants an exceptional championship experience last month, and we're looking forward to terrific tournaments over those three years."

Capital University

“Hosting two championships in a single calendar year is a fantastic opportunity to again showcase Bexley, Capital University and the City of Columbus on a national stage,” said **Roger Ingles, Capital University’s incoming director of athletics and recreation**. “The NCAA’s confidence in Capital and Greater Columbus to host high-quality Division III national championship events is seen with its choice to return, and we deeply appreciate that. We are very excited to welcome those top-caliber student-athletes, families, friends and fans from all over the country to Central Ohio.”

Thomas More College (Ky.) on the NCAA Division III Bowling Tournament

“Thomas More is excited to partner with the Greater Columbus Sports Commission to bring the National Collegiate Bowling Championship to Columbus,” said **Thomas More College Director of Athletics Terry Connor**. “What a wonderful opportunity to showcase the electricity of bowling and the opportunities high school bowlers in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Ohio have at one of the most elite levels of collegiate bowling. As a second-year bowling program, we feel that partnering to host this championship will help the Thomas More bowling program become stronger in the future.”

Columbus’ bid with Ohio University for the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship – Regional was unsuccessful, along with bids for NCAA Women’s Basketball – Regional and others in swimming, lacrosse fencing and gymnastics. Those events not awarded are outlined in the following chart.

<u>NCAA Championship Event Bids (Not Awarded)</u>	<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Host School</u>	<u>Facility</u>
Division I Men’s Swimming and Diving Championships	March 2019-2020	Ohio State	McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion
Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship	May 2019-2022	Capital	Bernlohr Stadium
Division I Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships	March 2021-22	Ohio State	McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion
National Collegiate Women’s Gymnastics Championships	April 2021	Ohio State	St. John Arena
National Collegiate Fencing Championship	March 2022	Ohio State	French Fieldhouse
National Collegiate Men’s Gymnastics Championships	May 2022	Ohio State	St. John Arena

The **Greater Columbus Sports Commission**, celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2017, has been a catalyst in transforming Columbus into one of the world’s best sports destinations. Our mission is to rally Columbus to compete and win sporting events, providing a singular athlete and fan experience and positively impacting our image, economy and lifestyle. The Sports Commission provides the experience and expertise from hosting more than **380 new sporting events** that have generated over **\$400 million in visitor spending**, while retaining annual events that have generated an **additional \$250 million**. For more information, visit columbusports.org.

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