



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING

**Action Item:** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation to approve automatic qualification for 10 conference, provide a video review umpire at the final site and increase the bench size for additional rostered athletes over the squad size of 24.

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Video review official.** The committee recommends adding a fourth official at the final site only with video review responsibilities. (See Action Item 2-b.)
2. **Bench size increase.** The committee recommends increasing the bench size for additional rostered student-athletes above the squad size of 24 to improve the student-athlete experience in the tournament. (See Action Item 2-c).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 10 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2019 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship: America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; and Patriot League.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Video review official.**

- (1) Recommendation. That a fourth official be assigned as the designated video review official at the final site for the semifinals and final.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. A designated video review official allows the review to be conducted by an official who was not a part of making the on-field call. The review would be executed via radio communication between the umpires on the field and the video umpire in the press box or other location. This process would shorten the time frame of a video review as the umpire would not have to leave the field of play and then get set with the monitor and headset to communicate with production. This is the same process in place at the international level. Currently, the final site is equipped with video replay each year. The Division I National Field Hockey Coaches Association supports this recommendation.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$648. This expense reflects a game fee of \$216 for each game. At the finals, the expense is only an additional game fee as the video review official will be assigned from the pod of officials already working at the site. The current budget can absorb this expense.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Use of the video review umpire should decrease the amount of time student-athletes are waiting on the field for a decision.

**c. Bench size increase.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the bench size increases to accommodate up to an additional six rostered student-athletes above the squad size of 24.
- (2) Effective date. 2019 championship.
- (3) Rationale. Additional rostered student-athletes above the squad size of 24 are currently isolated from their teammates during the tournament due to the limited bench size of 30, which leads to a negative student-athlete experience. Teams are currently bringing these additional student-athletes to tournament games. The current bench size includes 24 student-athletes in uniform (squad size), four additional individuals on the travel party of 28, plus one administrator and one medical personnel. When a team has additional student-athletes who cannot be accommodated in the current bench size, those individuals do not have any access like the rest of their teammates – bench, locker room, field access pre-game/postgame. In the last three years, four to five of the 18 tournament teams had

a larger roster size than the 24-person squad size. While the largest roster had 31 student-athletes, there is generally an additional one to four student-athletes to accommodate. These additional student-athletes can easily be accommodated in the bench area during the tournament. The increased bench size would be limited to additional student-athletes only and not institutional personnel. In addition, the additional student-athletes could not be in uniform – which is the same policy currently in place for additional student-athletes in the bench area.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This change would improve the student-athlete experience for all student-athletes in the tournament as their teammates will not be ostracized from the rest of the team during the most important games of the year.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. 2018 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 committee report as submitted.
- 2. National Field Hockey Coaches Association report.** The committee reviewed the document NCAA staff provided to the membership at the National Field Hockey Coaches Association annual convention in January. The committee reviewed feedback the NFHCA provided regarding rules modifications proposals and video review. The committee's recommendations on rules modifications are included in the joint meeting report. See Action Item 2-b for the committee's recommendation on video review.
- 3. Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions from past year.** The committee reviewed recent items on the Competition Oversight Committee's agenda.
- 4. 2018 championship review.**
  - a. Selection.** The committee evaluated the first year of revised selection criteria for rankings and selections and agreed that having all criteria as primary criteria was beneficial to the process. The committee reviewed the 2018 championship bracket composition, the selection process and selection show and recommended no changes.
  - b. Opening, and first and second rounds.** The committee reviewed the administration of the preliminary-round sites, including the post-championship survey completed by participants. In a few instances, the committee noted some areas for improvement and agreed to relay the host-specific survey feedback to the tournament directors. The committee also agreed to take additional steps to secure a larger pool of potential site representatives who are familiar with field hockey and provide additional training.

- c. **Final site.** The committee reviewed all areas of administration at the final site hosted by the University of Louisville including merchandise sales, web stream metrics, hotels, awards presentations and family gathering place. The participants responded to the post-championship survey with positive feedback and specifically highlighted the banquet that was hosted at the Muhammed Ali Center. The committee directed NCAA staff to share feedback with the host staff. The committee commended Louisville for its outstanding hosting efforts for the last two years.

## 5. 2019 action plan.

- a. **Preliminary-round site selection criteria and host responsibilities.** The committee reviewed site selection criteria and host responsibilities and will add field watering decisions to the games committee responsibilities at preliminary rounds.
- b. **Preliminary-round schedule of events.** The committee determined that the current 15-minute warmup period without sticks and balls before the 75-minute practice will be adjusted to a maximum of 15 minutes. If teams do not need the full 15 minutes for warmup, the 75-minute practice time can begin. Also, the committee decided to make no changes to prescribed game times for preliminary rounds and the final site.
- c. **Uniform selection process.** The committee reviewed feedback from a tournament director about the team uniform selection process and directed NCAA staff to update the host operations manual with a clear timeline before preliminary-round games to avoid issues on site. The tournament director or site rep will be responsible for obtaining preferred uniform colors and will respond with any issues by a specified date before arrival on site.
- d. **Committee and staff responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the worksheet outlining the committee responsibilities at the final site and agreed on the following changes: 1) move the awards setup to pregame instead of halftime; and 2) assign team liaisons after second-round games to give teams a committee point of contact before arrival at the final site.
- e. **Rankings.** The committee reviewed the ranking process and will enhance training for regional advisory committee members with a mandatory training call before the season.
- f. **Umpires.** The committee reviewed the umpires and assigning process.
- g. **Sponsorship and alignment.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions sponsoring field hockey in their region. The committee recommended placement of the two new programs into their respective regions for the 2019 season: Merrimack College (reclassifying from Division II) to the Northeast region and Wagner College to the Mideast region.

- h. Video review.** See Action Item 2-b.
  - i. Committee calendar.** The committee reviewed and approved the updated 2019 calendar.
  - j. Bench size.** See Action Item 2-c.
  - k. Strategic plan development.** The committee formed a subcommittee to develop a strategic plan for the Division I Field Hockey Championship. The subcommittee will meet over the next few months and report back to the full committee.
- 6. Manuals.** The committee divided the review of the committee operations manual, the pre-championships manual, the host operations manual and the site representative manual and will ask staff to update them as necessary.
- 7. 2019-2021 championship locations.** The committee reviewed selected championship sites through the 2021 championship.
- 8. Sport committee update.**
- a. Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee thanked Helen Knull, outgoing committee member, for her dedication and service to the championship. The committee also thanked Jamie Mullin for his two years of service as the committee chair. The committee selected Chad Dwyer, associate commissioner of the America East Conference, as new committee chair.
  - b. Regional advisory committee.** The committee reviewed conference representation by region and agreed to add a position for an Atlantic 10 Conference representative in the South region. Further, the committee agreed to replace the expiring term of the second Ivy League position in the Northeast region with a Northeast Conference representative. Conference offices will assign replacement members for the regional advisory committees to complete the 2019 championship season rosters.

*Committee Chair:*     *Jamie Mullin, Syracuse University; Atlantic Coast Conference*  
*Staff Liaison:*     *John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances*

<b>NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee February 4-5, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Chad Dwyer, America East Conference.	
Lynn Farquhar, Saint Joseph's University.	
Steve Kanaby, Colonial Athletic Association.	

Helen Knull, Michigan State University.
Becca Main, Quinnipiac University.
Jamie Mullin, Syracuse University.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Steve Horgan, NCAA coordinator of officials and secretary-rules interpreter.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
None.