ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   
   • Committee composition.
     
     (a) **Recommendation.** That the composition requirements for the Women’s Ice Hockey committee included in Figure 21-1 of the 2017-18 NCAA Division III Manual be revised as follows: “5, consisting of *including* three members from the East region and two members from the West region/Independents *(one coach from each region).*”
     
     (b) **Effective date.** September 1, 2019.
     
     (c) **Rationale.** Bylaw 21.9.1.4.2 mandates that at least 50 percent of the positions on each team sport committee be filled by athletics administrators. The proposed change to the composition of the committee maintains this requirement but also recognizes the importance of the perspective of coaches and provides for representation of coaches from both regions. The delayed effective date will allow the two coaches currently serving on the committee (both from the East region) to serve a minimum of two years.
     
     (d) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
     
     (e) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   
   a. Automatic qualification.
     
     (1) **Recommendation.** That the following six conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2018 NCAA Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship: Colonial Hockey Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Hockey Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; Northeast Women’s Hockey League; and Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.
     
     Anticipated Pool Allocations
     Pool A - 6
     Pool B - 1
Pool C – 2

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.

(3) **Rationale.** Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

b. **Number of ranked teams.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the committee rank 15 to 21 percent of the teams in each region, with a minimum of six teams ranked.

(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.

(3) **Rationale.** The proposed formula will achieve the committee’s two primary objectives: to rank a minimum of six teams in each region and to rank a proportionate number of teams in each region. The current ranking policy requires each sport committee to either rank 15 percent of the teams in each region, with a minimum of six teams ranked, or rank 15-21 percent of the teams in each region, with no minimum number of teams ranked. The committee strongly believes the West region should rank at least six teams to avoid the East region having a competitive advantage during at-large team selections (due to fewer ranked teams in the West, which limits opportunities for results against ranked teams, and also due to travel distances greater than 600 miles, which limits access to ranked teams). The minimum of six provides the appropriate depth in the number of ranked teams for both regions and allows for meaningful comparisons of results versus ranked teams between the two regions. Therefore, to rank six teams in the West region, the committee currently follows the first option listed above. This results in the committee ranking the minimum of six teams in each region and does not allow for ranking more teams in the region with greater sport sponsorship.

In 2017-18, the East region will have 38 institutions and the West region will have 24 institutions, so approximately two-thirds of sponsoring institutions are in the East and approximately one-third are in the West. If the committee follows the second ranking option and ranks 21 percent of the teams in each region, they would rank eight teams in the East region and five teams in the
West. This would provide the desired proportionality, but teams in the West would have less opportunity for results against ranked opponents.

The proposed recommendation of ranking 15 to 21 percent with a minimum of six teams ranked is a hybrid of the two currently permissible ranking formulas. With the proposed formula, the committee could rank eight teams (21 percent) in the East region and the minimum of six teams in the West (25 percent) and achieve both priorities.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Welcome and announcements. The committee chair welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.

2. 2016 annual committee meeting report. The committee approved the 2016 annual committee meeting report as submitted.

3. 2016-17 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions. The committee reviewed actions the NCAA Division III Championships Committee took in 2016-17 relevant to the work of the Women’s Ice Hockey Committee, noting the approval of an increase to the women’s ice hockey bracket from eight to nine teams to maintain Pool B access and a minimum of two Pool C at-large berths. In addition, the committee discussed that effective 2017-18, nonconference strength of schedule will be added to the secondary criteria and results versus ranked opponents will include teams in the final two rankings.

4. 2017 American Hockey Coaches Association report. The committee reviewed the report staff presented to the Division III coaches during the AHCA Convention in April.

5. National and regional advisory committee rosters. The committee reviewed the committee rosters and noted vacancies for 2017-18. The committee discussed the composition requirements for the Women’s Ice Hockey Committee: five members, including three from the East region and two from the West region/Independents. This composition was established based on the five conferences that initially sponsored the sport. The Colonial Hockey Conference began play in 2015-16 and the United Collegiate Hockey Conference will begin play in 2017-18, resulting in seven conferences (five in the East region and two in the West). The committee discussed that the current composition is proportional to the number of institutions in each region and did not support a request to increase the size of the committee. The committee reviewed the legislated requirement that a minimum of 50 percent
of the committee members be administrators. The members noted it was important to have the coach perspective represented and recommended that the committee include at least two coaches. Based on feedback from coaches at the American Hockey Coaches Convention, the committee specifically recommended the committee include at least one coach from each region. (See Legislative Action Item.)

6. **Committee chair and regional advisory committee chairs.** The committee confirmed Katie Boldvich, commissioner of both the Colonial Hockey Conference and the New England Hockey Conference, to continue as chair of the committee for 2017-18. The committee also confirmed Bill Mandigo to serve as the chair of the regional advisory committee for the East region and Michelle Morgan to serve as the chair of the regional advisory committee for the West region.

7. **Review of 2017 championship.** The committee reviewed summaries of surveys from participants, the host tournament director, site representatives, committee representatives and officials. The committee commended Adrian College on hosting a successful championship. Attendance was excellent, which resulted in an exciting championship environment. The committee observed the following regarding the 2017 championship and suggested changes for future championships:

   a. **Student-athlete banquet.** The banquet was extremely well done. The banquet facility featured a red-carpet entrance, and the mayor and a city councilman presented keys to the city of Adrian to the captains of each team.

   b. **Ice markings.** The committee emphasized that ice markings for the championship are limited to the official logos provided by the NCAA. The ice and dasher boards should be neutral and no institutional markings are permitted.

   c. **Game management.** The committee recommended that if Adrian hosts postseason competition again, stricter crowd control measures be implemented, including closing the windows to the restaurant above the team benches before and during competition, using stanchions and pipe and drape to separate entrances to team locker rooms from fans, and ensuring that ticket takers and ushers do not allow outside food and beverages into the facility. In addition, the committee noted that credentials for host institution personnel should be issued to only individuals with event responsibilities, and credentialed event staff must remain neutral during competition.

8. **Plan for 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed the following topics relating to the 2018 championship.

   a. **Video replay.** The committee noted that video replay will be used for all games at the finals site beginning in 2018.
b. **Community service activity.** The committee agreed to implement a community service activity (maximum of 90 minutes) for the teams that participate in the 2018 championship. The committee noted that other Division III team championships include a community service activity for participating teams, and even though the women’s ice hockey championship is at a nonpredetermined site, potential hosts will be able to plan accordingly.

c. **Special Olympics.** The committee noted that the participation of Special Olympics athletes enhances the championship, and the finals site host should plan to invite Special Olympics athletes to attend the student-athlete banquet and games and participate in a ceremonial puck drop immediately before the championship game.

d. **Team hotels.** The committee will direct future hosts to prioritize the quality of team hotels and equitable amenities (e.g., complimentary breakfast) if multiple team hotels are used over proximity to the venue to maximize the student-athlete experience.

9. **Championship format.** The committee reviewed the championship date formula, future dates of competition and the bracket. The committee noted that with the Division III Championship Committee’s approval of the bracket size increase from eight to nine teams for the 2018 championship, the bracket will now include a play-in game. The committee confirmed that the play-in game will be conducted on the campus of a first-round host Friday, March 9, with the winning team advancing to play the host team Saturday, March 10. The committee anticipates requesting a bracket size increase to 10 teams for the 2019 championship due to an increase in sport sponsorship in 2017-18. If the increase is approved, the committee will request a change to the current date formula to conduct the two play-in games in 2019 the Wednesday before first rounds on the campus of a participating team.

10. **Joint discussion with National Collegiate Women’s Ice Hockey Committee.** The committee continues to support the concept of periodically conducting the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Championship in conjunction with the NCAA Women’s Frozen Four at a predetermined site or hosting the two championships at sites in close geographic proximity (for example, once every three or four years), which could enhance both championships and promote the sport. The committee met with members of the National Collegiate Women’s Ice Hockey Committee to review the hosts and sites confirmed for the NCAA Women’s Frozen Four for 2019 through 2022 and discuss potential opportunities for a joint championship. The committees discussed several related issues, including options for a combined schedule of events, availability of facilities for practices/games, the student-athlete banquet, locker rooms, marketing, ticket sales, signage, etc. NCAA staff will conduct preliminary follow-up with potential hosts and report back to the committees for further discussion.
11. Joint discussion with Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Committee.

a. Division III governance update. The NCAA governance staff provided an update on several topics, including: (a) the Board of Governors structure; (b) the Division III budget planning process; (c) the Sportsmanship and Game Environment Working Group; (d) proposed legislation for the 2018 NCAA Convention; (e) championship webcasting enhancements; (f) free registration for Division III prospective student-athletes with the NCAA Eligibility Center; and (g) the Division III Identity Initiative, including DIII Week and the purchasing website.

b. Ice hockey rules committee update. The committees discussed potential rules changes with members of the Ice Hockey Rules Committee via teleconference.

c. Pilot program for amateurism certification of international ice hockey players. The committees supported the concept of an amateurism certification pilot program through the NCAA Eligibility Center in 2018-19 for international men’s and women’s ice hockey players.

d. PairWise. The committees reviewed the PairWise system the Division I men’s and women’s ice hockey committees use to rank and select teams. PairWise calculates rankings based on a comparison matrix that applies the selection criteria to compare each team to all other teams. The committees agreed to continue exploring the feasibility of developing a PairWise calculation that incorporates the existing Division III selection criteria.

12. Selection criteria and ranking procedures. The committee reviewed the selection criteria and ranking procedures.

a. Number of teams ranked. The committee discussed the number of teams ranked in each region and identified two priorities: (a) that a minimum of six teams are ranked in each region; and (b) that the number of teams ranked in each region is proportionate to the percentage of teams in the region. The committee recommended a change to the current number of teams ranked. (See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-b.)

b. Selection criteria. The committee discussed the won-lost percentage during the last 25 percent of the season criterion, which the committee currently evaluates in the secondary criteria. The committee noted that institutions are not able to control which teams they play during conference tournaments at the end of the season. The committee supports removing the won-lost percentage during the last 25 percent criterion from the secondary criteria for women’s ice hockey, effective 2017-18.
c. **Strength of victory.** In response to a request from the Division III Championships Committee, the committee reviewed strength of victory as a potential addition to the selection criteria. The committee supported adding strength of victory to the secondary criteria, noting that having more criteria to differentiate teams would be helpful. However, given that nonconference strength of schedule will be added to the secondary criteria in 2017-18, the committee recommended waiting until 2018-19 to add strength of victory rather than adding two new selection criteria in the same year.

13. **Selection and assignment of officials.** The committee conducted a teleconference with the NCAA national coordinator of women’s ice hockey officials to discuss the selection and assignment of officials for the championship. The committee will schedule a teleconference with the national coordinator two weeks before the championship to review officials recommended by conference assignors, and then the national coordinator will forward final recommendations to the committee the week before the championship. The committee reviewed the approval of funding to increase officials’ fees for all rounds of the championship and, for the finals site, to add fees for two standby officials (one referee and one linesman), a replay official and the supervisor of officials. The committee recommended that a supervisor of officials in the region in which the championship is hosted serve as the replay official.

14. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the automatic-qualification declarations for 2017-18 and recommended that six conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 championship. (See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-a.)

15. **Sports sponsorship and pool allocations.** The committee reviewed the 2017 pool document and noted that Aurora University, King’s College and Trine University will sponsor women’s ice hockey in 2017-18, and Nazareth College and Wilkes University have announced that they will begin sponsoring the sport in 2018-19.

16. **Committee timeline and resource sheet.** The committee reviewed and revised the committee timeline and resource sheet.

17. **Forms.** The committee reviewed and revised the forms used for the women’s ice hockey championship.

18. **Planning checklist for tournament director of nonpredetermined finals site.** Given the unique issues associated with a nonpredetermined finals site, the committee believes it would be helpful to develop a host planning checklist for tournament directors. The committee will solicit input from former tournament directors of the women’s ice hockey championship to develop the checklist.
19. **Site representative materials.** The committee reviewed and revised the materials provided to site representatives for the 2017 championship.

20. **Manuals.** The committee reviewed and revised the women’s ice hockey host operations manual, pre-championship manual, committee operations manual and participant manuals.

21. **2018 annual committee meeting.** The committee will schedule its 2018 annual committee meeting in June in conjunction with the ice hockey rules committee and other divisional ice hockey committees.

22. **Other business – review of potential misconduct.** The committee reviewed incidents involving two institutions that participated in the championship. The misconduct review for one institution involved verbal unsportsmanlike behavior by the head coach and vandalism of a team locker room. The misconduct review for the other institution involved alcohol in the team locker room. In both situations, the committee determined that misconduct had occurred and either accepted the penalties self-imposed by the institution or imposed additional penalties.

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**Committee Chair:** Katie Boldvich, Colonial and New England Hockey Conferences  
**Staff Liaison:** Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances

| NCAA Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee  
| June 5-7, 2017, Meeting |

**Attendees:**

- Katie Boldvich, Colonial Hockey Conference/New England Hockey Conference.
- Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Independent.
- Bill Mandigo, Middlebury College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
- Michelle Morgan, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota); Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- Jackie Slaats, Lake Forest College; Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.

**Absentees:**

None.

**Guests in Attendance:**

- Joe Bertagna, Hockey East Association (via teleconference).
- Katie Crowley, Boston College; Hockey East Association.
- Tim Danehy, College Hockey Stats (via teleconference).
- Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
- Tom DiFusco, NCAA National Coordinator of Women’s Ice Hockey Officials (via teleconference).
- Sarah Fraser, Quinnipiac University; ECAC Hockey.
- Bill Kangas, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
- Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Steve Piotrowski, NCAA Women’s Ice Hockey Secretary-Rules Editor.
Mike Sisti, Mercyhurst University; College Hockey America.
Abbey Strong, University of Minnesota Duluth; Western Collegiate Hockey Association.
Mike Szkodzinski, Lawrence University; Midwest Conference.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Dan Dutcher, Division III Governance.
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Adam Skaggs, Division III Governance.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances.