



**INTERVIEW POLICIES  
2021-22  
DIVISION I WOMEN’S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Press conferences will be conducted on the day before each game and immediately after each game. The host media coordinator will have the authority to request any student-athlete to attend any press conference but should work with the participating institution’s head coach and SID, as well as a designated pool reporter (if available) representing the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) to select postgame press conference participants. Each participating institution shall make student-athletes available at all scheduled press conferences and breakout sessions. All interviews at the facility shall occur in the designated media interview space.

**Cameras, Recorders.** All electronic media desiring to record the proceedings in the interview room will be required to use the connecting devices supplied by the NCAA. No individual filming of the interviews will be permitted unless authorization is granted by the NCAA.

**Telephone Interviews.** Coaches and student-athletes not participating in the postgame press conference may conduct phone interviews as soon as the cooling off period expires. All requests should be coordinated and approved by the team’s SID.

**Uplink.** The NCAA/Hammond Communications will uplink all formal press conferences.

**Locker Rooms.**

Locker rooms are always off limits to the media.

**Press Conference Formats Day Prior To Games.**

**Day Prior To First Four, First Round and Second Round Games.** The head coach and a minimum of two starters are required to participate in the scheduled news conference. No more than three players should attend.

<b>News Conference Format Day Prior to First Four, First Round and Second Round Games</b>	
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Questions to student-athletes (dismiss student-athletes at conclusion)
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Questions to head coach

**Day Prior To Regional Semifinal/National Semifinal Games.** The head coach and a minimum of two starters are required to participate in the scheduled news conference. No more than three players should attend.

<b>News Conference Format Day Prior to Regional Semifinal/National Semifinal Games</b>	
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Questions to student-athletes (dismiss student-athletes at conclusion)
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Questions to head coach

**Day Prior To Regional Finals.** The head coach and each of the five starters representing the teams advancing to the regional final game are required to participate in the scheduled news

conference.

<b>News Conference Format Day Prior to Regional Finals</b>	
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Group interview with head coach and five starters in the interview room (dismiss student-athletes at conclusion)
Fifteen minutes (maximum)	Questions to head coach in the interview room. Student-athletes will be available in the locker room

**Day Prior To National Championship.** The head coach and each of the five (5) starters representing the teams advancing to the national championship game shall participate in breakout interviews. For 30 minutes, the head coach shall remain on the interview room dais, while the student-athletes will be available for individual interviews in five (5) designated breakout areas.

<b>News Conference Format for Day Prior to National Championship</b>	
30 minutes (maximum)	Questions to head coach only in the interview room. Five starters will be available in the breakout areas.

**Postgame Press Conferences.**

**Cooling-Off Period.** A cooling-off period has been established for coaches to be with their student-athletes in the locker room following the game. The period begins when the head coach reaches the locker room area immediately following the game or interview with ESPN, NCAA Radio Network and/or an institution’s radio network. A coach may shorten the cooling-off period but may not extend it. No interviews may take place during the cooling-off period. Should a coach permit one media representative to enter the locker room before the cooling-off period has expired, the locker room will be open to all other media representatives desiring access.

**First Four, First Round, Second Round, Regional Semifinals.** The winning team will appear in the news conference first, after a 10-minute cooling-off period. After the cooling-off period expires, the head coach and a minimum of two student-athletes shall be escorted to the interview room for a postgame press conference. The losing team will have a 20-minute cooling-off period before the head coach and select players go to the interview room/holding area. If requested, the losing team’s coach shall grant an interview with ESPN during or as soon as the cooling-off period expires. However, no other interviews may take place during this time. After the winning team’s coach and players have left the interview room area, the losing team’s coach and players shall go on the dais for a postgame press conference.

**Regional Semifinal/National Semifinal:** The winning coach and designated players will be escorted to the postgame news conference room first; the non-advancing coach and designated players to follow at the conclusion of the winning team’s interview. The cooling-off period is 10 minutes for the winning team and 20 minutes for the non-advancing team.

**Regional Final/National Championship:** Following the regional final game and the national championship game, the non-advancing team shall be escorted to the news conference room first following a 15-minute cooling-off period, while the winning team shall have a five-minute cooling-off period after reaching the locker room after the postgame ceremony.

**Postgame.** Postgame news conferences will be conducted immediately following the cooling-off period in the media interview room. Only individuals with the appropriate credentials will be allowed in postgame news conferences.

<b>News Conference Format for Game Days</b>	
Two minutes (maximum)	Overview by head coach
Eight minutes (maximum)	Questions to student-athletes (dismiss student-athletes at conclusion)
Ten minutes (maximum)	Questions to head coach

**Obligation of Coach.** Regardless of any personal regular-season radio or television contracts, the coach is first obligated to the entire media staffing the tournament and must report to the interview room immediately after the cooling off period ends. After fulfilling this commitment to the media staffing the tournament, the coach and players may participate in other interviews.

**Participating Student-Athletes.** The sports information director, working with the head coach and a designated pool reporter representing the USBWA, shall designate a minimum of two student-athletes to participate in the postgame press conference. Primary consideration will be given to student-athletes who had the biggest impact on the game.

**ESPN and Radio Rightsholders, Postgame.** If requested, the winning coach, losing coach and winning student-athletes shall grant postgame interviews, not to exceed four minutes, to ESPN and/or Westwood One provided the networks are still providing live coverage from the facility. The media coordinator will be responsible for terminating the four-minute interview period. The winning coach and players shall conduct these interviews immediately following the conclusion of each game. These will take place on the court but must not interfere with teams warming up for the next game.

Coaches and student-athletes who are not being interviewed by ESPN or Westwood One may conduct interviews with the institution's radio network during the four-minute period.

ESPN will have the first choice of individuals to interview, then Westwood One, then the institution's network.

The networks cannot inordinately delay the coaches' and players' return to the locker room. If the networks are not prepared to conduct live interviews immediately, it will be necessary for the interviews to be recorded.