REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN’S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JUNE 13-14, 2016, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Non-legislative items.
   a. Conference automatic qualification.

   (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Women’s Lacrosse Championship: Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Women’s Lacrosse Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Ohio River Women’s Lacrosse Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

   Projected pool allocations
   Pool A – 29
   Pool B – 2
   Pool C – 9

   (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

   (3) Rationale. The 29 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. Pool allocations may adjust pending 2016-17 sponsorship numbers.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
b. Squad size increase.

(1) **Recommendation.** To increase the squad size from 28 to 30 student-athletes in uniform, which in turn would increase the travel party from 30 to 32 individuals.

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

(3) **Rationale.** Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, Division II and III women’s lacrosse will institute a shot clock during competition, which is expected to increase the pace of play. The committee expects teams will increase their roster size to sustain that pace of play. Data show that the more successful teams in Division III carry larger rosters. With the introduction of the shot clock, the need will be greater as more substitutions are anticipated to keep up with the faster pace of play. The committee also notes that the Division III men’s lacrosse squad size is 32 and travel party is 33. The committee notes that the growth of women’s lacrosse at the high school level will support the anticipated need.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** $49,000 in travel costs if all 40 teams bring a maximum travel party for the duration of the tournament. There are other operational expenses (participant medallions, mini-trophies, banquet meals and student-athlete participation award) with an expected additional expense of $2,080.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Increasing the squad size will have a positive impact on student-athletes by providing them with more teammates in the tournament to help provide the necessary rest for the faster pace of play. In addition, the increase will provide more opportunities for female student-athletes to compete in the NCAA tournament. This will especially positively impact teams that already carry larger rosters.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Meeting overview.** The committee chair welcomed members and reviewed the agenda.

2. **Review of 2015 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from 2014-15 as submitted.

3. **Governance updates.** Jess Duff, assistant director of inclusion, updated the committee on a variety of topics, including proposals adopted at the 2016 NCAA Convention and the Division III operating budget.
4. Review of the 2016 championship. The committee reviewed all aspects related to the 2016 championship.

   a. Regional rankings. The committee reviewed the selection criteria and noted that the “last 25 percent of the season” criterion will move from primary to secondary criteria for the 2016-17 season as approved last year. The committee reviewed all regional advisory committee training materials and shared best practices for conducting rankings calls and assisting new committee members.

   b. Selections and bracketing. The committee reviewed the selections and bracketing process for the championship, noting that it would be beneficial for conference finals to begin earlier on Sunday if possible.

   c. Preliminary rounds.

      (1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations for the preliminary rounds, noted generally positive reviews and directed staff to provide feedback to host institutions in an effort to help improve the student-athlete experience during preliminary rounds of the championship.

      (2) Practice times. The committee reviewed protocol for assigning practice times and confirmed that the team traveling the farthest should have first choice of practice times regardless of their travel schedule. The committee directed staff to clarify this in the manuals.

      (3) Game times. The committee directed staff to organize the existing regional semifinals and final game time options into two packages: Option #1 with regional semifinals at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and regional final at 1 p.m.; and Option #2 with regional semifinals at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. and regional final at 2:30 p.m.

   d. Championship.

      (1) Evaluations. The committee directed staff to reopen the championship semifinals and final site survey due to lack of response.

      (2) Host operations. The committee noted that the second year in Philadelphia went very well and the hosts improved upon all areas that needed improvement from the previous year. The committee applauds the great work of Widener University, St. Joseph’s University and Talen Energy Stadium for a great championship experience.

      (3) Banquet. Overall, the committee enjoyed the new banquet format with interactive experiences for the student-athletes at the Franklin Institute but noted better
communication and direction to the teams should be provided if a non-traditional banquet format is used in the future. The committee appreciated the improved championship banquet video.

(4) Practices and games. The committee reviewed the schedule of events, game presentation, attendance, awards ceremonies, weather, spectator giveaways, student-athlete gifts, lodging, Special Olympics involvement, web streaming and team forms. Overall, the committee was very satisfied with the championships.

5. Officials. The committee agreed that the officials assignor, Melissa Coyne, provided great service and feedback during each round of the championship and assigned the best officials available to work Division III games in a very efficient manner. The committee asked Ms. Coyne to investigate officials’ evaluations via Arbiter Central Hub for coaches to complete during the postseason.

6. 2017 championship.

a. Salem presentation. Carey Harvey cutter and John Shaner from the City of Salem presented on plans for the 2017 championship at Kerr Stadium in Salem, Virginia.

b. Schedule of events. The committee compared the schedule of events from 2016 and 2014, when Division III was last on its own, and discussed possibly moving the administrative meeting before practices. In addition, the championship game time should not conflict with the Division I championship game time even though the championships will be at separate sites in 2017.

c. Bracket. The committee reviewed the bracket format for 2017. Staff noted that the bracket will remain a 40-team bracket.

d. Preliminary-round hosting process. The committee directed staff to add language to hosting guidelines for institutions to note availability for Friday and Saturday games for institutions with “Sunday No Play” exemptions and commencement conflicts.

e. Site representatives. The committee noted that each regional chair shall clearly emphasize on their first regional conference call the expectation that RAC members shall serve as preliminary-round site reps unless extenuating circumstances preclude them from serving in this capacity. If they cannot serve as a site rep, the RAC member should get another rep from their conference to be a site rep.

Commencement conflicts. The committee believes that championship matchups should not be adjusted for graduation; however, game times, and occasionally game days, could be adjusted. The committee will make a good-faith effort in the future to accommodate teams that have submitted their paperwork on time regarding these conflicts.
7. **National committee and regional advisory committee.** Emily Fisher, head women’s lacrosse coach at the University of Mount Union, accepted reappointment as the Mid-South region representative. Her term will expire on August 3, 2020. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee roster and noted necessary replacements due to term expiration or job changes.

8. **Rules.** The committee received an update from Rachel Seewald, associate director of championships and alliances. Ms. Seewald noted strong support for the rule changes that took effect this year and shared a change that the rules committee will recommend this coming season in order to address unintended consequences from a previous rule change.

9. **Review of NCAA manuals.** The committee reviewed the championship manuals and timelines and asked staff to make the recommended changes.

10. **2019-22 site selection process.** Staff shared the timeline for the upcoming site selection process. The committee discussed pros and cons of a joint championship with Division I and with Divisions I and II.

11. **Future meeting dates.** The 2017 annual meeting will be June 12-13 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair:  Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology; Empire 8.*
*Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.*

| Division III Women’s Lacrosse Committee  
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<th>June 13-14, 2016, Meeting</th>
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| **Attendees:**  
Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology; Empire 8.  
Michael Duffy, Adrian College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.  
Emily Fisher, University of Mount Union; Ohio Athletic Conference.  
Mindy Mangels, Wellesley College; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference.  
Meghan O’Connor McDonogh, Catholic University; Landmark Conference. |
| **Absentees:**  
None. |
| **Guests in Attendance:**  
Melissa Coyne, NCAA Coordinator of Officials (via teleconference).  
Carey Harvey cutter, City of Salem.  
John Shaner, City of Salem. |
| **NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**  
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances. |
| **Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**  
Jess Duff, Education and Community Engagement.  
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances. |