



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEES  
JUNE 12, 2018, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Selection – pilot program with PairWise system.**

- a. Recommendation. That the men's and women's ice hockey committees use the PairWise selection system to rank and select teams during a two-year pilot program.
- b. Effective date. 2018-19 and 2019-20 championship seasons.
- c. Rationale. PairWise calculates rankings based on a comparison matrix that applies an equal weight to the selection criteria to compare each team to all other teams. The system is currently used by the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee and the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee, which has provided the basis for exploration and study over the course of the last two years. Most recently, the Division III committees reviewed survey results gathered through the American Hockey Coaches Association indicating the overwhelming support of Division III men's and women's coaches to use the PairWise process.

The recommendation to implement a two-year pilot program is based on the current Division I men's rating percentage index (refer to Attachment A for program detail). The committees will evaluate the results after the first year and may adjust the formula for the second year as needed.

The committees understand that use of the PairWise process is a departure from the online score-reporting system used by other Division III team sports. However, the committees note that the Division I men's and NCAA women's ice hockey committees have had great success with PairWise for several years; coaches appreciate the transparency of the process and universally accept the selected teams and seedings. Further, PairWise is similar in many respects to the Golfstat program currently used to select teams and individuals for NCAA golf championships. During the pilot program, the committees would not maintain regional advisory committees.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.

- e. Student-athlete impact. The committee expects that the PairWise system will provide a clear and transparent team ranking that is both recognized by ice hockey student-athletes and consistent with Division III criteria.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Update from Division III governance staff.** The NCAA governance staff provided an update on several topics, including: 1) consideration of alcohol sales at championships; 2) the application of the membership dues increase in 2018-19; 3) the pilot program for international amateurism certification of Division III ice hockey student-athletes; 4) proposed legislation for the 2019 NCAA Convention; 5) recommendations from the Commission on College Basketball, specifically the expansion of the Board of Governors to include five independent members; and 6) the Division III LGBTQ Working Group.
- 2. PairWise.** The committees discussed the PairWise selection process the Division I men's and NCAA women's ice hockey committees use to rank and select teams. The Division III committees supported implementing a two-year pilot program using PairWise based on the current Division I men's rating percentage index formula. (Refer to the nonlegislative action item above.)
- 3. Ice maintenance during regulation.** The committees reviewed a suggestion to require that facility hosts implement a one-minute ice maintenance break to be conducted at the first stoppage in play after the 10-minute mark of each period. The committees were reluctant to institute a policy for postseason play that is not applied during the regular season.
- 4. Nonpredetermined championship site – best practices from women's championship.** The semifinals and finals of the men's ice hockey championship will take place at a nonpredetermined site in 2019 for the first time in several years. Members of the women's ice hockey committee shared best practices from their experience administering a nonpredetermined championship site.
- 5. Specifications for video replay services.** The committees discussed minimum standards for the video replay system at the finals site. Overhead cameras and cameras to capture the zone entry are necessary to provide goal reviews. NCAA staff will also seek input from past hosts with video replay capability to determine if additional equipment is needed for the setup.
- 6. Selection criteria – nonconference strength of schedule.** Nonconference strength of schedule was added to secondary criteria effective with the 2018 championship season. The committees agreed the data point was a helpful addition to the rankings and selections process.
- 7. Update from the rules committee.** The committees discussed potential rules changes with

members of the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

*Committee Chairs: Katie Boldvich, Colonial and New England Hockey Conferences.  
Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University*  
*Staff Liaisons: Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.  
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Committees June 12, 2018, Joint Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Katie Boldvich, Colonial Hockey Conference.
Dave Clausen, Utica College.
Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
Bill Mandigo, Middleburg College.
Michelle Morgan, University of St. Thomas (Minnesota).
Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University.
Craig Russell, Plymouth State University.
Mike Szkodzinski, Lawrence University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Tim Danehy, College Hockey Stats.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jay Jones, Division III Governance.