ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

   • Automatic qualification.

     (1) Recommendation. That the following four conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 NCAA National Collegiate Women’s Ice Hockey Championship: College Hockey America, East Coast Athletic Conference Hockey, Hockey East Association and Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

     (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

     (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.

     (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

     (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Agenda and meeting schedule. The committee reviewed the schedule and agenda for the meeting and made no adjustments.

2. 2016 annual meeting minutes. The committee approved its 2016 annual meeting report as written.

3. NCAA Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee reports. The committee reviewed the meeting reports from the past year, noting items that pertain to women’s ice hockey.


   a. Bracket. The committee reviewed the final championship bracket.

   b. Practice times. The committee agreed that allowing 60 minutes, as opposed to 75 minutes, for practice on the days prior to games at the Frozen Four was a good change along with allowing the higher-seeded teams to choose their practice times the day prior to semifinals.
c. **Selection announcement.** The addition of an analyst/expert participating in the selection show via Skype was well received and provided more exposure and context for the participating teams and championship matchups. The highlight footage the quarterfinal hosts and participating teams provided also benefitted the production.

d. **Quarterfinals.**

   (1) **Evaluations for quarterfinals.** The committee reviewed participant surveys and noted that overall, the feedback was positive. The committee desires an increase in the number of responses and asked if there are any apps or alternate technologies that could be used similar to what is used during the NCAA Convention to solicit feedback.

   (2) **Game presentation.** The committee understands the concept of neutrality, but is interested to know if there is support for providing the ability for teams that have earned the right to host to incorporate more of their regular-season game presentation items (e.g., pre-game hype videos, goal horns/songs, etc.) during the quarterfinals. The committee believes this would create a more exciting game experience/atmosphere and could be done so long as the visiting team(s) are not disadvantaged by negative game presentation items (e.g., certain songs when visiting player goes to penalty box, spotlight on visiting goalie after home goal, increased music volume when visiting team calls a timeout).

e. **Women’s Frozen Four.**

   (1) **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations from participants and coaches who competed in the championship in St. Charles, Missouri, and noted the responses were positive. There were issues with the ice maintenance between practice, games and intermissions, which was reflected in the responses. The feedback regarding the new banquet format was positive, and the committee encouraged that format to be retained at future championships.

   (2) **Host institution/facility.** The committee commended the host/LOC for their hard work and dedication to making the Women’s Frozen Four a special event. The staff was accommodating to the committee and participants and proactively met the needs of the championship and addressed issues as they arose.

   (3) **Web stream/BTN.** The web stream for the semifinals was good, and the committee was excited to have the Big Ten Network (BTN) onboard to broadcast the championship game live. The committee looks forward to working with BTN in the coming years. NCAA staff will reach out to BTN at the appropriate time to begin discussing the 2018 championship.
(4) Merchandise (Event 1) / Programs (IMG College). Overall merchandise sales were up considerably over the previous few years, nearly eclipsing the championship sales record. The committee inquired about providing more youth sizing in the future since the women’s ice hockey crowd is typically more family oriented and there is a desire to work with youth teams/tournaments at future championships. NCAA staff will follow up accordingly.

The quarterfinals and finals site again featured the digital program, which showed low viewership numbers. The committee emphasized the importance of clear communication to hosts and fans on how to promote, find and access the digital programs at future championships.

(5) Hotels. Two teams were placed in each of two properties, and the hotel staffs were very accommodating during the planning phase and for the teams during the championship. The preference for four team hotels was noted when possible in a given host city.

(6) News conferences/media. The media room was small, but was set up and dressed appropriately for the championship. The committee appreciated the local media members who provided great coverage for the championship.

(7) Promotions. The host/LOC executed a very comprehensive promotional plan, and the committee appreciated these efforts to benefit the championship.

(8) Banquet. The banquet format included a reception for the participants and local dignitaries with heavy hors d’oeuvres followed by an emcee-led Q&A with coaches and selected players as opposed to a more traditional sit-down dinner featuring guest speakers. At future events, questions for the student-athletes must be provided in advance and focus on their respective teams/seasons. Overall, the new format was received well.

(9) Awards presentation. The committee reviewed the current format after the final game, which includes both teams remaining on the ice to receive the full complement of individual mini-trophies and team trophy, and agreed to continue evaluating the format to determine if a modification is needed for next year.

(10) USA Hockey. The committee appreciates the relationship with USA Hockey and looks forward to continuing the partnership in the coming years to benefit women’s ice hockey and the Women’s Frozen Four. The Patty Kazmaier banquet continues to be a nice part of the championship weekend.
5. Discussion of 2018 championship.

a. Women’s Frozen Four host/LOC.

   (1) Championship planning overview. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, will host the event for the third time in six years and has a track record of providing an excellent championship experience. The committee is confident they will provide an excellent experience in 2018. NCAA staff will reach out to the host to establish the schedule for championship preparation calls.

   (2) Facility. Ridder Arena has been the championship facility in the past and is well suited to host the Women’s Frozen Four.

   (3) Hotels. The contracted hotels should provide an excellent championship experience.

b. Game times. The committee will consult with the host and BTN to determine game times.

c. Quarterfinal hosting requirements. As the committee previously determined, beginning in 2017-18 all quarterfinal hosts must use the recommended distance of 5’7” between the hash marks on the outer edge of both sides of each face-off circle and parallel to the goal line to be eligible to host quarterfinal competition.

   The committee also determined that, beginning in 2017-18, to be eligible to host quarterfinal competition all hosts must secure hotels for the visiting team that are within 30 miles of the competition facility.

d. Quarterfinal facility evaluation form. The committee reviewed the quarterfinal facility evaluation form and NCAA staff will make the recommended changes.

e. Alcohol sales. The committee discussed the potential for alcohols sales at the preliminary-round and finals sites and will monitor the results of the pilot program at select championship sites.

f. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed the current sport sponsorship and the projected 2017-18 sponsorship.


- Joint championship. The committee enjoyed a productive discussion with the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee regarding a possible joint championship effort in one of the coming years. NCAA staff will conduct preliminary follow-up with potential hosts and report back to the committees for further discussion.
7. Selections.

a. Selection criteria. The committee agreed to add “each team’s full body of work will be evaluated” as noted in the selection criteria below. This is an important clarification to include within the written criteria, as this is common practice and because the RPI calculation does not count points awarded for any win that lowers a team’s RPI.

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sport committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]:

- Won-lost record;
- Strength of schedule; and
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships.

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Women’s Ice Hockey Committee has received approval from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the women’s ice hockey championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- *Rating Percentage Index (RPI) [won-lost record (30 percent), opponents’ winning percentage (24 percent) and opponents’ opponents’ winning percentage (46 percent)]; including quality win bonus**
- Head-to-head competition; and,
- Results versus common opponents.

*If points awarded for any win lower a team’s average RPI, those points will not count toward the RPI.

**Quality win bonus awarded for wins over the top 12 championship eligible teams in the final selection RPI.

During the selection process, each team’s full body of work will be evaluated. Each of the above criteria will carry one point, except head-to-head competition, which will carry the number of points equal to the net difference in the results of these games (e.g., if Team A defeats Team B three out of four games, Team A would receive two points in the selection process). When comparing two teams, the committee reserves the right to weight criteria differently based on relative team performance.

In situations where a high-impact player is unavailable, the committee may consider this as part of its evaluation of the above criteria.
The NCAA Women’s Ice Hockey Committee does not consider outside polls as a source for selections.

b. Rating Percentage Index (RPI). The committee discussed the current RPI and recommended no changes at this time.

c. Selection policies and procedures. The committee reviewed policies and procedures and did not recommend changes at this time.

8. Championship format.

a. Championship dates. The committee reviewed the championship dates for the 2018-2022 Women’s Frozen Four and recommended no changes.

b. Awards. See Informational Item 4e(9).

c. Field size. The committee reviewed the championship field size and recommended no changes.


a. Coordinator of officials (Tom DiFusco). The committee received a recap of the year from the coordinator of officials and discussed ideas for the coming year(s).

b. Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from officiating crews at the quarterfinals and finals.

c. Review process for selecting officials. Overall the process for selecting the championship officials has been working well. The coordinator will be in contact with the committee leading up to selection day to make sure the selection and notification process is as efficient as possible once the selection announcement has been made.


a. Officiating system. The committee reviewed the two-referee, two-linesman system and recommended no changes at this time.

b. Overtime procedures. The committee is comfortable with the current overtime procedure, but will continue to monitor membership and rules committee discussions leading into the rules change year.
c. **Supplemental discipline.** The committee recommended no changes to the supplemental discipline policy at this time.

d. **Sport statistical trends.** The committee reviewed the season statistical trend data.

**11. Update on sport committee.**

a. **National and regional advisory committee (RAC) composition and vacancies.** The committee noted the upcoming RAC vacancies and NCAA staff will reach out to the respective conferences for replacements.

b. **Committee timeline.** The committee approved the updated 2017-18 timeline.

c. **Confirmation of committee chair.** The committee approved that Sarah Fraser, deputy director of athletics at Quinnipiac University, serve a third consecutive year as chair and commended her for her work again this year leading the committee.

d. **AHCA Convention recap.** The committee reviewed its annual report and will update accordingly for the 2018 AHCA convention.

e. **Future meeting dates.** The 2018 meeting will be held June 12-14 in Indianapolis.

**12. Conference commissioners.** The committee met with the ice hockey conference commissioners to review the 2017 championship and discuss future championships. The discussion focused on current and potential sport sponsorship numbers, including encouraging new sponsorship from Divisions I and II, and working to eliminate barriers for schools that may want to reclassify from Division III. Staff will keep the group updated on the progress of this discussion.

*Committee Chair: Sarah Fraser, Quinnipiac University, ECAC Hockey*

*Staff Liaisons: Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances*
Absentees: None.

Guests in Attendance:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Bertagna</td>
<td>Hockey East Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Boldvich</td>
<td>Colonial Hockey Conference/New England Hockey Conference</td>
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<td>Tim Danehy</td>
<td>College Hockey Stats</td>
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<td>Bob DeGregorio</td>
<td>College Hockey America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom DiFusco</td>
<td>NCAA Women’s National Coordinator of Officials</td>
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<td>Steve Hagwell</td>
<td>ECAC Hockey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Lanning</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Mandigo</td>
<td>Middlebury College; New England Small College Athletic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Million</td>
<td>Western Collegiate Hockey Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Morgan</td>
<td>University of St. Thomas (Minnesota); Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Slaats</td>
<td>Lake Forest College; Women’s Northern Collegiate Hockey Association</td>
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NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keith Willard</td>
<td>Championships and Alliances</td>
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Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

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<tr>
<td>Jan Gentry</td>
<td>Championships and Alliances</td>
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<td>Barb Hallam</td>
<td>Championships and Alliances</td>
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