



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 12-13, 2017, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Conference automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences receive automatic qualification to the 2018 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 – 11

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (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 2017-18 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 by two and bench size by two.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Beginning in the 2017-18 academic year, Divisions II and III women's lacrosse will institute a shot clock during competition, which is expected to increase the pace of play, as evidenced during Division I competition with the shot clock in the 2016-17 season. In addition, the rules committee has proposed free-movement for the 2017-18 academic year, which will further 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 (see attachment). With the introduction of the shot clock and free-movement, 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. The committee believes that the growth of women's lacrosse at the high school level will support the anticipated need. In addition, the committee noted that Division III institutions use varsity athletics as an enrollment driver, and coaches are encouraged to increase their roster sizes.
- (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 allowing more teammates in the tournament to help provide the necessary rest and recovery 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 also positively impact teams that already carry larger rosters. Providing an increased squad and bench size will improve the student-athlete experience and ease the burden on coaches from excluding team members from the rest of their teammates during the championship experience. Responses from the student-athlete and coach participant surveys also support this proposal.

**c. Add a rest day to the championship finals site.**

- (1) Recommendation. That a day of rest be added between the semifinals and final.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.

- (3) Rationale. A day of rest would provide the student-athletes with proper recovery time prior to the biggest game of the year. In addition, it would allow the amount of rest time for Division III lacrosse to be consistent with Divisions I and II at the finals site.

In addition, the upcoming rule changes that will increase the pace of play, described in the previous proposal, are additional reasons to have a day off between the semifinals and finals. The faster pace of play will require more recovery time.

The committee is interested in a day of rest between all games throughout the entirety of the championships but understands that there are significant cost implications that would come with such a change. This proposal is a step in that direction, while also being mindful of cost concerns.

This recommendation also begins to address health and safety concerns specific to recovery time. These concerns continue to be paramount to the committee and lacrosse membership.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$5,700.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation positively impacts student-athletes by providing a more optimal amount of recovery time during the championship weekend.

**d. Committee chair appointment.**

- (1) Recommendation. That Michael Duffy, director of athletics at Adrian College, be named chair of the committee. Mr. Duffy will replace Celine Cunningham, who has served a two-year term as chair and is rotating off the committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Duffy is a veteran of the committee with great experience and leadership. He has been a valuable member of the committee and is well suited to execute the role of chair.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Meeting overview.** The committee chair welcomed members and reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Review of 2016 reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from 2015-16 as submitted.
- 3. Review of IWLCA meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report as submitted. The committee recommended topics to cover at the next IWLCA meeting in November of 2017 to provide further education regarding policies and processes.
- 4. Governance updates.** John Bugner, assistant director of championships and alliances, updated the committee on a variety of topics, including potential legislative proposals for the 2018 NCAA Convention, the Division III 2017-19 operating budget and the sportsmanship and game environment working group project.
- 5. Academic and Membership Affairs update.** Jean Orr, assistant director of academic and membership affairs, provided an update to the committee on her department's role and responsibilities, along with resources available to the membership.
- 6. Review of the 2017 championship.** The committee reviewed all aspects related to the 2017 championship.
  - a. Selection criteria. The committee reviewed the selection criteria and noted the addition of "nonconference strength of schedule" as secondary criteria for the 2017-18 season. In addition, the committee offered feedback regarding the proposed "strength of victory" criteria concept that the Championships Committee is reviewing.
  - b. Regional rankings. The committee reviewed the regional rankings for the season and discussed the rankings process, including the training and preparation for the regional advisory committee members.
  - c. Selections. The committee reviewed the selection day schedule and process and suggested ways to be more efficient. NCAA staff shared that as the bracket size continues to increase, it may lead to the selection announcement moving from Sunday to Monday soon to provide adequate time for the selection process. The committee noted it would be beneficial if conference finals began earlier on Sunday, if possible.
  - d. Bracketing. The committee reviewed the bracket, bracketing policies and feedback from the membership. Committee members noted the challenges faced when a top regionally ranked team is unable to host.

e. Preliminary rounds.

- (1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations for the preliminary rounds, noting generally positive reviews, and directed staff to provide feedback to host institutions to help improve the student-athlete experience during preliminary rounds of the championship.
- (2) Practice and shoot-around times. The committee reviewed practice and shoot-around times and decided to add shoot-around times for all second-round games so that all sites are consistent.
- (3) Awards ceremony. The committee received positive feedback from the evaluations on the awards ceremony during preliminary rounds.

f. Championship.

- (1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the championship and noted positive reviews for the finals site experience in Salem, Virginia. The committee noted some suggestions from the evaluations and shared feedback with the host to improve the experience next year.
- (2) Web stream. The committee reviewed web stream stats from the championship and recommended that the new shot clock be included on the web stream feed next season.
- (3) Merchandise sales. The committee reviewed merchandise sales from the preliminary rounds and the finals site and noted increased sales. The committee and host recommend team-specific options for the finals site, similar to other championships.
- (4) Host operations. Carey Harvey Cutter and John Shaner from the City of Salem joined the meeting to recap the 2017 championship experience and discuss recommendations for improvement in 2018. The committee noted the very positive and service-oriented attitude of the entire host staff. The committee applauds the great work of the City of Salem, the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and Roanoke College for a great championship experience.
- (5) Banquet. The committee agreed that the traditional banquet format worked well, and members appreciated the convenient location for the teams at the team hotel. The championship banquet video was well-received in addition to recognition of the IWLCA All-Americans and student-athlete speakers from each team.
- (6) Community engagement. The committees received positive feedback from the teams on the community engagement outings as well as involvement of Special Olympians

as honorary captains. The committee recommended keeping teams at separate sites if visit time slots coincide in the future.

(7) Practices and games. The committee reviewed the schedule of events, practice amenities, game presentation, attendance, awards ceremonies, weather, spectator giveaways, student-athlete gifts and lodging. Overall, the committee was very satisfied with the championships and discussed any areas for improvement with the host staff.

**7. Officials.** The committee agreed that the national coordinator of officials, 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. Ms. Coyne described the selection process for officials for all rounds and all divisions and described some of her challenges. The committee agreed that the championship finals site officials did a great job along with the on-site coordinator. The committee asked Ms. Coyne that officials assigned to Division III games have Division III experience during the season as well.

**8. 2018 championship.**

- a. Schedule of events. The committee recommends that the championship semifinal game times mirror the regional semifinal game times of 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., and that the championship final begin at 2 p.m. in 2018.
- b. Sport sponsorship. The committee reviewed current and projected sport sponsorship for Division III women's lacrosse and noted an expected increase of five new teams in 2017-18 and 10 new teams in 2018-19. The committee will keep an eye on how the additional teams could impact potential new automatic qualifying conferences in the future.
- c. Bracket. The committee reviewed the bracket format for 2018. Staff noted that the bracket will increase from 40 to 42 teams. Based on current sponsorship numbers, this is expected to add two Pool C bids.
- d. Preliminary-round hosting process. The committee directed staff to review the hosting process at the IWLCA meetings in November with the coaches to educate them on the process.
- e. Site representatives. The committee noted that the site reps did a good job during the preliminary rounds and felt the resources and training provided was thorough; evaluations from the site reps confirmed this. The committee plans to confirm site rep availability prior to selection day instead of relying solely on the results of the availability survey.
- f. Commencement conflicts. The committee believes that championship matchups should not be adjusted for graduation; however, game times could be adjusted depending on impact

to all teams involved. The committee will make a good-faith effort in the future to accommodate teams that have submitted their paperwork on time regarding these conflicts.

**9. National committee and regional advisory committee.** Susan Hoffman, associate athletics director at the College at Brockport, State University of New York, will be the new East region representative. Kim Masimore, head women's lacrosse coach/SWA at Dickinson College, will be the new Mid-Atlantic region representative. Both terms are set to expire on August 31, 2021. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee roster and noted necessary replacements due to term expiration or job changes.

**10. Rules.** The committee received an update from Rachel Seewald, associate director of championships and alliances. Ms. Seewald reviewed the recent rules proposals from the rules committee and shared information on next steps. The committee discussed the new proposals and provided feedback.

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

**12. Future meeting dates.** The 2018 annual meeting will be June 11-12 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Celine Cunningham, Stevens Institute of Technology; Empire 8.*

*Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.*

<b>Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee June 12-13, 2017, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
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.
Patty Kloidt, Hamilton College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Meghan O'Connor McDonogh, Catholic University; Landmark Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Melissa Coyne, NCAA Coordinator of Officials (via teleconference).
Carey Harveycutter, City of Salem.
John Shaner, City of Salem.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Natasha Harris, Championships and Alliances.
Jean Orr, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.