



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 27-28, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING

Action Items: The NCAA Division I Sports Oversight Committee will consider recommendations to approve automatic qualification for the 10 qualified conferences.

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 2025 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship: America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big Ten Conference; Coastal Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; and Patriot League.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2023 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 committee report as submitted.
2. **National Field Hockey Coaches Association report.** The committee reviewed feedback from the coaches association convention and included that feedback in the discussion of various recommendations included in this report.

3. **Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions from past year.** The committee reviewed actions the Competition Oversight Committee took at its meetings and videoconferences for the past year.
4. **Joint meeting preparation.** The committee reviewed the agenda for the meeting with all three divisional field hockey committees and discussed its position on the agenda items.
5. **2024 championship review.**

- a. **Selection and bracketing.** The committee reviewed the selection and bracketing process from the 2024 championships and recommended no changes.
- b. **Preliminary-round and final site evaluations.** The committee reviewed the administration of the preliminary-round sites, including the post-championship survey completed by participants. The committee noted some areas for improvement and agreed to relay the host-specific survey feedback to the hosts.

The committee reviewed all areas of administration at the finals hosted by the University of Michigan. Participant surveys indicated positive feedback. The committee and staff also noted that the University of Michigan staff did a tremendous job administering the championship final site. The committee directed NCAA staff to share that feedback with the host staff and commend them for their efforts.

- c. **Site representatives.** The committee discussed the exceptional performance of the site representatives during the preliminary rounds and contemplated strategies to ensure site representatives are secured in advance and prepared for their role.
 - d. **Broadcast and streaming.** The committee reviewed the broadcast and streaming metrics from the championship and was pleased with the ESPN3 and ESPNU broadcasts that continue to elevate the championship and the sport of field hockey.
 - e. **Merchandise sales.** The committee reviewed merchandise sales reports.
 - f. **Hotels.** The committee reviewed participant feedback on hotels, continuing to note the importance and impact of the selected hotels toward the student-athlete experience and will continue to emphasize that with preliminary round hosts.
6. **2025 action plan.**
 - a. **Game and practice times.** The committee reviewed the preliminary round game and practice times and made no adjustments for the upcoming championship. The committee will work with our broadcast partners to determine game times for the semifinals and finals.
 - b. **Access to AI cameras during tournament.** The committee will continue to stress the championship policy that requires host institutions to share AI system technology in the

participant manual and in the administrative meeting. Any game day technology will be available to all participants, including in the bench area if applicable, otherwise usage is not permitted. AI camera usage during practice sessions will not be permissible, including the host team. Cameras used exclusively for video review will not be shared with the bench area of either participating team.

- c. **Sponsorship, alignment and automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions sponsoring field hockey by region. The committee noted some changes due to conference realignment and will continue to monitor any effect on automatic qualification.
- d. **Review 2025 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2025 committee calendar.

7. Playing rules and officiating.

- a. **Rules modifications.** The committee reviewed the proposed rules modifications to provide its position to the rule's subcommittee members.
- b. **Rules interpreter.** Cheryl Bruttomesso, NCAA field hockey rules interpreter, provided an update on rules issues during the season and feedback on the proposed rules modifications.
- c. **Officials.** Tim Vaughan, NCAA field hockey national coordinator of officials, provided a report on officiating for the tournament and umpire education plans for the spring and fall seasons. The committee reviewed feedback on the umpires from the tournament and will share it with Mr. Vaughan.
- d. **National coordinator of officials.** The committee provided feedback on Mr. Vaughan's performance as national coordinator of officials and encouraged greater collaboration with conference assignors.

- 8. **Manual review.** 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 as necessary.

- 9. **Future confirmed championship locations.** The committee reviewed selected championship sites through the 2027 championship.

10. Sport committee composition.

- a. **Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee thanked Pam Bustin, an outgoing committee member, for her dedication and service to the championship.
- b. **Regional advisory committee.** The committee reviewed conference representation by region. Conference offices will assign replacement members for the regional advisory committees to complete the 2025 championship season rosters.

- c. **Committee and staff responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the worksheet outlining the committee responsibilities at the final site and made no changes.

Committee Chair: Amy Densovich, Kent State University, Mid-American Conference
Staff Liaison: Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee January 27-28, 2025, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Pam Bustin, Duke University.	
Amy Densovich, Kent State University.	
Jarred Martin, The Ohio State University.	
Joanie Milhous, Villanova University.	
Sandra Roecker, University of Massachusetts Lowell.	
Sydney Van Der Merwe, Sacred Heart University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Cheryl Bruttomesso, NCAA Field Hockey Rules Interpreter.	
Tim Vaughan, NCAA Field Hockey National Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Mariah Martin.	