



**CREDENTIALS CRITERIA**  
**2021-22**  
**DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee has reiterated its opposition to all forms of sports wagering and encourages the media to assist in the education of the public regarding the hazards of sports wagering.

Agencies shall direct requests for working media credentials for the First Four, first/second rounds and regionals to the host media coordinator, while requests for the Final Four shall be directed to the NCAA national office. If space is limited at preliminary-round sites, preference will be given to applications received before **March 1**. The deadline for submitting Final Four credential applications will be **March 1**.

A "media agency" for purposes of these criteria shall mean a daily or weekly publication, cable system, radio station, television station or television network, or online entity requiring immediate news coverage. "Immediate news coverage" for purposes of these criteria shall mean that the editorial, audio and/or visual deadline for the tournament action being documented occurs not later than 48 hours after the competition at the site has been completed.

Space permitting, any agency that has been approved for a Final Four credential shall receive a First Four, first/second round and/or regional credential upon request.

Agencies located within the geographic area of a participating institution must staff each of the participant's previous tournament games in order to receive credentials to each subsequent game. Exceptions will be reviewed by the NCAA as needed after consultation with the participating institution.

At the discretion of the media coordinator, a minority media enterprise that does not meet established criteria may receive one media credential, space permitting. A "minority media enterprise" shall mean a media agency that disseminates Division I college basketball news to individuals socially or economically disadvantaged from cultural, racial or chronic economic circumstances, or other similar cause. Due to space limitations, no photo credential will be granted.

Except for television camera operators or photo messengers, a credential may be issued only to an authorized full-time, salaried representative of, or a representative who regularly and customarily performs services for, the agency submitting the request. Credentials are not transferable.

Membership in a writers' or broadcasters' association (e.g., United States Basketball Writers Association) does not automatically qualify an agency for credentials.

The provisions under "print," "television," "radio" and "online" herein do not apply to media agencies (e.g., student newspapers, television stations, radio stations and yearbooks) that are affiliated with a participating or host institution. Credentials may be issued to three individuals, plus three photographers, certified by the director of athletics or designated representative of each participating and host institution, who will be the sole representatives of all such campus media organizations. NOTE: Team videographers will be given separate credentials and must adhere to the terms and conditions outlined for both preliminary rounds of the championship, and the Final Four.

### **Eligible Agencies.**

Subject to space limitations, credentials for working media are issued at all sites for the following:

- Select reporters, photographers and couriers from national publications, online entities, broadcast networks and wire services.
- Online writers, daily print reporters and photographers from the local host and participating team markets who regularly cover college basketball (i.e. cover the vast majority of a participating or host institution's home games).
- Reporters from a weekly or monthly national publication that covers college basketball extensively.
- Fulltime television and radio reporters from the local host and participating team markets who regularly cover college basketball (i.e. cover the vast majority of a participating or host institution's home games).
- Reporters representing NCAA conference-affiliated networks.
- Participating teams' radio networks.
- A maximum of three photographers affiliated with a participating institution, certified by the athletics department.
- Fulltime reporters representing international agencies that regularly cover basketball.

### **Agencies Not Eligible.**

Credentials will not be issued to the following people:

- Persons writing or gathering material for books.
- Representatives of syndicated television or cable programmers who are not producing programs for immediate news coverage (i.e., to air within 48 hours).
- Representatives of professional basketball organizations.
- Reporters from publications devoted solely to gambling.