

**NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
INTERVIEW POLICIES**

News conferences shall be conducted according to the schedule of events. The host media coordinator and women's basketball committee representatives will have the authority to designate and require any student-athlete to attend any news conference. Each participating institution shall make coaches and student-athletes available at all scheduled news conferences. All interviews at the facility must occur in the interview room or in the locker room area, with the exception of on-court ESPN and/or NCAA Radio Network interviews.

News Conference Formats.

Day Prior To First-Round, Second-Round and Regional 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.

News Conference Format Days Prior to First-Round, Second-Round and Regional Semifinal Games	
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.

News Conference Format Day Prior to Regional Finals	
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

Postgame. The head coach and selected student-athletes are required to participate in the scheduled news conference.

News Conference Format for Game Days	
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

Halftime Interviews. Assistant coaches may participate in halftime interviews with their institution's radio network, provided the interview takes place in the courtside area. ESPN shall request on-court interviews with head coaches at the beginning and/or end of halftime.

Interviews Via Telephone. Coaches and student-athletes may not submit to interview requests via telephone until their obligations to the media at the site have been met.

Postgame Interviews. All coaches and student-athletes shall be available for interviews.

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.

All Rounds: The losing coach and designated players will be escorted to the postgame news conference room first; the winning coach and designated players will follow at the conclusion of the losing team's interview. The cooling-off period is 10 minutes for the losing team and 15 minutes for the winning team.

Regional Final: Following the regional final game, the cooling-off period for the winning team is five minutes after reaching the locker room after the postgame ceremony.

Obligations of the Head Coach. Regardless of any personal/institutional regular-season radio or television contracts, the head coach is first obligated to the entire media staffing the tournament and must report to the interview room immediately after the cooling-off period expires. After fulfilling this commitment to the media staffing the tournament, the coach and student-athletes may participate in other interviews.

The coach cannot delay a postgame interview with the attending media to conduct an interview with a single newspaper, radio or television reporter unless requested to grant a short interview (not to exceed four minutes) to ESPN, NCAA Radio Network and/or his/her institution's radio network.

On-Court Interviews. If requested, the winning coach and winning student-athletes and the losing coach shall grant postgame interviews, not to exceed a total of four minutes, with ESPN, NCAA Radio Network and/or the participating institution's originating radio network, only if the designated media entity is still providing live coverage from the facility.

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. The interview with the losing coach must be conducted off the court, near the locker room.

ESPN will have the first choice of individuals to interview, followed by the NCAA Radio Network, then the institution's network. All interviews must be concluded within four minutes of the end of the game. The playing floor media coordinator will be responsible for terminating the four-minute interview period.

Interview Room Designation. The host media coordinator, in conjunction with each participating institution's sports information staff, will identify two student-athletes designated to report to the interview room with the head coach at the conclusion of the cooling-off period. The host media coordinator shall distribute the names of these individuals to the media no later than the 10:00 mark of the second half of the game. The host media coordinator or women's basketball committee representative may also designate a student-athlete, not previously designated, to join or replace a representative in the designated group should the student-athlete's game performance merit it.