



- Football Media Policies

Vanderbilt University understands the importance of assisting the media in providing coverage of the institution, its athletics programs, administrators, coaches and student-athletes. Our goal is to disseminate information as widely, uniformly and fairly as possible using normally accepted media standards. To this end, the best attempt will be made to fill reasonable requests by recognized media outlets, however, on game days the Vanderbilt Stadium pressbox and workspaces have limited seating and not all requests may be met for all games. Members of the media are encouraged to work with the Vanderbilt athletic communications staff to assist in that endeavor.

It is not permissible for media members to contact any athletics department administrator, associate, coach, support staff or student-athlete directly without first requesting to do so through the communications department.

- Credential Guidelines and Policies

To ensure that all qualified media agencies have the appropriate access and working space, these guidelines and policies have been developed by the College Football Playoff, bowls and Football Bowl Subdivision conferences and institutions. The policies have been adopted by Vanderbilt Athletics.

Credential requests will be considered only if they are submitted by an outlet's sports editor, sports director, producer or photo editor. Each application will stand on its own merits.

Membership in a writers' or broadcasters' association does not automatically qualify a media outlet or individual for credentials.

Having been credentialed for conference media days, bowl games, major events or peer institutions does not automatically qualify an agency or individual for credentials.

By applying for a credential, the sports editor, sports director, producer, or photo editor confirms having read, fully understands and agrees with the following professional guidelines and policies:

1. Credentials may be issued to working members of the media representing recognized outlets in the business of news gathering as their primary source of revenue. Credentials are granted at the discretion of the host institution and communications staff, in conjunction with the participating conferences and institutions. The types of media outlets eligible for credentials include: newspapers, websites, magazines, wire services, college football publications, television and radio. Media outlets that cover the visiting school will be considered following consultation with that school's athletics communications department.

a. The dissemination of editorial content must be the primary purpose of the news outlet and the news outlet must demonstrate a record of sustained, original coverage of college football.

b. Local news outlets must demonstrate a record of sustained, original news content on local sports and/or news, including coverage of the participating institution.

c. Credentials will not be issued to representatives whose outlet exists solely as a platform for distributing unoriginal content (press releases, aggregate news sites, etc.).



3. Credential requests will only be approved for those assigned to cover the game by the sports editor, sports director, producer or photo editor. Credentials are not transferable and may be revoked at any time.
4. Subject to limitations of space, credentials for photo staff members shall be assigned to outlets requiring immediate news coverage. A credential does not automatically include a pressbox seat.
5. A business enterprise from the locale of the participating teams, which is involved in the dissemination of college football news on a weekly basis or more frequently to audiences from ethnically, socially or culturally diverse backgrounds may be eligible for credentials if space is available.
6. Freelance reporters or photographers will not be credentialed unless they are working under a specific assignment. Credential applications must be accompanied by a request on official company letterhead. Such requests may receive one credential if space is available.
7. When space is available, credentials may be issued to a full-time, salaried employee or a representative who regularly performs services for an international news outlet. Such request must be accompanied by an official request on company letterhead from the editor and may be vetted with the International Sports Press Association.
8. Television stations will be issued a maximum of one approved pressbox seat and credential. However, pressbox seating is not guaranteed for with this credential. Television stations will receive a maximum of one field pass.
9. Local radio stations will be granted a maximum of one approved pressbox seat and credential for a full-time host of a daily sports show that is a minimum of two hours in length, or station sports director. Field passes will not be issued to local radio stations. Non-daily local radio sports shows and out-of-market radio stations that have a daily sports show will be granted a maximum one credential on a game-by-game space available basis.
10. Student media outlets for the home and visiting schools will be issued credentials in accordance with the policy for their format (newspaper, website, radio, television). To be considered student media, the outlet must be sanctioned as such by the university, have full-time university staff overseeing the training of staff or be governed by a university-appointed board, and receive some portion of its funding from student fees.
11. Sport-specific websites with more than two full-time writers will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Agencies Not Eligible

Credentials shall not be issued to the following:

1. Persons solely for the purpose of writing or gathering material for books, short films or movies.
2. Representatives of syndicated television or cable programmers who are not producing programs for immediate news coverage (i.e., to air within 24 hours).
3. Podcasts which do not fall under credential policies and guidelines listed above.



4. Entities normally identified as “tout sheets” and other publications devoted solely to gambling.
5. Agencies that normally provide specific services for a media outlet (e.g., scores) if many of its clients have been accredited to staff the event.
6. Websites that are an extension of a non-digital local media outlet (newspaper, radio, television) will not be issued credentials independent of their originating organization.
7. Online entities not specifically referenced herein.

No credentials will be issued to any website that is not deemed by Vanderbilt Athletics to have adequate editorial oversight.

Credentials will not be approved to anyone who writes or posts under an alias.

Vanderbilt Athletics reserves the right to enforce the above policies including revocation or suspension of accreditation.

If there are questions about any of the above policies, please contact a member of the Vanderbilt Athletics communications staff.

- Content and Workplace Policies

1. Video clips of in-game competition, live or otherwise, online or via social media networks are not permitted. Still photos may be shared online and across social platforms during the game.
2. Any non-editorial or commercial use of any picture, audio, film, tape, or digital image or drawing of the event is prohibited without prior, specific, written authorization from the host institution.
3. Internet usage in all media areas, including media work areas, stadium pressbox, digital work room and the field, is for work-related purposes only. Media members who do not follow the proper internet procedures may have their credentials and internet access revoked for the remainder of the event or season.
4. Media should respect the work environment of their colleagues by maintaining a quiet and professional atmosphere in all working media areas. The pressbox will close two hours after the conclusion of the game.

- Sideline Policy

Vanderbilt University adheres to the NCAA and SEC guidelines regarding media representatives on the sidelines:

1. Photo credentials will be issued only to accredited media outlets prior to the game and photo identification must be provided.
2. Photographers and videographers must check in at media will call located at Gate 1 of the stadium.



3. Only working photographers and videographers with professional-grade cameras will be allowed on the field. Those without proper equipment or not shooting the game will be escorted from the sidelines regardless of credential.
4. Working photographers and videographers are permitted to shoot only in the designated area (between the two marked dotted lines outside the 25-yard lines and behind the end zone). All other media representatives on the field must stand behind the designated area to ensure that photographers and videographers have the appropriate space to work.
5. Photographers are encouraged to use the photo work area located on level 2 of the Hawkins Field pressbox. Wireless internet is available. While security in this area is provided, Vanderbilt University is not responsible for the loss of any items.
6. According to NCAA policies, the presence of any type of photographer and videographer in the bench area for all sports is strictly prohibited with the exception of one (1) institutional videographer in the football bench area. According to the NCAA Football Rules and Interpretations Manual (Rule 1, Section 2, Article 4b): “the team area shall be limited to squad members in uniform and a maximum of 40 other individuals directly involved in the game. The 40 individuals not in uniform shall wear special identification.” (Rule 1, Section 2, Article 4e): “No media personnel, including journalists, radio and television personnel, or their equipment, shall be in the team area or coaching box, and no media personnel shall communicate in any way with persons in the team area or coaching box.” Vanderbilt Athletics prohibits photographers and videographers from stopping and shooting from behind the bench area or into the bench area. The bench area at Vanderbilt Stadium is defined by the area between the 25-yard lines.
7. Photographers and videographers are considered working members of the media and they are to refrain from cheering or talking to players, coaches or officials.

- Satellite Truck Parking

Limited parking is available for television station live and satellite trucks, and those vehicles will need to be approved at least 48 hours prior to game day.

Please contact Ed Higgins (ed.higgins@vanderbilt.edu) at least three days prior to the game to schedule live and satellite truck parking.

- Media Parking

Media parking is available for all home games.

Parking passes will not be distributed in advance. The approved media member’s name will be on the parking attendant’s list.

Please contact Alan George (alan.george@vanderbilt.edu) or Sarah Fetters (sarah.fetters@vanderbilt.edu) for any parking needs.



- Visiting Radio

The visitor's radio network must be designated by the opponent's communications director.

- Football Video Services

For information on receiving midweek press conference videos, postgame press conference videos and other football related footage, please contact Alan George (alan.george@vanderbilt.edu) or Sarah Fetters (sarah.fetters@vanderbilt.edu).

- Live Broadcasts

It is not permissible for any non-rights holder to broadcast over the air, stream over the internet (audio or video) or transmit in any other way, including social media apps, any live event without the consent of Vanderbilt Athletics. Live events include varsity contests, press conferences (including but not limited to weekly scheduled and postgame press conferences) and any other group media availability. Exceptions may be made for any major news-breaking event and will be communicated in the media advisory for the event. No television live shots, with the exception of the rightsholder, may take place inside the stadium beginning 30 minutes prior to kickoff and until the broadcast is concluded.

- Audio and Video Event Archiving

It is not permissible for any non-rightsholder to archive audio or video event content that exceeds five minutes in length. Events are defined as varsity contests, press conferences and any other group media availability. Archiving may not begin until the conclusion of the entire event.

- Game Day Credentials

Working press credentials for Vanderbilt home football games must be requested online through sportssystem.com/vanderbilt.

It is not always possible to accommodate all requests. No one under 18 years of age will be issued a credential. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Alan George (alan.george@vanderbilt.edu) or Sarah Fetters (sarah.fetters@vanderbilt.edu).

Requests for single games must be made no later than six days prior to game day and will be approved the week of the game -- requests will be approved or denied before noon CT and at least two days prior to game day.

Once approved, credentials must be picked up on game day at media will call. In 2020, media will call opens 90 minutes prior to kickoff. A photo ID must be presented to receive the press credential. No credentials will be mailed.

Media will call closes midway through first quarter. Should you need special accommodations, please contact Alan George (alan.george@vanderbilt.edu) or Sarah Fetters (sarah.fetters@vanderbilt.edu) in advance of arrival.

Photographers must have appropriate equipment on hand to receive a photo credential.

In accordance to Vanderbilt Stadium's bag policy, all bags and equipment cases must be searched and tagged upon entering Vanderbilt Stadium.

Credentials are non-transferable and may be revoked at any time.



- Game Day Media Availability

No Vanderbilt Athletics staff member may appear live on a non-rightsholder radio show on the same day as any Vanderbilt contractual programming, including live game action or coaches' call-in shows, without prior consent of an athletics communications staff member.

Beginning with the 2020 season, no media will be allowed on the field for pregame warmups or postgame activities.

Absolutely no on-field interviews will be permitted for Vanderbilt coaching staff and student-athletes, except for those conducted by the broadcast network which has purchased rights to the game.

Vanderbilt's locker room is closed. All postgame media activities will be conducted on Zoom. Head coach Derek Mason will be available after a 10-minute cooling off period. Select Vanderbilt student-athletes will be available to the media after following head coach Derek Mason's press conference. Absolutely no interviews will be allowed outside of the media room.

All credential policies are subject to change, and final approval of all credentials is at the discretion of Alan George and the Vanderbilt communications staff.