

## 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 designate and require 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. 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 designee, Hammond Communications. No individual filming of the interviews will be permitted.

**Courtside Audio.** Hammond Communications will provide feeds of crowd noise (international sound) and audio from postgame news conferences to courtside radio broadcast locations.

**Telephone Interviews.** Neither coaches nor student-athletes may conduct interviews via telephone until 30 minutes after the cooling-off period ends, or until after their postgame obligations to all media have been met, whichever comes later.

**Uplink.** 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 tested for drugs.

**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 Round, Second Round, Third Round, Regional Semifinal and National Semifinal Games.** Each coach and a minimum of two student-athletes will participate in each news conference. The student-athletes shall appear in breakout rooms on the Thursday prior to the national semifinals.

**Day Before Regional Finals and National Championship.** The head coach and each of the five starters representing the teams advancing to the regional and national championship games will participate in the scheduled news conferences. The first half-hour will be devoted to a group interview of the coach and student-athletes; the other half-hour, to an interview with the coach on the dais and with individual student-athletes in breakout rooms. In addition, student-athletes are required to participate in breakout sessions the Thursday prior to the national semifinals.

## Postgame News Conferences

**Cooling-Off Period.** A 10-minute cooling-off period has been set aside for the losing coach (five minutes for the winning coach) to be with the student-athletes in the locker room after each game. For all games, the period begins when the coach enters the locker room after the game. The media coordination staff should limit the time the winning team waits in the holding area, keeping them in the locker room until the losing team is nearly finished in the interview room. A coach may shorten the cooling-off period, but may not extend it. The coach and student-athletes must report to the interview room after the cooling-off period ends.

**“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 or the team videographer, 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 moderator should stress the importance of asking student-athletes questions during the allotted time for them. Advise media members that student-athletes will be dismissed from the dais if all of the questions are directed towards the coach.

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| Two minutes (maximum)   | Overview by head coach   |
| Eight minutes (maximum) | Questions to student-athletes (dismiss student-athletes at conclusion) |
| Ten minutes             | 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 student-athletes may participate in other interviews.

The coach cannot delay a postgame interview with the covering media to conduct a program for a single newspaper, radio or television reporter unless requested to grant a short interview by Turner/CBS or the radio network as noted herein.

**Order of Appearance.** The losing coach and student-athletes shall be scheduled in the interview room before the winning coach and student-athletes.

**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 the NCAA radio network provided the networks are still providing live coverage from the facility. The media coordinator will be responsible for terminating the four-minute interview period, not the television or radio network.

Coaches and student-athletes who are not being interviewed by Turner/CBS television or the NCAA radio network 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 the NCAA radio network, 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 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 should be conducted off the court, near the locker room.