REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN’S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 7-8, 2016, MEETING

**KEY ITEM.**

- **Overtime procedures/RPI impact.** The committee discussed the possible change of the current overtime format to 4-on-4 and the impact on the RPI. (see Informational Items 7-b and 10-b).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   a. **Automatic qualification.**
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the following four conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 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, 2016.
      (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended.
      (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
      (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
   b. **Squad size increase.**
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the squad size be increased from 21 to 24 student-athletes.
      (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.
      (3) **Rationale.** Per the October 2015 NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report, the average squad size in Division I women’s ice hockey over the last five years is 23.9 [23.5 (2010-11); 24.1 (2011-12); 24.3 (2012-13); 23.5 (2013-14); 24.2 (2014-15)].
Estimated budget impact. $660 – for three additional student-athlete awards at each of the four quarterfinal sites.

(4) **Student-athlete impact.** This will allow participating institutions to have student-athletes over the current squad size (21) recognized for their contributions to the team during the season, thus enhancing their overall championship experience.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

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

2. **2015 annual meeting minutes.** The committee approved its 2015 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.

4. **Review of 2016 championship.**

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

   b. **Practice times.** The committee determined that 45 minutes shall be the maximum practice time on the day of the game(s). Also, prior to the semifinals, the higher-seeded team in each game will choose which scheduled practice time they would prefer for their respective game.

   c. **Selection announcement.** Committee members noted that interviewing the committee chair enhanced the selection show announcement on ncaa.com. The committee discussed other ideas to improve the announcement show, such as adding an in-studio analyst to talk about women’s ice hockey and the matchups, having sports information directors submit highlight packages from the season, and including features on the participating schools, players, Patty Kazmaier award finalists and Hockey Humanitarian Award recipient.

   d. **Quarterfinals.**

      - **Evaluations for quarterfinals.** The committee reviewed participant and host surveys and noted that overall, the feedback was positive. The committee would like to see an increase in the number of participant awards at the quarterfinal sites (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b). The committee also noted the need to emphasize adherence to the
championship policies in the provided materials during site representative training to ensure a consistent experience across all sites.

e. **Women’s Frozen Four.**

(1) **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations from participants and coaches who competed in the championship at the University of New Hampshire and noted the information was positive and provided valuable insight the committee can use in preparation for future championships.

(2) **Host institution/facility.** The committee commended the New Hampshire staff 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.

(3) **Web stream/CBS.** The committee agreed there was an improvement in the video quality and talent on the web stream this year. The committee and membership have a strong desire to have a two-person team (play-by-play and color analyst) calling the game due to the nature and speed of the game. NCAA staff and the committee will continue to explore options to achieve this for future championships. The committee also discussed the CBS tape-delayed broadcast of the championship game and thought the production was well done. CBS was a great partner to work with on the event.

(4) **Merchandise (Event 1)/programs (IMG College).** The committee noted relatively strong sales of merchandise at most quarterfinal sites and at New Hampshire. NCAA staff will follow up internally for a more in-depth recap of sales. The committee was disappointed with the number of views for the digital championship program and will work with NCAA staff to find ways to increase viewership.

(5) **Hotels.** The overall feedback on the championship team and headquarter hotels was positive, and the committee will continue to work with future hosts to provide a consistent championship-caliber experience for all participants.

(6) **News conferences/media.** The New Hampshire staff executed championship media setup and news conferences well.

(7) **Promotions.** The committee discussed feedback regarding marketing efforts and in-game promotions and highlighted the importance of these to drive attendance and enhance the fan experience during the games.
(8) **Banquet.** The championship banquet facility was fitting for the championship and located in close proximity to the team hotels. The evening moved along well, although there were some technical difficulties with the championship video.

(9) **Awards presentation.** The awards ceremony was executed well; however, it was difficult to hear the public address announcer as it seemed none of the overhead speakers were projecting down to center ice.

(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 2017 championship.**

a. **Women’s Frozen Four host/LOC.**

   (1) **Championship planning overview.** The 2017 Women’s Frozen Four local organizing committee (LOC) from Lindenwood University and the St. Louis Sports Commission joined the meeting via teleconference. The LOC provided an overview of the plan for staffing and execution of the championship, which included ideas for creating a strong connection between the community and the event. NCAA staff and the committee chair will visit the site in early August.

   (2) **Facility.** The Family Arena will be the championship venue, and the facility staff answered questions from the committee regarding ice/facility setup, space for participants, officials and committee as well as ancillary space availability. NCAA staff will follow up on these items during the site visit.

   (3) **Hotels.** The LOC reviewed the team and headquarter hotel properties along with the entertainment opportunities that exist during the championship, and the committee believes the quality of the hotels and proximity to venue, airport and entertainment will create a great championship experience.

   (4) **Banquet/Patty Kazmaier brunch.** The LOC has identified a couple of venues that are well suited for the championship banquet and Patty Kazmaier event. More details will be shared during the site visit.

b. **Game times.** The committee discussed the schedule of events with the host. The tentative times for the semifinals are 5/8 p.m. Eastern time (4/7 p.m. Central time) and 3 p.m. Eastern time (2 p.m. Central time) for the championship game.
c. **Quarterfinal facility evaluation form.** The committee reviewed the quarterfinal facility evaluation form and recommended no changes at this time.

d. **Television opportunities.** The committee met with NCAA staff for feedback on the CBS tape-delayed broadcast of the championship game and to discuss potential opportunities for all games of the Women’s Frozen Four to be televised. The committee noted that having the games broadcast on television is still a top priority for the championship.

e. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed current sport sponsorship and discussed potential changes in the coming years.

6. **2019-2022 championship bid process.** The committee reviewed the bid process and timeline and emphasized the importance of communicating with the membership and potential host sites for the years covered in this bid cycle.

- **Joint championship – Division III women/Division I men.** The committee briefly discussed the potential for a joint championship and will evaluate those opportunities if presented by prospective host organizations.

7. **Selections.**

a. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and recommended no changes at this time.

b. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee discussed the current RPI, particularly how it would be affected if the overtime format were changed to 4-on-4 (see Informational Item 10-b). The committee recommended no changes to the RPI at this time.

c. **NCAA RPI/team sheets.** NCAA RPI/team sheets were not available at the time of the meeting.

d. **Selection policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the selection policies and procedures and will work with NCAA staff to ensure they are documented in a transparent manner that is in accordance with applicable NCAA bylaws and avoids confusion.

8. **Championship format.**

a. **Championship dates.** The committee reviewed the championship dates and recommended no changes at this time.

b. **Awards.** The committee reviewed the current format for the award ceremony after the championship game and the length of time the national runner-up is required to be on the
ice. The committee discussed the possibility of altering the award ceremony to allow the national runner-up to leave the ice prior to the national champion receiving its awards.

c. Field size. The committee recommended no changes to the field size at this time.


a. Coordinator of officials. The national coordinator of officials met with the committee to review the overall officiating program this year. The group discussed the strengths of the program as well as areas for improvement moving forward for the national coordinator role and the program overall. A written follow-up will be submitted to the committee and reviewed in the coming weeks.

b. Evaluations. Feedback from the officials was positive and the committee noted recommendations for future championships that will enhance the experience for the officials.

c. Review process for selecting officials. The committee reviewed the process for selecting championship officials and noted the importance of making sure that all qualified officials are being evaluated for selection.


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

b. Overtime procedures. The committee discussed the current overtime format and the possibility of a rule change to make overtime 4-on-4. Members of the rules committee joined the meeting to provide updates on their discussions regarding the 4-on-4 overtime format. Based on the conversations and information gathered during the annual meeting and at the American Hockey Coaches Association convention, and after reviewing the membership survey results, the committee does not support a change at this time.

c. Supplemental discipline. The committee reviewed the supplemental discipline policy and recommended no changes at this time.

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

e. Goal anchoring system. The committee noted the new goal anchoring system rule that will be in effect beginning with the 2016-17 season.
f. **Intermission timing.** The committee discussed the rule allowing for an 18-minute intermission during the championship and believes the current 15-minute intermissions are appropriate.

11. **Update on sport committee.**

   a. **National committee composition and vacancies.** The committee noted the upcoming vacancies and seeks to maintain a balance in conference representation and to have coaches from each region on the national committee.

   b. **Regional advisory committee.** The committee agreed that there should be three regional advisory committee members from each region in addition to the national committee members. This change will benefit the committee member replacement policy during the selection meeting and information gathering for the committee as well. The committee reviewed the current vacancies and NCAA staff will reach out to the respective conferences for replacements.

   c. **Committee timeline.** The committee accepted the 2016-17 timeline as presented.

   d. **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.

   e. **American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) convention recap.** The committee reviewed its annual report and will update accordingly for the 2017 AHCA convention.

12. **Conference Commissioners.** The committee convened with the conference commissioners and provided updates on its discussion regarding the proposed rule changes (specifically the overtime format), selection criteria and principles, travel policies, post-championship award presentation and goals for the web stream and television in future championships. Mark Lewis and Julie Kimmons from the championships and alliances staff joined the committee for this portion of the meeting.

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

   *Staff Liaisons: Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances*
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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Fraser, Quinnipiac University; ECAC Hockey.</td>
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<td>Nick Reggio, Providence College; Hockey East Association.</td>
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<td>Mike Sisti, Mercyhurst University; College Hockey America.</td>
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<td>Abbey Strong, University of Minnesota Duluth; Western Collegiate Hockey Association.</td>
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<td>Absentees:</td>
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<td>None.</td>
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<td>Guests in Attendance:</td>
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<td>Joe Bertagna, Hockey East Association.</td>
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<td>Tim Danehy, College Hockey Stats (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>Wayne Dean, Yale University, ECAC Hockey.</td>
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<td>Bob DeGregorio, College Hockey America.</td>
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<td>Tom DiFusco, NCAA Women’s National Coordinator of Officials.</td>
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<td>Amber Fryklund, Bemidji State University; Western College Hockey Association.</td>
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<td>Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey.</td>
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<td>Krisy Morrison, Active Official.</td>
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<td>Bill Robertson, Western Collegiate Hockey Association.</td>
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<td>Chris Roseman, St. Louis Sports Commission (via teleconference).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Stegemen, St. Louis Sports Commission (via teleconference).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Waggoner, Lindenwood University (via teleconference), College Hockey America.</td>
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<td>Kathy Wynters, Hockey East Association.</td>
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<td>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</td>
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<td>Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</td>
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<td>Julie Kimmons, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Mark Lewis, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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