

Division I Men's Basketball - Interview Policies

News conferences will be conducted on the day before each game (see the schedule of events) and also immediately after each game. The host media coordinator will have the authority to **request** any student-athlete to attend any news conference, but should work with the participating institution's head coach and SID, as well as a designated member of the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) to select postgame press conference participants. Each participating institution shall make student-athletes available at all scheduled news conferences and/or **open locker rooms**. All interviews at the facility shall occur in the media interview room or the locker room area.

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. Neither coaches nor student-athletes may conduct interviews via telephone until **15 minutes** after the locker room opens.

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

Locker Rooms.

Game Days. The locker rooms will be open to the media for a minimum of 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends, provided media representatives are present the entire time. Student-athletes who do not play in the game and student-athletes selected for drug testing may depart earlier if they are not requested for interviews and are not participants in the postgame press conference.

At the institution's discretion, the locker room can remain open for individual interviews with players who were held in the holding area prior to going on the dais and thus were unavailable while other players were interviewed in the locker room.

The head coach has the option to allow representatives of Turner/CBS television into the locker room before the game and during the cooling-off period after the game. These representatives must leave the locker room after the cooling-off period if the NCAA sports sciences staff must notify student-athletes that they will be drug tested.

Open Practice Days. On open practice days, any of each team's top seven student-athletes who are not in the media interview room, and any others requested by the media, shall be available to the media in the locker room area during the time the coach and selected student-athletes are participating in the news conference. A representative of each institution's sports information staff shall be in the area and will coordinate these interview requests.

News Conferences Day Prior To Games.

Day Before First Four, First Round, Second Round and Regional Semifinal Games. Each coach and a minimum of two student-athletes will participate in each news conference.

Day Before Regional Finals. The head coach and each of the five starters representing the teams advancing to the regional championship games will participate in the scheduled news conferences. The first 20 minutes will be devoted to a group interview of the coach and student-athletes; after which the coach will remain on the dais for 20 additional minutes while the student-athletes go to individual breakout rooms for 15 minutes.

Thursday Before National Semifinals. The head coach and selected student-athletes shall grant interviews to Turner/CBS, WestwoodOne, NCAA Productions and VW Big Screen Network. The head coach shall participate in a joint press conference with the other Final Four coaches with credentialed members of the media. There will also be a 25-minute window where student-athletes shall be made available to the media in the team locker room.

Day Before National Semifinals. Five selected student-athletes will be required to participate in a scheduled news conference and breakout sessions. The head coach shall participate in a news conference as well. The team locker room shall be open during this time.

Day Before National Championship Game. The head coach shall conduct interviews with Turner/CBS, WestwoodOne and NCAA Productions, and have a joint press conference with his student-athletes. The student-athletes will also be required to participate in breakout sessions, and shall participate in interviews with Turner/CBS and WestwoodOne.

Postgame News Conferences.

Cooling-Off Period. A 10-minute cooling-off period has been set aside for each coach to be with the student-athletes in the locker room after each game. The period is reduced to five minutes for the winning coach after the regional final and the national championship game. The coach and student-athletes must report to the interview room after the cooling-off period ends. A coach may shorten the cooling-off period, but may not extend it. Note that the losing coach may conduct a short interview with Turner/CBS after the cooling off period ends and before he goes to the press conference. No other interviews with the coach may take place during this time.

At the First Four, the winning team will appear in the news conference first, after a five-minute cooling off period. The losing team will have a 10-minute cooling-off period before its locker room opens to the media and the head coach and selected student-athletes are escorted to the interview room holding area. For all games, the period begins when the coach enters the locker room after the game. The media coordination staff should limit the time that teams wait in the holding area, keeping them in the locker room until the first team is nearly finished in the interview room.

“Selected Media” Policy. Except for Turner/CBS as noted in the “locker rooms” section above, no interviews may take place during the cooling-off period, nor may representatives of the institution shoot video or conduct radio interviews on behalf of a media agency. Should a coach permit one media representative, other than Turner/CBS, the team videographer, photographer or originating radio station personnel, to enter the locker room before the cooling-off period has ended, the locker room will be open to all other media representatives desiring access.

News Conference Format. The following schedule should be used as a guideline for news conferences. The coach shall make an opening statement that should last for a maximum of two minutes. Once completed, the moderator shall open the news conference for questions to all individuals seated on the dais. The moderator should advise media members that student-athletes will be dismissed from the dais if all of the questions are directed towards the 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 student-athletes may participate in other interviews.

Order of Appearance. The losing coach and student-athletes shall appear in the interview room before the winning coach and student-athletes, except for at the First Four.

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 news conference. Primary consideration will be given to student-athletes who had the biggest impact on the game.

Turner/CBS Television and Radio Rights-holders, Postgame. If requested, the winning coach, losing coach and winning student-athletes shall grant postgame interviews, not to exceed four minutes, to Turner/CBS television and/or WestwoodOne 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 student-athletes 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 Turner/CBS television or WestwoodOne may conduct interviews with the institution's radio network during the four-minute period.

Turner/CBS television will have the first choice of individuals to interview, then WestwoodOne, then the institution's network.

Additionally, the head coach has the option of conducting an interview with the institution's radio network (at the network's courtside seating location) during a two-minute period after the conclusion of the initial four-minute period.

The losing coach's interview will take place in a designated area inside or near the team locker room and shall take place after the cooling off period and prior to the coach being escorted to the postgame press conference.

The networks cannot inordinately delay the coaches' and student-athletes' 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 taped.