



WINTER 2022

National Championship Participant Manual

February 9, 2022



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DISCLAIMER

Given the rapidly changing environment related to COVID-19 and the ongoing need to adapt accordingly, the NAIA reserves the right to modify this Participant Manual and the policies and procedures contained herein at any time. The NAIA also reserves the right to cancel a championship if, in its sole discretion, it deems such action to be necessary. The NAIA will communicate any such changes to Participants as quickly as possible.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK/PRE-DEPARTURE VERIFICATION

All "Participants" (defined herein as student-athletes, coaches, athletics trainers, managers, and any other member of the Official Party) who take part in a 2022 NAIA national championship opening round or final site location agree to do so knowing the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19. As a condition to compete in an NAIA Championship, the institution must share this manual with all Participants. The athletics director must submit an online Acknowledgement of Risk/Pre-departure Verification, which includes:

- 1) The school and the Participants agree to comply with all health and safety protocols and policies of the NAIA, CDC and local health departments,
- 2) Verification that all Participants have either:
 - a. completed a vaccination series and are fully vaccinated (booster not required),
 - b. tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, or
 - c. received a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test.
- 3) A list of those Participants who are not vaccinated and received a negative pre-departure test.

Participants are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after they have completed their initial vaccination series, which is two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Fully vaccinated Participants should have documentation readily available should it be requested.

Pre-departure tests for unvaccinated participants should be conducted within 72 hours of departure (PCR test) or within 24 hours of departure (antigen test).

This Acknowledgement of Risk/Pre-departure Verification Form will be submitted online and should include a final list of Official Party Participants from SID Help or another source.

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP QUARANTINE

The NAIA recommends that Participants submit to a self-imposed quarantine upon qualification for opening rounds and/or final site championship. During this time, contact should be limited to individuals who will be part of the Official Party at the applicable national championship and those encountered in fulfilling their academic responsibilities. Each Participant agrees to cease social activity during this period through the completion of the national championship. The ability of each team to compete relies on each individual's commitment to quarantine.

DETERMINING THE OFFICIAL PARTY

The Official Party should be comprised only of Participants, defined above as student-athletes, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, and staff members who travel with a competing team. While the NAIA is not requiring a reduction in size of the Official Party, the NAIA's Medical Advisory Panel strongly encourages institutions to only include necessary personnel. It also is important to limit members of the Official Party **as**

they are subject to pre-departure and on-site testing protocols and their test results will be taken into account when determining the protocol should an individual test positive on-site.

While family members of those in the Official Party may attend a championship as a spectator, it is strongly discouraged that family members travel or room with Official Party members. Unless the family member is on staff with the institution or considered as essential athletic employee, they may not join the team in any of the COVID Tested Zones, which include the bench, sideline, locker room, etc.

CHEERLEADERS, MASCOTS, AND PEP BANDS

For winter 2022 championships, marching bands, mascots, and half time entertainment are allowed only in Tier 2 areas. Cheerleaders are allowed at indoor venues, but must participate in pre-departure testing protocols to be allowed access to Tier 1 areas, which include the court and surrounding areas. Cheerleaders must remain masked in the Tier 1 zone, including while cheering on the sidelines and performing on the court. A separate cheerleading roster verifying pre-departure tests will need to be submitted with the team's Acknowledgement of Risk/Pre-departure Verification form. Details will be shared by the sport manager.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSTSEASON TRAVEL

The following are recommendations to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 immediately before and while traveling to the national championship. These are not requirements, but rather best practices that have been effective for other athletic organizations. We realize that some recommendations may not be feasible for your institution, but we expect institutions to adhere to these guidelines, whenever possible.

- Consider having your team train in a functional unit format to help minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. Functional units are generally a small group of individuals (2-8) on the same team who practice and participate in activities together. Individuals participating in a functional unit and adhering to general sanitization, masking, and physical distancing requirements would only be considered high-risk to others in their unit, and as a result minimize the risk of spreading the virus to other functional units.
- Hold all team or individual meetings virtually, whenever possible.
- Have all individuals in your travel party adhere closely to the standard recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including masking, social distancing, and sanitization efforts. As much as possible, have teammates limit in-person interaction with those not on the team. Explain that the best chance of competing in a national championship is dependent on their actions in the weeks prior to the event. Clearly communicate all expectations to everyone in the travel party upon qualifying for the postseason.
- If traveling by bus or van, take into consideration how much social distancing can be accommodated. If possible, consider bringing additional vehicles to allow more space between individuals.
- Implement strategic placement of individuals for all travel. Cohort previously uninfected individuals with those who have been previously infected and subsequently recovered within the prior 90 days. Maintain the functional units that have been used leading up to the championship, if possible. The seating chart should also take into consideration hotel rooming assignments and on-campus housing.
- While traveling, wear masks at all times except when eating. If possible, prohibit eating or drinking in vehicles or airplanes.
- Open windows of van or bus when feasible.
- Limit unnecessary meals and/or food.
- Before eating, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Eat outdoors, if possible.

- Utilize “grab and go” meals.
- If travel party must eat as a group indoors, adhere as closely as possible to the strategic placement of individuals.
- When drinking water, utilize straws under the mask.
- If possible, minimize the number of individuals in each hotel room. Roommate assignments should remain the same for the duration of the championship.
- Develop a contingency plan for how the travel party will handle an individual who tests positive once at the championship. This may include bringing an additional vehicle or reserving an extra hotel room. Consideration should be given to the duration of isolation required for someone who tests positive and quarantine for those deemed in close contact.
- Consider what transport options would be available for those in isolation or quarantine, especially for teams that travel by plane.

BEHAVIOR PROTOCOL AT CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATION

Each institution and individual competing in an NAIA championship has a responsibility for personal health as well as caring for others at the event and in the host community. The NAIA, in partnership with the U.S. Council for Athletes’ Health (USCAH), is providing the following guidelines to assist efforts to conduct our championships as safely as possible. We expect everyone associated with the championships to do the following:

1. Personal Commitments
 - a. Whenever possible, stay six feet away from others.
 - b. Wear a properly fitting mask except when eating/drinking or when competitive rules allow during competition.
 - c. Proper hygiene:
 - i. Wash hands frequently and consistent with CDC guidelines
 - ii. Follow CDC guidelines when coughing and sneezing
 - d. Stay home if you feel sick or have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - e. Avoid areas that cause you to be in contact with anyone outside the Official Party, if possible. (This includes friends and family members that are not in your current household.)
2. Institution/Team Commitments General
 - a. Isolate immediately anyone testing positive or exhibiting symptoms.
 - b. Identify and quarantine any unvaccinated close contacts of anyone testing positive.
3. Team Specific Situations or Environments:
 - a. During Meals
 - i. Social distancing for seating must be adhered to for all team meals.
 - ii. If at all possible, do not eat in restaurants where social distancing is not possible.
 - b. Hotel/Lodging
 - i. Single room occupancy for hotel rooms is recommended.
 - ii. If single room occupancy is cost prohibitive or unavailable, room assignments should be structured in ways that limit exposure among teammates.
 - c. Transportation
 - i. Social distancing for seating is recommended for all modes of transit.
 - ii. Masking is required at all times.
 - iii. Bus travel is preferred where possible.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

MEDICAL ADVISOR

Each NAIA national championship host, including opening rounds and final site locations, should have a medical advisor on-call to provide counsel regarding symptoms any participants may be exhibiting and positive test results that occur onsite. The medical advisor can also make decisions regarding quarantines, isolations, and other personnel and medical matters.

TEAM HEALTH OFFICER

The Team Health Officer (THO) is designated by an Official Party to ensure that each student-athlete and staff member adhere to the onsite COVID safety protocols. The THO will be the team's point of contact with the host site athletic trainer and any appropriate medical personnel.

NAIA COVID LIAISON

The NAIA national office COVID Liaison will be responsible for each team's documentation processes for pre-departure testing in accordance with NAIA COVID-19 testing policy.

MASK POLICY

PARTICIPANTS:

Masks are required by all Official Party and Tier 1 individuals when indoors at NAIA national championships including student-athletes, coaches, cheerleaders, athletic trainers, support staff, game officials, and game operations personnel. Student-athletes and officials are exempt from wearing a mask during active competition, including student-athletes on the bench during the game. If masks are required for student-athletes and/or officials during play due to local regulations, this will supersede the NAIA policy.

SPECTATORS:

Spectators should follow any state or local guidelines regarding masking indoors.

DESIGNATION BY TIER/ TIER 1 ZONE

All attendees will be divided into two tiers, as described below. Tiers are based on the ability to wear facemasks (indoors), the ability to practice social distancing (6 feet or greater), and the role played in connection with the competition. All individuals must wear facemasks (indoors) and socially distance whenever possible.

Tier 1 consists of individuals for whom the risk of exposure is the greatest, including all members of the Official Party and officials. **All Tier 1 individuals are required to take part in the pre-departure COVID-19 testing protocols.** Members of Tier 1 must wear facemasks indoors except for participating student-athletes, coaches, and officials while on the playing surface. (Mask guidelines for officials will vary by sport.) Social distancing must be adhered to whenever possible. Tier 1 individuals will receive separate credentials, which will allow them access into the Tier 1 Zone.

Tier 2 consists of all individuals not included in Tier 1. Tier 2 individuals will maintain social distance and wear facemasks in accordance with the NAIA mask policy. Those designated as Tier 2 may not enter the Tier 1 Zone.

The Tier 1 Zone is the area of the venue reserved for Tier 1 individuals. The Tier 1 Zone can be accessed by student-athletes, athletic trainers, coaches, cheerleaders, officials, and other Tier 1 essential athletics personnel. Any individual that will need access to the Tier 1 Zone are subject to NAIA COVID testing protocols. The Tier 1

Zone includes, but is not limited to, the field or court of play, team bench, team and officials' locker room, team bus, and additional areas specific to each venue and sport.

The NAIA championship sport manager will have the authority to review and alter tiers and access, as necessary.

PRE-DEPARTURE TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All individuals in the Official Party must submit a negative COVID-19 test result prior to departing for the NAIA national championship opening round or final site location. Exceptions to pre-departure testing include those who have completed their COVID vaccination series and are fully vaccinated (booster not required) and those who have had COVID-19 in the previous 90 days. (See details below.) This applies when a team first leaves campus to participate in the national championship, whether it be to travel to an opening round or final site. The institution will cover the cost to procure and administer the pre-travel tests.

There are two testing options prior to travel:

1. A PCR test within 72 hours of departure from campus for the championship or
2. A professionally-administered antigen test within 24 hours of departure from campus for the championship

COVID-19 VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

With advisement from the NAIA's Medical Advisory Panel, fully vaccinated individuals will be exempt from the pre-departure COVID testing protocols. Fully vaccinated is defined as having received the initial COVID vaccine series, which is two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

A booster is not required to be considered fully vaccinated.

To utilize this exemption, the individual is required to obtain the second vaccination (Moderna or Pfizer) or single vaccination (Johnson & Johnson) approximately 14 days prior to arrival at the event. For each sport, the NAIA is determining the date by which an individual's vaccination must have been administered to be exempt from pre-departure and onsite testing. While the NAIA is not requiring documentation of vaccination, individuals will need to include their final vaccination date on the Acknowledgement of Risk form.

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Based on input from the NAIA's Medical Advisory Panel, the NAIA has determined that those who have tested positive within the last 90 days and are asymptomatic do not need to submit a 72-hour PCR or 24-hour antigen test prior to travel. The following applies to those testing positive within 10 days prior to the event start date and is in accordance with CDC guidelines:

1. Any individual who tests positive within the 10 days prior to the event will need to immediately isolate for at five days. (Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms develop or the day the individual is tested.)
2. If after five days of isolation the individual is asymptomatic or has diminishing symptoms and has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, the individual's isolation may end.
3. For the following five days, the individual must wear a well-fitting mask at all times when around other people. If an individual has completed the five-day isolation prior to competition, but is still within the five-day masking requirement on the competition date, the individual would be required to mask during competition to minimize the chance of spread to competitors. It is at the institution's discretion whether an individual who's required to mask during competition would still participate.
4. The individual would meet the 90-day exemption and would not be required to show a negative pre-departure test.

The specific date window for when an individual must have tested positive to utilize this exemption will be shared by the sports manager for each opening round and final site. For people using this exception, each institution should 1) consult with healthcare professionals to determine when it is safe to return to play and 2) monitor for symptoms that would require subsequent testing. Further, should one of these individuals become symptomatic, it is the responsibility of the institution to notify the NAIA and seek medical advice.

SUBMITTING PRE-DEPARTURE TEST RESULTS

The AOR/Pre-departure Verification Form will affirm that all individuals in the Official Party have followed the proper pre-departure protocols and must be signed by the athletics director. All Official Party members must have either:

- a. completed a vaccination series and be fully vaccinated (booster not required),
- b. tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, or
- c. received a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test.

Due to the testing requirements (PCR within 72 hours of departure or antigen test within 24 hours of departure), the earliest this form can be submitted is three days prior to departure.

Participants are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after they have completed their initial vaccination series, which is two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

WHO IS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO CHAMPIONSHIP?

If someone receives a positive test result, it is at the institution's discretion to determine who may travel to the championship. While obviously the individual who tests positive should be immediately isolated, it is the institution's responsibility to determine who has been in close contact with that individual and decide whether those close contacts pose a risk to the rest of the travel party. The NAIA is not responsible for any contact tracing or containment efforts prior to teams arriving on site.

COVID-19 TESTING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Any Official Party member who exhibits COVID symptoms after arrival at the opening rounds or final site competition will be assessed by either the head athletic trainer or medical advisor regarding their symptoms. If deemed a possible COVID risk, the individual will be required to take a PCR test at a designated medical facility. The host site must identify a location within 30 miles that can administer a PCR test to the individual.

Until the PCR test result is obtained, the coach/athletic trainer must remove the individual from the host site and coordinate the isolation protocol at the designated hotel location.

Any positive test result must be reported to host site athletic trainer, as well as the NAIA national office. (Contact NAIA COO Lynn Parman at 816-863-0497 or lparman@naia.org.)

RESPONDING TO SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS

All Official Party members, competition officials, and host staff/volunteers are required to test negative for COVID-19 prior to participating in the event, or qualify for an exemption on the basis of being fully vaccinated or having tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 90 days.

Accordingly, surveillance testing is not required on site at the event. However, further evaluation, diagnosis, consultation and/or testing will be required for any individual who is in one of the following categories:

- Individual becomes symptomatic
- Individual tests positive for COVID-19
- Individual is identified as close contact of individual who tested positive

It is the responsibility of each school's Team Health Officer (THO) to carefully monitor all Official Party members for any of these conditions, and to consult with the Host Athletic Trainer should any of these situations occur. The Host Athletic Trainer will consult with the event's Medical Advisor and national office staff as needed.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A POSITIVE TEST OR CLOSE CONTACT IDENTIFICATION?

The following chart outlines the protocols for individuals who test positive or are identified as a close contact based on their vaccination status. A close contact is someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Roommates must be considered close contacts.

Vaccination Status	Test Positive Onsite	Close Contact [^]
Fully vaccinated (booster not required) Individual is fully vaccinated two weeks after completing their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines, which is two doses of Pfizer/Moderna or single dose of Johnson & Johnson.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for five days (date of positive test is day 0) • If asymptomatic or symptoms are diminishing and individual is fever-free after five days, wear mask around others for additional five days • May clear isolation without masking if asymptomatic with negative test on day five ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal quarantine required unless individual develops symptoms. • Test on day five (day of close contact is day 0) if available. • Recommended a well-fitting mask and distancing for indoor group settings.
Positive COVID test within 90 days prior to event Individual must have tested positive for COVID-19 no more than 90 days and no less than five days before the event. Individual must have diminishing symptoms and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before arrival.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for five days (date of positive test is day 0) • If asymptomatic or symptoms are diminishing and individual is fever-free after five days, wear mask around others for additional five days • May clear isolation without masking if asymptomatic with negative test on day five ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal quarantine required unless individual develops symptoms. • Test on day five. [^] (Day of close contact is day 0.) • Recommended a well-fitting mask and distancing for indoor group settings.
Not completely vaccinated Individual has received only one of the two doses of the Pfizer/Moderna vaccine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for five days (date of positive test is day 0) • If asymptomatic or symptoms are diminishing and individual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate from people for five days (day of close contact is day 0)

	<p>is fever-free after five days, wear mask around others for additional five days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May clear isolation without masking if asymptomatic with negative test on day five ** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test on day five. ^ (Day of close contact is day 0.) • If day five test is negative PCR, can return to activities while masking. • Continue to monitor for symptoms for ten days.
Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate for five days (date of positive test is day 0) • If asymptomatic or symptoms are diminishing and individual is fever-free after five days, wear mask around others for additional five days • May clear isolation without masking if asymptomatic with negative test on day five** • If day five test is positive, individual must isolate for 10 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate away from people for five days (day of close contact is day 0) • Test on day five. ^ (Day of close contact is day 0.) • If day five test is negative PCR, can return to activities while masking. • Continue to monitor for symptoms for ten days.

** People with symptoms should isolate while awaiting test results*

*** PCR is preferred, but antigen testing is acceptable*

^ If positive then follow guidance for positive test

ROSTERS / LODGING

ROSTER CHANGES

Only student-athletes who are listed as members of the Official Party prior to travel can be placed on the competition roster onsite.

LODGING

Lodging for NAIA championships will be at a pre-determined championship hotel. Per NAC policy, teams who do not stay at the pre-determined hotel will be ineligible to compete.

Single room occupancy is preferred to limit the spread of the virus; maximum occupancy is two individuals per room. No more than the two assigned individuals should congregate in any one hotel room. Once at the championship, Official Party members shall stay contained to their assigned rooms.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND LIMITATIONS

Spectator attendance at both indoor and outdoor venues will be consistent with local and state regulations, so long as social distancing and other safety protocols are able to be accommodated.

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION - VIRTUAL

Registration for winter 2022 NAIA national championship opening rounds or final sites will take place virtually to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The NAIA will supply all paper items normally distributed at team check-in to coaches via email (Coaches Packet, schedule, host information, etc.). Any items that cannot be distributed via email (credentials, bibs, etc.) will be distributed to coaches at a time designated by the championship manager.

COACHES MEETING – VIRTUAL

All coaches are required to attend the **MANDATORY** pre-championship coaches meeting, held virtually via Zoom. Meeting information and Zoom details will be sent to all meeting Participants in advance.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

All in-person Parade of Champions events for winter 2022 national championships have been eliminated.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE EVENT

NAIA national championship hosts may plan a virtual student-athlete experience event, if they so choose, but it is not required. If the host site opts to offer a student-athlete experience event, you will receive details from the championships manager.

TEAMING UP FOR CHARACTER™

No in-person Teaming Up For Character™ events during the winter 2022 national championships will take place. There is an option for NAIA student-athletes to visit local schools or youth organizations virtually through a pre-recorded message. The NAIA national office and the NAIA Association of Student-Athletes have worked together to bring a memorable, meaningful message to local schools and organizations through a pre-recorded message focusing on the NAIA Champions of Character® program. Hosts will be required to identify a Teaming Up For Character™ Coordinator who will be responsible for distributing this video to local schools and organizations. Your NAIA championship sport manager will work in conjunction on the best way to distribute the video to your communities.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

ARRIVAL TIMES / PROCEDURES AT VENUE

Teams are not permitted to arrive earlier than 90 minutes prior to their scheduled game for warmups. All other traditional pre-game routines (film review, coaches' meetings, captain's meetings, etc.) must take place at the team's designated hotel. Upon arrival at the championship venue, teams must sit in designated areas with proper social distancing from other teams and national championship personnel. The protocol for Indoor Track & Field may vary and details will be shared from the championship manager.

LOCKER ROOM PROTOCOL

All locker rooms including benches, seats, tabletops and countertops will be disinfected with a CDC approved sanitizer prior to the arrival of the visiting teams. If multiple teams will utilize locker rooms throughout a given day, the locker room will be disinfected prior to allowing the next set of teams to use the locker rooms.

Locker rooms will be setup to promote social distancing, leaving every other locker unattended. All reusable towels will be removed from locker rooms for the duration of competition. If locker rooms can't fulfill social distancing requirements, locker rooms will not be utilized.

PRE-GAME MEETINGS / COIN TOSS

The pre-game meeting between officials and team captains must be limited to two officials and one captain from each participating team. Additional personnel, media members, or a ceremonial coin toss are not allowed.

MEDIA / POST-GAME

POST-GAME INTERVIEWS

All post-game interviews (by members of the media) with selected student-athletes may only be done by an individual that has gone through Tier 1 COVID protocols. Provided said individual has been granted Tier 1 access, postgame interviews may be conducted with a mask by the media member covering both nose and mouth. Anyone who has not gone through Tier 1 COVID protocols and wishes to interview a coach or player postgame must do so virtually. In the case of a virtual interview, media should contact the institutions' sports information director or athletics communications contact to coordinate.

AWARD CEREMONIES

All post-game awards ceremonies at NAIA national championship opening rounds or final site locations including semi-final team trophy presentations, national championship team trophy and individual plaque presentations will take place using the guidelines outlined below.

Throughout the duration of the formal post-game awards ceremonies:

- All Participants must wear masks.
- Any official award presenter that is not affiliated with the participating teams must be a Tier 1 designee and thereby have followed Tier 1 testing protocols. (See Designation of Tier/Tier 1 Zone Section above for details.)

Individual Ceremonies

All 2021-22 NAIA national championships with individual medalists will have a single awards presenter who must be a Tier 1 designee and thereby have followed Tier 1 testing protocols. This individual will be required to wear a facemask for the duration of the national championship individual awards ceremonies. All award winners are also required to wear facemasks while accepting their awards and when posing for the group picture on the podium.

GLOSSARY

Acknowledgment of Risk/Pre-departure Verification Form: A form verified by the Athletics Director that the school and Participants agree to comply with all health and safety protocols and policies of the NAIA, CDC and local health departments, including that all Participants have either:

- completed a vaccination series and are fully vaccinated (booster not required),
- tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, or
- received a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test.

Close Contact: Each institution is responsible for determining any close contact, consistent with CDC guidelines. The CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of

15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. For purposes of this manual, any roommate(s) of the individual that has tested positive will be automatically considered a close contact.

Final Site: Location of where the national championship will be played and completed.

Medical Advisory Panel (MAP): A group of medical doctors and health professionals who serve in an advising capacity to the NAIA regarding COVID matters as they relate to championship play.

Medical Advisor: A medical professional appointed by the host site who will rule on issues relating to COVID-19 testing, interpret testing protocols or failure to abide by protocols. The Medical Advisor will provide counsel to Participants who test positive and can make decisions related to quarantines or isolations of student-athletes or personnel and other medical matters.

NAIA COVID Liaison: The NAIA national office COVID Liaison will be responsible for each team's documentation processes for pre-departure testing in accordance with NAIA COVID-19 testing policy.

Official Party: The Official Party is made up of Participants. (See below.) All members of the Official Party must take part in pre-departure and on-site testing requirements.

Opening Round: The first round of championship play that takes place prior to the final site championship, generally at a location other than the final site championship location. Championships that have opening rounds include: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and women's volleyball.

Participant(s): Student-athletes, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, and any staff member who is part of the Official Party.

Team Health Official: This is a team's designee who will be responsible for ensuring that each student-athlete and staff member adheres to safety protocols on-site. He or she also will communicate daily with the on-site NAIA COVID Liaison regarding compliance with these protocols and other policies and procedures.

Tier 1: All individuals for whom the risk of exposure is the greatest. All Tier 1 individuals are required to take part in on-site testing protocols. This includes all members of the Official Party.

Tier 2: All individuals that are not in Tier 1. Tier 2 individuals can maintain social distance and wear masks at nearly all times.

Tier 1 Zone: The area of the venue only accessible by Tier 1 individuals.