



TRIBAL Colleges: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining*

American Indian Higher Education Consortium, 121 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College

New Town, ND 58763
March 26-29, 2026

Tournament Location: Johnny Bird Memorial Building Gymnasium

Lodging: Teddy's Residential Suites & Little Missouri New Town, ND

Team Check-In: March 26 2026, 1:00-5:00 pm, Johnny Bird Memorial New Town, ND

Coaches Meeting: March 26, 2026, 5:00-6:00 pm Johnny Bird Memorial New Town, ND

Opening Ceremonies: March 26, 2026, 6:00 pm Johnny Bird New Town, ND

Pool Play: March 27 & 28, 2026

Bracket Play: March 28 & 29, 2026

Alternate Gym Location: Parshall Rec Center, Parshall, ND

Entry Fee: \$750/team

AIHEC Athletic Fee Paid: Yes: _____ or No: _____

Team Shoot Around: TBA

Officials: TBA

Tournament Deadlines: **February 21, 2025** -Notice of Intent
-\$750 Entry Fee

March 07, 2025 -Team Registration Form

-Eligibility Verification Form

-Signed Liability Waiver Form

-Signed Codes of Conduct

-Scholar-Athlete Award Nominations

All Tournament Deadline Dates will be strictly adhered to, no refunds/no exceptions.

Please send the 2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament registration packet materials to the Tournament Director listed below.

Tournament Director	Secondary Contact
Cyndi Goudge, Project Manager	Jordan Manning, Athletic Director
<u>Email:</u> cgoudge@nhsc.edu	<u>Email:</u> jordan.manning@nhsc.edu
Office: 701-627-8044	Office: 701-627-8062
Cell: 701-836-1290	Cell: 701-498-9067



TRIBAL Colleges: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining*

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
New Town, ND 58763
March 26-29, 2026

Date 1: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Team Check-In	Johnny Bird Memorial Gym	Time: 1:00-5:00 PM
Coaches Meeting	Johnny Bird Memorial Gym	Time: 5:00-6:00 PM
*** Opening Ceremonies	Johnny Bird Memorial Gym	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Team Banquet	Johnny Bird Memorial Gym	Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Date 2: Friday, March 27, 2026

Pool Play (TBA)	Johnny Bird Memorial Gym	Time: 9AM
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Date 3: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Pool Play (TBA)	Time: TBA
Tournament Play (TBA)	Time: TBA

Date 4: Sunday, March 29, 2026

Tournament Play (TBA)	Time: TBA
Championship Games (TBA)	Time: TBA
Awards Ceremony (TBA)	Time: TBA

*** = Parade of Teams at Opening Ceremony
- Bring your school flag or banner

Award for the BEST DRESSED COLLEGE

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
New Town, ND 58763
March 26-29, 2026

Blocked New Town Rooms

- Little Missouri Inn Suites

950 Eagle Drive
New Town, ND 58763

60 Double Queen Standard Rooms

\$99.00 per night per room + tax & fees

Reservations: 701-627-4488

Deadline to Reserve: February 29, 2026

-Teddy's Residential Suites

951 Eagle Drive
New Town, ND 58763

60 Double Queen Standard Rooms

\$99.00 per night per room + tax and fees

Reservations: 701-627-4488

Code: NHSC AIHEC Tournament

-Four Bears Casino & Lodge

1202 Frontage Road
New Town, Nd 58763

52 Double Standard Queen Rooms

\$129.00 + tax and fees Standard

\$159.00 + tax and fees Junior Standard

Reservations: 701-627-4018

Deadline to Reserve: February 29, 2026

<http://4bearscasino.com/lodge/>

Check in: March 26 Check Out: March 29

Code: AIHEC260326

STANLEY, ND

-MainStay Suites

604 Westview Lane
Stanley, ND 58784

Reservations: 701-628-6246

Deadline to Reserve: February 2, 2026

30 Double

\$149.00 per night per room + tax and fees

Check-In: March 26 Check-out: March 29

Code: AIHEC Basketball Tournament

-Black Gold Suites Stanley

910 Alexis Street
Stanley, ND 58784

Reservations: 701-628-4600

Deadline to Reserve: February 2, 2026

30 Double Queen Standard

\$139.00 per night per room + tax and fees

Check-In: March 26 Check-Out: March 29

Code: AIHEC Basketball Tournament

-Microtel Inn & Suites

901 Jarard Street
Stanley, ND 58784

Reservations: 701-628-4090

Deadline to Reserve: February 2, 2026

60 Double Queen Standard

\$94.00 per night per room + tax and fees

Check-In: March 26 Check-out: March 29

Code: AIHEC Basketball Tournament

AIHEC National Basketball Tournament Eligibility

Team Eligibility

Each Tribal College or University (TCU) participating in the Tournament:

1. Must be a regular or associate member of AIHEC and all AIHEC membership dues must be current and paid in full.
2. May only register one men's team and one women's team.
3. Must adhere to the standardize constitution and bylaws.
4. May be denied eligibility for any reason by a majority vote of the AIHEC Athletic Commission.

Coach Eligibility

All coaches participating in the tournament:

1. Must sign the AIHEC Coach's Code of Conduct (Form Included).
2. Must be designated by the TCU president, cannot be a student of the TCU, and must be present during the games in which their teams are competing.

Player Eligibility

All student-athletes participating in the tournament:

1. Must sign the AIHEC Student-athlete's Code of Conduct (Form Included).
2. Must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 semester/quarter credits with I) a cumulative G.P.A. of a 2.0 II) a G.P.A. of at least a 2.0 in the last term prior to the semester/quarter of the tournament, and III) the student must be considered in good academic standing at their institution. The cumulative G.P.A. shall not be calculated further than 10 academic terms in the past. The student athlete must also be making satisfactory progress toward a degree program.
3. Length of eligibility at AIHEC Tournament will be 4 years at a 2-year institution or 5 cumulative years at a 4-year institution regardless of institution, tribal or mainstream. Verification will occur in the registration forms of the individual AIHEC-sanctioned sports.
4. First-term student-athletes must submit a grade check form (use AIHEC First-term Student-Athlete Grade Check Form). Note: Faculty Signatures and Dates must be within 14 days of the start of the AIHEC Tournament.
5. There is no age limit for student athletes to compete. Students under the age of 18 years old must have written parental consent to compete.
6. A student athlete may represent the institution while enrolled as a graduate or professional student or while enrolled and seeking a second baccalaureate degree at the same institution.
7. A student athlete cannot be a full-time TCU employee.
8. Students must maintain amateur status in the specific sport in which he/she is competing. If an agent or 3rd party participation results in a contract for a student athlete at any time during their collegiate career, the student athlete will forfeit their amateur status and will not be permitted to participate in any AIHEC-sanctioned sporting event.
9. Transfer student athletes must have been deemed academically eligible at their previous institution(s) prior to attending and participating in athletics at the transfer institution. The transfer student athlete must reestablish academic eligibility to participate in the transfer institution's AIHEC-sanctioned athletic program (use the AIHEC Transfer Eligibility Form).
10. Student athletic eligibility is based on college enrollment and standing and does not require the student to be American Indian.
11. Student athlete eligibility must be verified by the Registrar and a Representative of the institution designated by the president.

Any suspected violations of student eligibility should be reported to the AIHEC Athletic Commission prior to the start of AIHEC-sanctioned sporting events. The AIHEC Athletic Commissioners will determine if any TCU or student athlete is in violation and whether or not a penalty needs to be assessed. If the commission determines that a student athlete is in violation of the AIHEC student athlete eligibility, the student athlete will be removed from participation in all AIHEC-sanctioned events until they are eligible. Any Tribal College or University that continues to permit the participation of a student athlete in violation of the AIHEC student athlete rules of eligibility will be disqualified from any ongoing AIHEC-sanctioned events.



TRIBAL Colleges: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining*

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Notice of Intent to Participate

Deadline: February 21, 2026

Tribal College or University: _____

Women's Basketball Team: _____

Coach(es): _____

Email: _____ Phone: (o) _____
(c) _____

Men's Basketball Team: _____

Coach(es): _____

Email: _____ Phone: (o) _____
(c) _____

Authorized School Official* Name: _____

Title: _____ Phone: _____

Authorized School Official Signature: _____

Date: _____

Athletic Fees

AIHEC Entry Fee is \$750.00 for each team participating in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament.

Make payable to:

Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
Tournament
PO Box 490
New Town, ND 58763
*Fees are non-refundable.

Submit all registration forms, team liability waiver and photo release forms, team photographs, and scholar athlete nominations by **March 07, 2026**, to **Cyndi Goudge**



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2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Women's Final Roster Registration

Tribal College or University (Abbreviate):		AD/Coach/Contact:	
Address:		City:	
State:	Zip:	Cell Phone: ()	Office Phone: ()
Alternate Contact:		Alt. Phone: ()	
E-Mail(s):			
Team Name:		Division:	Men or Women:
Please include the following with the Final Roster Registration form before March 07, 2026:			
1. Student-Athlete Eligibility Verification Form from College Registrar and signed by College Official			
2. Team Liability Waiver Form (Included)			
3. Team Photograph 4. Scholar Athlete Award Nominations			
Player Name (First & Last): Scholar Athlete Eligible(Y/N) Email: Phone #: Shirt Size:			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
Head Coach:			
Asst. Coach:			

I certify that the above players meet all eligibility requirements and are eligible to participate in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament. Head Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit all registration forms, team liability waiver and photo release forms, team photographs, and scholar athlete nominations by **March 07, 2026 to Cyndi Gouge or Jordan Manning.**



TRIBAL Colleges: *Educating, Engaging, Innovating, Sustaining*

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Men's Final Roster Registration

Tribal College or University(Abbreviate):		AD/Coach/Contact:	
Address:		City:	
State:	Zip:	Cell Phone: ()	Cell Phone: ()
Alternate Contact:		Alternate Phone: ()	
E-Mail(s):			
Team Name:		Division:	Men or Women:
Please include the following with the Final Roster Registration form prior to March 07, 2026:			
4. Student-Athlete Eligibility Verification Form from College Registrar and signed by College Official			
5. Team Liability Waiver Form (Included)			
6. Team Photograph and Scholar Athlete Award Nominations			
Player Name (First & Last):		Scholar Athlete Eligible(Y/N)	Email:
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			
21.			
22.			
23.			
24.			
Head Coach:			
Asst. Coach:			

I certify that the above players meet all eligibility requirements and are eligible to participate in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament. Head Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____ Submit all registration forms, team liability waiver and photo release forms, team photographs, and scholar athlete nominations by **March 07, 2026**, to **Cyndi Goudge or Jordan Manning**.



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2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Player Eligibility Verification Form

Tribal College or University

Ending Date of Previous Term:

Beginning Date of Current Term: _____

Ending Date of Current Term: _____

The student-athlete's signature gives the Tribal College or University permission to release the transcript to AIHEC (Buckley Amendment-Public Law 93-380) and it verifies that all information on this eligibility form about the student-athlete is correct and complete. I hereby certify that the above-named student-athletes are eligible under the Rules of Eligibility for AIHEC (Article 3: Section 4.) to participate in the **2026** AIHEC National Basketball Tournament for the **term of the year 2026**.

Athletic Director or Designated Representative

Date

Registrar

Date

*Students und

*Students under the age of 18 must have official parental permission to participate.

**Cumulative credits can include any part time credits taken at any time following high school graduation.

school. ***Must have student signature on forms.



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2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

First-Term Student-Athlete Grade Check Form

This form **must** include faculty signatures and must be dated ***no more than*** 21 days before the first day of the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament **March 26, 2026**.

Name of Student-Athlete: _____
Tribal College or University: _____

College Course	Current Grade	Faculty Signature	Date

Note: Please include current class schedule with this form. Any other supporting documentation may also be included to verify player eligibility.



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2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament

Student Athlete Transfer Eligibility Form

Dear Sir/Madam:

_____ has transferred/inquired from _____ to _____
(Student Full Name) (Institution) (Institution)

and is interested in participating in intercollegiate athletics. In accordance with AIHEC rules, **The Athletic Director/Designee signs and gives permission for athlete to transfer to another college/university. (Fall Term)**

Dates of Attendance _____ to _____
(MM/DD/YYYY) (MM/DD/YYYY)

Did he/she participate (practice) in intercollegiate athletics at your institution?

Yes No Sport(s) _____

Did he/she compete (game or scrimmage) in intercollegiate athletics at your institution?

Yes No Sport(s) _____

How many seasons of eligibility have been utilized? _____

How many semesters of full-time attendance (12 or more credits during the semester) were utilized? _____

Would this student have been eligible had he/she remained at your institution (circle one)?

Yes No

Was the student under disciplinary suspension at your institution (AIHEC Article III. Section 4)?

Yes No

Did this student-athlete transfer to your institution from another two-year or four-year school?

Yes No

Institution(s). _____

Athletic Director/Designee

Signature

Institution

Date

2026 AIHEC National Basketball Tournament Liability Waiver and Photo Release Form

A) Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability

In consideration for being allowed to utilize the programs, activities, services, facilities, and equipment available at the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament, I understand and realize that my participation in any or all programs or activities may involve dangerous risks and hazards that may result in injury to me or even death. I also understand and agree that the programs and/or activities, in which I will be involved, may result in damage or loss to my personal property either due to the environment or the acts or omissions of myself or others, and that I am solely responsible for the protection and security of any personal property of any kind or description that I bring to the program or activity. I knowingly and voluntarily assume all such risks that I may sustain in connection with any and all programs and activities, including but not limited to, injury sustained through forces of nature, falling, slipping, and any accident or illness that may occur while I am enrolled in any or all programs and/or activities and any damage or loss to my personal property.

Furthermore, in consideration of the permission granted to me to participate in any or all programs or activities, on behalf of myself, my heirs, legal representatives, and assigns, I release and discharge AIHEC and the local planning committee, their administrators, directors, coordinators, employees, or their agents from liability for any injuries or property loss or damage I may sustain while participating in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament, even if arising out of the negligence on their part. This release, however, does not extend to loss or damage arising out of an intentional act or acts by, or from gross negligence of, the administrators, directors, coordinators, employees, or agents of AIHEC and the local planning committee.

I fully realize and accept the responsibility to carry out all program activities in a safe and prudent manner and within the structure of the policies or agents of AIHEC Athletics.

I also agree I shall be responsible for an expense incurred or damages suffered as a consequence of my person injury or property loss or damage, and I shall not hold AIHEC or the local planning committee responsible for such expenses.

Note: Participants are strongly encouraged to consult with a physician before participating in any physical activity. AIHEC Athletics encourages those with pre-existing conditions to wear a medical alert bracelet or neck tag indicating the appropriate medical information.

B) Photo Release

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby authorize AIHEC and NWIC permission to use my likeness in a photograph in any and all its publications, including but not limited to all printed and digital publications. I understand and agree that any photograph using my likeness will become property of AIHEC and NWIC and will not be returned. I acknowledge that since my participation in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament is voluntary, I will receive no financial compensation. I hereby irrevocably authorize AIHEC and NWIC to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing AIHEC's or NWIC's basketball programs or for any other related, lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge AIHEC and NWIC from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, guardians, parents, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I have read this document (both A and B) before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this form.

Tribal College or University:

Tribal College or University President Signature:

Head Coach Name: _____

Head Coach Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

All participants must sign this form to participate in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament.



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Coaches Code of Conduct

As a tribal college athletic coach ...

I am a representative of a tribal college community, a culture, and an entire Tribal College Movement.

I have the opportunity to shape a student's character, goals, and skills through their desire to participate in athletics.

I believe a student's education is completed through the beneficial influence of a challenging, fair, and ethical athletic program.

I understand that game results are momentary, while the skills gained from participation last a lifetime.

I will promote a mutual respect, fairness, integrity, honor, and maintain the best interest of the student as the highest priority.

I will guide and monitor the moral, mental, and physical well-being of the student.

I will be a leader and mentor for students.

I will act with the utmost decorum, humility, and courtesy at all times.

My success is in helping students seek their greatest purpose in life.

Therefore, in my role and duty as a tribal college coach, I will carry full responsibility for the safety, growth, and actions of Tribal College students. This is a profound trust.

I sign the AIHEC Athletic Coaches Code of Conduct as a testament to my commitment to tribal college athletics, and as a representative of my tribal college institution, _____ . I value the intent and spirit of the AIHEC Coaches Code and will adhere to the expectations mentioned above.

Head Coach Signature _____ Date _____

Other Personnel Signature _____ Date _____

Other Personnel Signature _____ Date _____

AIHEC Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

As a publically visible student athlete who represents a family, a culture, a tribal college, and a certain set of values through my participation in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament, I...

- Acknowledge participation in collegiate athletics is a privilege with the pursuit of an academic degree as the priority.
- Pledge to be an outstanding participant in every one of my college courses, which includes being present and prepared and completing all requirements of the course.
- Promise to abide by the rules and policies laid forth in the AIHEC Constitution and Bylaws, including refraining from any consumption of alcohol and substance abuse during the AIHEC Annual National Basketball Tournament, and any other rules and policies that govern my tribal college's athletic program.
- Swear to behave in accordance with all my tribal college's campus regulations and policies.
- Will act honorably with solid sportsmanship and integrity whether on a field or court, on the college campus, or in the local community.
- Understand that any violation of this Student Athlete Code of Conduct will result in appropriate discipline as determined by my head coach, the Athletic Director, and/or the AIHEC Athletic Commission.

I sign the AIHEC Student-Athlete Code of Conduct as a testament to my commitment to tribal college athletics, and as a representative of my tribal college institution, _____.

I value the intent and spirit of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, and will adhere to the expectations mentioned above.

AIHEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award

The AIHEC Scholar Athlete is an outstanding Tribal College student-athlete who participates in the Annual AIHEC National Basketball Tournament and exhibits academic excellence, a dedication to sportsmanship, and a devotion to their community. Each year, the athletic director or head coach of each tribal college that participates in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament will nominate a male athlete and a female athlete for the award.

The nominee must meet the award eligibility and must submit an application to their athletic director or coach for consideration. Each year, the athletic director or head coach will submit the application packets of their two final nominees for their Tribal College or University to the AIHEC Athletic Commission prior to the end of the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament. The AIHEC Commissioners will select one male athlete and one female athlete to award as the AIHEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year with a \$500.00 stipend.

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Sport(s) in which you participate: _____

TCU: _____

Home Address: _____

City, Zip Code: _____

As of now, the date you expect to graduate: _____

Area of expected degree: _____

Award Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Enrollment** - Student must be fully enrolled as a second-year student or greater and must participate in the AIHEC National Basketball Tournament.
- **3.75 GPA** - Student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.75 on a 4.0 scale. You may not round up a 3.7x grade point average for the purposes of qualifying.
- **A.D. or Coach's Signature:** The application must be signed by an Athletic Director or Coach to be considered by the AIHEC Athletic Commission for the award.



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AIHEC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award Application Process

Application Sections:

- **Essay:** Write a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics. Be creative – your athletic director and the AIHEC commissioners may read dozens of essays, and you need to make yours stand out! Write a personal story about sportsmanship; don't give the Webster's definition of sportsmanship.
- **Extra-Curricular and Community Service Form:** Focus on significant community participation and leadership experiences, all athletic achievements, any academic awards, and tribal involvement.
- **Short-Answer Questions:** Use this space to tell us more about how you've personally benefited by staying active – both in college athletics and in non-athletic activities.

Additional Notes:

- Please save the Word document to your computer, type onto the file, then print and give to your athletic director.
- STAPLE the application in this order: three-page application form, Unofficial Transcripts, Essay, and then Recommendations.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered by your athletic director.

Submit this application to an Athletic Director or Coach for signature and submission to AIHEC no later than March 07, 2025.



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AIHEC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award

Athletic, Extracurricular, and Community Achievements

Name: _____

TCU: _____

On this form, list any involvement in significant athletic activities. When listing leadership positions and awards, please list the most significant awards in the comments area provided.

ATHLETICS

List significant accomplishments, awards received, and leadership positions held:

EXTRACURRICULAR & COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

This includes, but not limited to, student government, music/band, drama, clubs, volunteer work and paid employment.

Organization/Project/Employer/Description

Hours/Week Dates

List significant accomplishments, awards received, and leadership positions held:



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AIHEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award

Short Answer Form

Please answer the following questions:

(Please answer in less than 500 words.)

1. How has participating in tribal college or university athletics prepared you for life outside of the classroom? Please list specific examples or tell a story when necessary.

2. How has participating in extracurricular activities or community service prepared you for life outside of the classroom? Please list specific examples or tell a story when necessary.

Please type your 500-word essay on a separate piece of paper, then staple the entire application package and give to your college or university's athletic director or head coach by March 7th.

A.D./Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Tribal College or University: _____

City: _____