



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 11-12, 2018, 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 2019 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; Heartland Collegiate Women's Lacrosse 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; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; and USA South Athletic Conference.

Projected pool allocations

Pool A – 31

Pool B – 1

Pool C – 10

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. The 31 conferences meet the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.2 and have completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. Pool allocations may adjust pending 2018-19 sponsorship numbers.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Selection criteria at time of selection – record vs. ranked opponents.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the record vs. ranked opponents' criterion include only the record vs. ranked opponents for the final ranking at time of selections.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. In 2017-18, each week of ranking used only the previous week's ranking to compile the record vs. ranked opponents, but at selection it would expand to include the last regional ranking and the final selection ranking to compile the record vs. ranked opponents' criterion. The committee felt it was more consistent and accurate to include only the final selection ranking to compile the record vs. ranked opponents' criterion for selections.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Day off between semifinals and finals.**

- (1) Recommendation. Alter the championship schedule to include a day off between the semifinals and finals (Friday-Sunday).
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. In 2017-18, the women's lacrosse rule changes dramatically increased the speed of the game and the energy expended by the athletes without increasing the number of players used during a contest. In a sport that already would benefit from a day off between games in all rounds for recovery purposes, the committee felt it is vitally important now more than ever that the championship weekend include a day off at least between the semifinals and finals.

Additionally, Division I and Division II incorporate a day off between the semifinals and finals of their respective championships. In 2019 and 2020, the Division III championship will be conducted jointly with Division I (2019) and Division II (2020), which will make scheduling much simpler with the day off.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$5,700.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation would positively affect the student-athletes, as it would allow more recovery time during the championship weekend, especially with the change in playing rules as of 2018.

**d. Committee chair appointment.**

- (1) Recommendation. That Susan Hoffman, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator at College at Brockport, State University of New York, be named chair of the committee. Ms. Hoffman will replace Michael Duffy as chair when Mr. Duffy's term expires at the end of August.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2018.
- (3) Rationale. Ms. Hoffman is a veteran of not only the women's lacrosse committee but other national sport committees as well. She is a valuable member of the committee and was unanimously approved to chair this committee in 2018-19.
- (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 2017 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from 2016-17 as submitted.
- 3. Governance updates.** Jay Jones from governance and Kristin DiBiase from academic and membership affairs updated the committee on a variety of topics, including alcohol sales, budgeting, graduate transfer, social media rules, credits to graduate, mandated graduation rates, advertisements, and future topics being considered for the NCAA Convention.
- 4. Sport sponsorship.** The women's lacrosse committee will be submitting a request after the 2019 annual meeting to expand the bracket in 2020. The committee will also request adding a sixth region and committee member.

In 2019, the sport will feature three new conferences, and membership will increase by 12 programs to a total of 292, with an additional six to eight teams expected by 2020.

At 290 programs (using the 1:6.5 ratio), that would equal a bracket of 44 teams, and at 299 programs in 2020, that would equal a bracket of 46 teams.

Additionally, with new programs and new conferences, the current five regions would range from 45 to 75 programs. The committee has a new regional alignment that would create regions that range from 43 to 55 teams and five or six conferences in each of the six regions.

**5. Review of the 2018 championship.** The committee reviewed all aspects related to the 2018 championship.

**a. Regional rankings.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and noted that the “last 25 percent of the season” was not something they valued, as it was very misleading. The committee also expressed interest in adding a performance indicator. The committee also agreed to recommend altering the way in which the final selection data are compiled for “record vs. ranked opponents” (see Action Item 2-b above).

**b. Selections and bracketing.** The committee reviewed the selections and bracketing process for the championship, noting it would be beneficial for conference finals to begin earlier on Sunday if possible, or the committee would look at moving the selection announcement to Monday morning.

**c. Roster submissions.** The committee directed staff to formalize the form across all rounds and to clarify that no changes to the roster can be made once at the site of competition, specifically between contests.

**d. Preliminary rounds.**

(1) Evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the preliminary rounds and noted generally positive reviews. Hotels continue to be an issue, but little can be done with graduation taking up many of the local hotels months in advance and driving up pricing.

(2) Game times. The committee agreed to provide a 22-hour minimum between game times when teams play two days in a row. The committee wants hosts to continue having flexibility on start times and moving the recommended start times but also wants to provide teams with a minimum amount of rest between contests.

**e. Championship.**

(1) Evaluations. Despite a low survey response, discussions on site and correspondence from the membership to the committee indicated positive feedback regarding the host institution.”.

(2) Host operations. The committee noted that Salem did a tremendous job operating the women’s lacrosse championship. Members noted that Salem was also hosting softball and experienced many weather issues with that tournament, but it didn’t cause any issues with lacrosse. The championship went very well, and the hosts improved upon all areas that needed to be addressed from previous years. The committee applauds the great work of Roanoke College, City of Salem, and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference for a great championship experience.

- (3) Banquet. Overall, the committee enjoyed the banquet. No changes were suggested.
  - (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 all of these areas.
- 6. 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 work Dave Shiffman performed on site also was a tremendous help to the committee.
- 7. 2019 championship.**
- a. Schedule of events.** The committee felt no changes were needed to the schedule for 2019 in Richmond, Virginia. The committee did, however, submit a recommendation requesting a day of rest for future championships between the semifinals and finals (see Action Item 2-c above).
  - b. Bracket.** The committee reviewed the bracket format for 2019. Staff noted that the bracket will remain a 42-team bracket.
  - c. Site representatives.** The committee urged each regional chair to clearly emphasize on their first regional conference call that RAC members are expected to serve as preliminary-round site representative unless extenuating circumstances preclude them from doing so. If they cannot serve as a site rep, the RAC member should arrange for another representative from their conference.
  - d. 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.
  - e. Annual meeting.** The committee requested the annual meeting be moved to the site of the championship. The meeting would take place on Sunday after the championship and conclude on Monday morning. This will allow all committee members to book Monday travel and will lessen the need to change travel plans if there are any delays like what happened to the championship game in 2018.

8. **National committee and regional advisory committee.** Kimberly Wenger, commissioner of the Northwest Conference, was appointed as the West region representative. Her term will expire on August 31, 2022. The committee also selected Susan Hoffman as the chair of the committee for 2018-19 (see Action Item 2-d above).
9. **Rules.** The committee received an update from Rachel Seewald, associate director of championships and alliances, who noted strong support for the rule changes that took effect this year. Ms. Seewald also shared a change that the rules committee will recommend this coming season in order to address unintended consequences from a previous rule change.
10. **Review of NCAA manuals.** The committee reviewed the championship manuals and timelines and asked staff to make the recommended changes.
11. **Future meeting dates.** The 2019 annual meeting will be in Richmond, Virginia, on Sunday-Monday following the championship finals.

*Committee Chair: Michael Duffy, Adrian College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.  
Staff Liaison: Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.*

<b>Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee June 11-12, 2018, Meeting</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>
Kim Masimore, Dickinson College.
Michael Duffy, Adrian College.
Emily Fisher, University of Mount Union.
Susan Hoffman, College at Brockport, State University of New York.
Patty Kloldt, Hamilton College. (via teleconference)
<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>
Kevin Alcox, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jay Jones, Governance.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.
Kristin DiBiase, Academic and Membership Affairs.