



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 6-8, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the following six conferences receive automatic qualification privileges for the 2018 championship: Atlantic Hockey Conference, Big Ten Conference, ECAC Hockey Conference, Hockey East Conference, National Collegiate Hockey Conference and Western Collegiate Hockey Conference.
 - b. Effective date. 2018 championship.
 - c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
- 2. Announcements.** Announcements were made and the committee took no action.
- 3. 2016 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 annual meeting report as written.
- 4. Review of 2017 championship.**
 - a. Review of championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations submitted and noted that for the 2018 championship the survey link should be sent to the administrators and coaches in order to boost the response rate from participating teams.
 - b. Committee calls.** The committee will continue to use the committee calls to help plan for the AHCA meetings. The committee felt that the early planning and the calls with

conference reps after the Frozen Four helped make those meetings extremely productive this year.

- c. **Student-athlete reception.** The committee continues to review the location and program the reception. For 2018 in Saint Paul the host is already considering different options for the event. Members also asked staff to explore whether John Buccigross of ESPN could serve as the emcee for the evening.
- d. **Officiating.** The committee met with Frank Cole, national coordinator of officials, via teleconference to review the tournament and the process for selecting the officials for the tournament. Mr. Cole discussed the selection process and reminded committee members that their feedback is important, as the committee has the ultimate sign-off on the officials selected. The committee noted that for the 2018 championship, teams should be reminded that if there is an issue a coach would like to discuss on site, it should be first be addressed with the committee member on site.

The committee also discussed the potential of a national pool of officials used to work all the conferences throughout the year. This is just a discussion point and would need to be further vetted, but it is something that the committee wants to keep on the table for future meetings.

- e. **Selection process.** The committee discussed the committee replacement policy and noted that it applies to all sport committes. Staff will work with conferences to make sure the committee replacement from any conference has hockey committee experience if possible.
- f. **Automatic qualification deadline.** The committee noted that automatic qualifiers from each conference must be declared by midnight on the Saturday of selections. One conference has asked the committee to consider moving that deadline to Sunday to accommodate the potential for conference tournament play on Sunday. Staff will follow up with ESPN to see what options are available regarding television windows for the selection show.
- g. **Media coordination.** The media survey provided a very favorable review of the championship. Team appreciated the additional credentials for use at the finals site postgame. This practice will continue for future championships.
- h. **Discussion with ESPN.** The committee met with ESPN representatives Anthony DeVita, Dan Margulis and John Vassallo via teleconference. The committee thanked ESPN for its continued support of the championship. Members noted the groundbreaking efforts this year with the use of the ref cameras, the in-goal robotic cameras, the continued in-period interviews, and the relationship and trust that exists with this group.

The committee noted that the overall ratings were up. The committee continues to discuss the regional game times with ESPN and thanked the broadcast partner for the changes that have been made in game times to date. ESPN will explore television windows again this year and whether the Friday afternoon game time can be adjusted. The committee also asked that ESPN to explore whether the selection show could be televised any later. ESPN will follow up with staff on the available options.

The committee continues to provide feedback to ESPN on the television talent for the championship. Committee members will provide ESPN with some specific examples of areas they hope can be addressed for the 2018 championship. ESPN also asked that the NCAA staff and committee explore the potential of moving the championship to a Saturday/Monday format in the future. The staff and committee will review and determine the feasibility of this change.

- 5. Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee noted that having the three incoming members attend this meeting helped acclimate the new members and maintain a sense of continuity for the group.

The committee also agreed that Tom McGinnis will remain as the committee chair for 2017-18. Steve Metcalf will serve as vice chair.

- 6. American Hockey Coaches Association convention.** The committee was pleased with the preparation for the convention this year. Members noted that the coaches gained a better understanding of the challenges the committee faces when selecting regional sites.
- 7. Annual meeting dates.** The 2018 annual meeting will take place June 12-14 in Indianapolis.
- 8. Future regional sites.** The committee continued to discuss different formats for the regional competition of the championship. John Pfeffenberger from the NCAA finance staff joined the meeting to talk through the potential financial impact of nonpredetermined sites versus predetermined sites. The committee asked for more detailed information regarding the financial ramifications of hosting on campus sites.

The committee also identified 12-13 potential sites that could host future regionals. Staff will work with committee members and commissioners to gauge potential interest from these sites by this fall. If enough neutral sites are interested, the committee will consider initiating a regional bid process in January 2018. Staff will keep the committee informed on the process.

- 9. 2018 Frozen Four.** Staff noted that planning for the 2018 Frozen Four is underway. The Saint Paul organizing committee was in attendance at the 2017 championship. Regular conference calls with the local organizing committee will begin in August, and the site visit will occur in October or November.

- 10. Conference commissioners.** The committee met with the ice hockey conference commissioners via teleconference and reviewed items related to officiating and future regionals sites. The commissioners agreed to help the committee identify sites that may be interested hosting a predetermined regional. Staff will follow up in the fall with the commissioners.

Committee Chair: Tom McGinnis, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Big Ten Conference

*Staff Liaison(s): Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee June 6-8, 2017, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Mike Corbett, University of Alabama, Huntsville; Western Collegiate Hockey Conference.	
Mike Kemp, University of Nebraska, Omaha; National Collegiate Hockey Conference.	
Tom McGinnis, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Big Ten Conference.	
Jim McLaughlin, Union College; ECAC Hockey Conference.	
Steve Metcalf, University of New Hampshire; Hockey East Conference.	
Brian Riley, U.S. Military Academy; Atlantic Hockey Conference.	
Mike Schaefer, Cornell University; ECAC Hockey Conference (incoming committee member).	
Guests in Attendance:	
Joe Bertagna, Hockey East Conference (via teleconference).	
Frank Cole, National Coordinator of Ice Hockey Officials (via teleconference).	
Bob DeGregorio, Atlantic Hockey Conference (via teleconference).	
Anthony DeVita, ESPN (via teleconference)	
Josh Fenton, National Collegiate Hockey Conference (via teleconference).	
Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey Conference (via teleconference).	
Dan Margulis, ESPN (via teleconference).	
Billy Robertson, Western Collegiate Hockey Conference (via teleconference).	
Brad Traviola, Big Ten Conference (via teleconference).	
John Vassallo, ESPN (via teleconference)	
Kathy Wynters, Hockey East Conference (via teleconference).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.	
Kristin Fasbender, Championships and Alliances.	
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.	
Paula Wustrack, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
John Pffeffenberger, Administrative Services.	