



College Basketball Key Dates 2026-27

Season start, Selection Sunday, March Madness and both Final Fours

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS	DONE
Nov. 1, 2026	Sunday, season opens: Notre Dame v Villanova, Rome, 9:30 a.m. ET (women's game follows)	☐
Nov. 2, 2026	Monday, first standard day. Field of 68 tipoff event: eight games from 12 a.m. ET (YouTube and X)	☐
Nov. 10, 2026	Tuesday, Champions Classic, United Center, Chicago: Michigan State v Duke, Kansas v Kentucky	☐
Nov. 17-19, 2026	Tuesday to Thursday, Players Era 8 tournament, Las Vegas	☐
Nov. 23-25, 2026	Monday to Wednesday, Maui Invitational, Hawai'i	☐
Nov. 24-28, 2026	Tuesday to Saturday, Players Era 16 tournament, Las Vegas	☐
Tue., Mar. 9 to Sun., Mar. 14	Big Ten men's tournament, Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis	☐
Sun., Mar. 14	Selection Sunday, men's and women's brackets	☐
Tue., Mar. 16 to Wed., Mar. 17	Men's Opening Round (12 games, 76-team field)	☐
Wed., Mar. 17 to Thu., Mar. 18	Women's Opening Round (12 games, campus sites)	☐
Thu., Mar. 18 to Sat., Mar. 20	Men's First Round Mar. 18-19; women's First Round Mar. 19-20	☐
Sat., Mar. 20 to Mon., Mar. 22	Men's Second Round Mar. 20-21; women's Second Round Mar. 21-22	☐
Thu., Mar. 25 to Sat., Mar. 27	Men's Sweet 16 Mar. 25-26; women's Sweet 16 Mar. 26-27	☐
Sat., Mar. 27 to Mon., Mar. 29	Men's Elite Eight Mar. 27-28; women's Elite Eight Mar. 28-29	☐
Fri., Apr. 2	Women's Final Four, Nationwide Arena, Columbus, Ohio	☐
Sat., Apr. 3	Men's Final Four, Ford Field, Detroit	☐
Sun., Apr. 4	Women's championship game, Columbus	☐
Mon., Apr. 5	Men's championship game, Detroit	☐

My notes

Source: NCAA.com (men's and women's 2027 tournament schedules; season-start article), ESPN Events, Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Other conference tournament dates are on each conference's site.