In order to be eligible for nomination and assignment to the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Championship, an official must:

- Attend an officiating clinic in its entirety.
- Submit a completed sports wagering questionnaire via the officiating website.
- Successfully pass the preseason exam via the officiating website.
- Complete, sign and submit the release form prior to the deadline to authorize the NCAA’s contracted agency to conduct a background check.
- Refrain from sports wagering/gambling activities. (e.g. Casinos, DraftKings, FanDuel, etc.)
- Officiate a minimum of 25 Division I men’s basketball games during the current regular season including conference tournaments.
- View all posted videos before January 25, 2019. A view will only be counted when viewed from beginning until the screen goes to black following the video.
- Agree to refrain from entering into any other officiating agreement the day preceding the championship competition to which they have been assigned.

Officiating assignments and arrangements for officials shall be made by the Division I Men’s Basketball Committee, consistent with the following officiating policies for the 2019 tournament.

1. Selection and Assignments.
   a. The basketball committee will select and assign all officials for the championship. Each automatic-qualifying conference will be guaranteed that one of its officials will work in the tournament; non-automatic-qualifying conferences may also nominate officials from their conferences. The basketball committee will have the exclusive right to determine which official(s) will represent each conference.
   b. The commissioner of each conference will be required to provide two separate lists to the basketball committee. One list shall rank in order (one being the best) all officials who worked 10 or more games in that conference. The conference shall identify the names of the officials who the conference wishes to nominate for selection to work the tournament. The second list shall rank, in order, those officials who the conference wishes to nominate for selection who worked fewer than 10 games in that conference. No two officials should have the same rank on a single list. The lists must be submitted by each conference commissioner by 5 p.m. (Eastern time) February 15.
   c. Conference commissioners will be asked to include the following information on each official: address, cell phone number, email address, experience in conference tournaments, primary or secondary status, note any exclusions, identify alma mater(s), potential conflicts of interest and any other pertinent information.
   d. The basketball committee will have the option to select and assign up to four officials for the championship that were not nominated by a conference. Any official considered by the committee that was not nominated by a conference shall satisfy all other requirements to be eligible for selection and assignment for the championship.
   e. On Friday, March 15, 2019, the basketball committee will select up to 109 officials who will work the tournament. No later than Sunday evening, March 17, the committee will notify all officials selected to work the First Four and first-/second-round games via email.
Included with the emailed letter of appointment will be important tax information and an agreement that all officials are required to complete and fax to the indicated phone number prior to arriving on site. The agreement will outline the terms and conditions of the officials’ engagement with the NCAA while working in the tournament.

f. On Sunday evening, March 17, the NCAA will notify tournament managers of those game officials assigned to work their specific site. The tournament managers will immediately, and no later than Monday, March 18, notify each official assigned to their site whether the official will work the first round only or both the first and second rounds. Each official will also be able to access the officiating website (www.ncaambb.arbitersports.com) after 10:30 p.m. (Eastern time) on Sunday evening for assignment information.

g. The committee shall consider both quality and neutrality when making the selections. At the committee’s March meeting, 13 officials will be selected to work the First Four. Four three-man crews will be selected and each crew will work one First Four game. One official will serve as the stand-by official for all games during the First Four and will not advance to work any other games. At least three of the 13 officials selected for the First Four (includes the stand-by) will be officials that have not previously officiated in the Division I men’s basketball championship. These officials will not officiate in the championship beyond the First Four unless circumstances warrant they officiate additional games. A minimum of nine officials will be assigned games at a first-round session.

As the committee meets during selection week, 32 three-man crews (96 officials) will be selected with four crews assigned to each of the eight first-round sessions, and 16 three-person crews (48 officials) from the first round will be pre-selected to work the second-round games at the site to which they are assigned first-round games. All officials who work in the First Four, first or second rounds (not including First Four or first round standbys) are eligible for assignment to the regionals. Once first-round games are completed, officials will be assigned to second-round games, either as a game official or stand-by.

h. Eight officials will be selected to serve as the stand-by official for the four first round games at each site. These stand-by officials will not advance to work any other games. The stand-by official for the second-round games will be designated following the completion of the first-round games among those officials selected to work the second round.

i. A telephone conference will be conducted by the basketball committee after the second round to assign crews for regional semifinal and final games. Twelve three-man crews (36 officials) will be pre-assigned to the four regional sites. The 96 first-round officials will be eligible for a regional assignment. Two crews will be assigned to the regional semifinals and one to the regional final at each site. One official will be designated as the stand-by for all three regional games at each site. Officials that advance to the regional rounds will be able to access the officiating website (www.ncaambb.arbitersports.com) after 7 p.m. (Eastern time) on Monday, March 25 for assignment information. All regional officials (not including the stand-by officials) will be considered as candidates for assignment to the Final Four. All preliminary round assignments will be announced to the teams one-hour before tipoff.
j. After the regional championships, 10 individuals from the regionals will advance to the Final Four. Of the 10 pre-selected officials, two crews will be assigned to the national semifinal games, and a third crew will be assigned to work the championship game.

One official will be designated as the stand-by for all three Final Four games. The officials’ names will be released to the public by Monday, April 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. central time. These assignments will be announced one-hour before tipoff of all games. The officials assigned to the championship game shall not arrive in advance to observe the semifinal games.

k. The conference affiliation of the officials will not be released to the media or public.

2. After completion of the game that each official works, the official may remain at the site and be given the opportunity to purchase a maximum of two tickets to the remaining game(s). However, per diem, hotel and other expenses will not be paid after the date that each official works.

3. Officials shall not enter the competition venue on days they are not officiating. It is the preference of the men’s basketball committee that officials working the second game of a session not enter the playing court area until after halftime of the first game, after assignments have been announced.

4. At the First Four, at each first-/second-round session and at the regionals, the officials will be rated (not ranked) by an officiating evaluation committee. The officiating evaluation committee may be composed of one pre-assigned coordinator of basketball officials or may include one regional advisor for basketball officials; the basketball committee representative shall serve as chair of this evaluation committee. Each member of the officiating evaluation committee shall receive a working credential for admittance and the opportunity to purchase two all-session tickets at the respective site.

5. No official shall be assigned to any tournament session unless the official agrees to refrain from entering into any officiating commitment to work the day before the tournament game date. For the Final Four, each official shall agree not to accept any officiating assignment in which he would work within five days of the national semifinals, for reasons of health and safety. For the First Four/first-/and second-round officials must agree to be at the site of the game by 5 p.m. (local time) on the day before competition. During the regional rounds officials must agree to be at the site of the game by 4 p.m. (local time) on the day before competition. For the Final Four, officials are asked to be at the site by 3 p.m. (local time) the day before competition. Each official must contact the tournament manager immediately upon arrival or, if any unforeseen delays are encountered, notify the tournament manager.
6. Officials are prohibited from making unprofessional, inappropriate public comments regarding the Division I Men’s Basketball Championship, participating coaches and/or student-athletes before, during or after the championship. Officials who violate these standards will jeopardize any future championship officiating assignments.

7. The NCAA national office shall send general information to each official, and the basketball committee member designated by the chair shall be responsible for briefing officials once they arrive at the tournament site. A meeting for officials will be held at **10 a.m. local time the morning of the First Four games**, **7 p.m. local time the evening prior to the first round**, **6 p.m. local time for regional semifinals and regional championship** and **11:30 a.m. local time for the national semifinals and national championship at the officials’ hotel or a location designated in advance by NCAA staff**. The tournament manager shall coordinate the meeting time with the committee representative(s) and inform the game officials and the game officials' hotel. Officials’ lodging accommodations shall be separate from the teams and their followers and the officiating evaluation committee.

8. Officials will utilize the Precision Timing System for timing issues and DVSport for video replay. Stand-by officials will have their own replay monitor and will be relied upon to help assist with potential video replays. The **stand-by official will be provided a headset by Turner/CBS that they must wear to listen to the game broadcast**. The on-the-floor officials (or stand-by official) will be responsible for manipulating the DVSport “shuttle.”

9. The onsite basketball committee member shall announce which games the officials will work and notify the officials of the referee for each game as appointed by the basketball committee.

10. Officials’ fees and expenses, paid by direct deposit by the NCAA, shall be as follows: Transportation arrangements shall be made through the NCAA travel service, Short’s Travel, 866-655-9215. The Association will pay transportation expenses not to exceed coach air fare, or 53 cents per mile (if you drive), but not including terminal or other local transportation; $75 per diem; and $2,100 fee per First Four/first-/second-round game, $2,363 fee per regional game, $3,255 per national semifinal or championship game. **Payment will be made from the national office in Indianapolis as early as the week following the games via ArbiterPay.** Officials’ hotel room and tax will be paid by the host institution and reported on the host institution’s financial report. Two tickets shall be available for each official to purchase for any tournament session at the site he is officiating, whether he advances or not. Officials who are advancing to the next session will need to coordinate with the tournament manager and the NCAA basketball staff representative a seat for the game(s) they are not working, and officials who do not advance must use one of the two tickets they may purchase if they choose to attend the next session. **Note: Officials may only attend games after they previously worked on site (not prior as noted in No. 3).**
11. The stand-by official shall be in uniform, ready to work and seated at the official scorer’s table. If a stand-by official replaces a game official in the first half of a game, the stand-by official shall complete that half. In the event the game official is able to return after the end of the halftime, the game official shall work the second half. If a stand-by official replaces a game official in the second half of the game, the stand-by official shall complete the game.

12. Stand-by officials shall be reimbursed $1,050 for each First Four game and each first-/second-round game and $1,182 per regional game and $1,628 per national semifinal or national championship game. These fees are in addition to per diem and ground transportation expenses if you drive to the site.

For the first-round session, a stand-by official will be assigned to work all four games at each site. Following the completion of first-round play at a site, the basketball committee will designate the stand-by official from among the seven officials selected to work second-round games. After the second round, the basketball committee will identify the official at each site who shall serve as the stand-by official for the regional semifinals and final.

13. Game officials shall wear an NCAA patch on their uniforms while officiating in NCAA tournament play. The American flag patch can be worn consistent with regular-season policies. No other patch on the uniform will be permitted.

14. Only the game officials working that session; the approved stand-by official; designated representative(s) of the basketball committee; designated representatives of the NCAA men’s basketball staff, national coordinator of basketball officials, tournament manager, and media coordinator (accompanied by a member of the basketball committee) seeking clarification of a rules interpretation for the media, shall be permitted in the officials’ dressing room before, during or after a game. (See next item for a pool reporter exception.)

15. When a game includes a potential fighting situation that results in a technical foul and/or ejection of a participant(s), a rules interpretation is needed, there is a clock/timing issue, or a member of the basketball committee deems it in the best interest of the championship to receive an interpretation pertaining to another specific situation, the game officials will consult with the national coordinator of officiating via phone from their locker room after the game. No one other than the game officials, committee members and NCAA staff representatives are permitted in the locker room during this call.

Upon completion of the call, the pool reporter and the sideline reporter from Turner/CBS may enter the officials’ locker room to receive an interpretation on the issue(s) in question. No one else, including camera operators from Turner/CBS, may enter the locker room.

The NCAA will issue a statement and will distribute it to its broadcast partners and onsite media, with assistance of the pool reporter and the local media coordinator. The statement shall also be
distributed via the NCAA’s social media platforms. In the interest of time, if participating team coaches and student-athletes are not yet in the interview room, it is permissible for the statement to be read by the press conference moderator while the statement is being distributed.

16. The Division I Men’s Basketball Committee may not require membership in any specific officials’ association as a prerequisite for selection to officiate in the NCAA tournament. The basketball committee shall ensure that officials adhere to the Association’s policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Furthermore, officials must conduct themselves in a manner befitting intercollegiate athletics. Failure to do so may result in termination of their officiating assignment.