



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 11-13, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following six conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2019 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 - 3

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (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. Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Crystal Lanning, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, serve as chair of the committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Ms. Lanning will replace Katie Boldvich, who has one year remaining on her term on the committee but has served the maximum of two

years as chair per Bylaw 21.9.2.2.1. Ms. Lanning has served on the committee for one year and will be an excellent leader and spokesperson for the committee.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Championship date formula.

- (1) Recommendation. That with the bracket size increase from nine to 10 teams approved for the 2019 championship, the championship date formula be revised as follows:

FIRST ROUNDS (4) (2)	ONE WEEK WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO FINALS QUARTERFINALS
(Friday and/or Saturday)	
QUARTERFINALS	SATURDAY PRIOR TO FINALS
FINALS	THIRD FULL WEEKEND IN MARCH (Friday-Saturday)

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. In 2018, the championship bracket size increased from eight to nine teams. At one of the four first-round sites, two teams played an opening-round game on Friday and the winner advanced to play a first-round game at the same site on Saturday. Feedback from coaches at the American Hockey Coaches Convention strongly supports not requiring teams to play two consecutive days in the first round. (In 2018, the team advancing from the opening round won in triple overtime on Friday night and then lost on Saturday to the team waiting to play them.) With this change to the championship date formula, the teams advancing from the first rounds to the quarterfinals will have two days of rest between games. This will eliminate the competitive disadvantage of playing a very physical sport on consecutive days.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The budget impact of the mid-week game format was previously calculated by the NCAA travel staff and reviewed by the Division III Championships Committee when it approved the bracket size increase from nine to 10 teams.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. The teams advancing from first rounds will have an opportunity to rest and recover from the game on Wednesday and better prepare, physically and strategically, for the game on Saturday.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** The committee chair welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
2. **2017 annual committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual committee meeting report as submitted.
3. **2017-18 NCAA Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the NCAA Division III Championships Committee took in 2017-18 relevant to the work of the Women's Ice Hockey Committee, noting the increase to the bracket size for the 2019 championship.
4. **2018 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 rosters and noted vacancies for 2018-19.
6. **Committee chair and regional advisory committee chairs.** The committee elected Crystal Lanning, director of athletics at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, to serve as chair of the committee for 2018-19. (See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-b.)
7. **Review of 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed summaries of surveys from participants, the host tournament director, site representatives, committee representatives and officials. The committee commended Norwich University on hosting a successful championship. Attendance was excellent, which resulted in an exciting championship environment. The committee observed the following regarding the 2018 championship and also suggested changes for future championships:
 - a. **Student-athlete enhancements.** The committee reviewed several enhancements provided by the host, including team photos and picture frames, a flash drive with the Division III logo that included the banquet highlight video, and hospitality for the teams in their locker rooms.
 - b. **Championship shipments.** The committee noted that delays in shipments of championship equipment due to the weather (19 inches of snow) created challenges for the host in preparing for the championship.

- c. Facility readiness.** The committee emphasized that the facility should be “game ready” (e.g., ice prepared, dasher board signage installed, banners hung, etc.) before the committee walkthrough on the day before the first team practices.
 - d. Video replay.** The women's ice hockey championship was previously approved for funding for video replay at the finals site, effective for the 2018 championship. Division III institutions typically do not have the cameras required for video replay installed in their hockey facilities throughout the season. Given that the championship is held at a nonpredetermined site, it is a challenge for the host, in a very short time frame, to install the equipment and confirm the staff to provide the video replay service. The company that produced the championship webcast was very helpful in assisting with camera feeds and monitors for the video replay official. NCAA staff will follow up to identify a vendor that could potentially provide video replay services for multiple ice hockey championships as well as other championships.
 - e. Team hotels.** Participant feedback indicated that if possible, the finals site host should assign teams to separate hotels instead of assigning all teams to the same hotel.
- 8. Plan for 2019 championship.** The committee reviewed the following topics relating to the 2019 championship:
- a. Community service activity.** The committee agreed to implement a community service activity (maximum of 90 minutes) for the teams that participate in the 2019 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Game times.** The committee changed the game times to 3 and 7 p.m. (instead of 3:30 and 7 p.m.) for the semifinal games on Friday and for the third-place and championship game on Saturday.
- 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 nine to 10 teams for the 2019 championship, the bracket will now include two first-round games. The committee confirmed that the first-round games will be conducted on Wednesday and the quarterfinals

will be conducted on Saturday on the campus of participating teams. (See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-c.)

- 10. Selection criteria and ranking procedures.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and ranking procedures and added a mock selection on the final weekly ranking call to prepare for selections.
- 11. Selection and assignment of officials.** The committee met 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 discussed identifying a supervisor of officials specific to Division III, given that the Division III women's ice hockey championship is the same weekend as the Women's Frozen Four and the national coordinator traditionally attends the Division I championship. The committee noted that it would be beneficial to identify an individual in each region (East and West) to help select and assign officials and to serve as the supervisor of officials at the championship, depending which region hosts the finals. The committee will include this item, as well increasing the number of flights for officials at the finals site from three to four of the eight officials, as budget requests for the 2019-21 budget cycle.
- 12. Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the automatic-qualification declarations for 2018-19 and recommended that six conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2019 championship. (See Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-a.)
- 13. Sports sponsorship and pool allocations.** The committee reviewed the 2018 pool document and noted that Anna Maria College, Nazareth College, Suffolk University and Wilkes University will sponsor women's ice hockey in 2018-19, and Alvernia University has announced that it will begin sponsoring the sport in 2019-20. The committee also reviewed other anticipated conference realignments in 2019-20.
- 14. Committee timeline and resource sheet.** The committee reviewed and revised the committee timeline and resource sheet. The committee added a potential host call to the timeline.
- 15. Forms.** The committee reviewed and revised the forms used for the women's ice hockey championship.
- 16. Planning checklist for tournament director of nonpredetermined finals site.** The committee reviewed and finalized a host planning checklist to assist potential tournament directors in preparing to host the championship.

- 17. Site representative materials.** The committee reviewed and revised the materials provided to site representatives for the 2018 championship.
- 18. Manuals.** The committee reviewed and revised the women's ice hockey host operations manual, pre-championship manual, committee operations manual and participant manuals.
- 19. 2019 annual committee meeting.** The committee will schedule its 2019 annual committee meeting in June in conjunction with the ice hockey rules committee and other divisional ice hockey committees.

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 11-13, 2018, Meeting
Attendees:
Katie Boldvich, Colonial Hockey Conference/New England Hockey Conference.
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
Bill Mandigo, Middlebury College (via teleconference).
Michelle Morgan, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota).
Absentees:
Dave Clausen, Utica College.
Guests in Attendance:
Tom DiFusco, NCAA National Coordinator of Women's Ice Hockey Officials.
Derek Zuckerman, Ice Hockey Referee.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.