REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE JAN. 26-27, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- **Request to Review NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-8 Playing and Practice Seasons – Foreign Tours – Time Lapse Between Tours – Basketball.** The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee was asked to review NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2026-8, which would eliminate the once-in-four-year restriction on institutional foreign tours in basketball, and consider whether to make the same change in field hockey. After discussion, the committee agreed to ask that the NCAA Division I Cabinet include field hockey in the proposal. The cabinet will consider this request during its April 2026 meeting.

***INFORMATIONAL ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Playing and Practice Seasons – In-Season Foreign Competition – Time Lapse Between In-Season Competition – Field Hockey. The Field Hockey Oversight Committee introduced legislation to eliminate the once-in-four-year restriction specific to in-season foreign competition.

a. Action. The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Oversight Committee introduced legislation, in field hockey, to eliminate the once-in-four-year restriction on in-season foreign competition during the regular season.

b. Effective date. Immediate.

c. Rationale. The recommendation to eliminate the in-season foreign competition limitation aligns with the proposed change to eliminate the once-in-four-year restriction.

d. Estimated budget impact. Dependent on institutional decisions related to foreign competition.

e. Student-athlete impact. Enhances the student-athlete experience by providing additional opportunities to travel internationally and gain cultural experiences.

2. Playing and Practice Season – Preseason Practice.

a. Action. The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Oversight Committees introduced legislation, in field hockey, to amend the first permissible practice date to allow practice sessions to begin 21 days before the first allowable date of competition. Currently, a member institution shall not commence practice sessions in field hockey prior to 16 calendar days before the first schedule regular-season intercollegiate contest (not a scrimmage, exhibition game or alumni contest that may occur before that first scheduled regular-season contest).

b. Effective date. Immediate.

c. Rationale. The recommendation to amend the start date for practice fosters equitable practice environments that prioritize the well-being and development of all student-athletes. This adjustment will not alter the institution's overall playing season but will enhance preparation for competitive play.

d. Estimated budget impact. None.

e. Student-athlete impact. Enhances the prospective student-athlete experience by allowing more time for development in their sport.

3. Playing Rules – Rule Modification.

a. Action. To modify the current Division I overtime format from determining the winner by playing up to two 10-minute sudden victory periods of teams consisting of seven team players (of which one may be a goalkeeper) to one 15-minute overtime period played in a sudden victory format with 11 players per team. All cards will carry over to the overtime period. The five-minute break between the end of regulation and the start of overtime will still be in effect. If the contest remains tied at the conclusion of the overtime period, the game will be decided by a shootout.

b. Effective date. Immediate.

c. Rationale. This change prioritizes student-athlete well-being by reducing the cumulative physiological load created by the current overtime structure. It also allows the contest to be decided through sustained, true team play before progressing to a shootout, while preserving the excitement and competitive integrity of a sudden-victory conclusion.

d. Estimated budget impact. None.

e. Student-athlete impact. This change prioritizes student-athlete well-being by reducing the cumulative physiological load created by the current overtime structure.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The NCAA Division I Field Hockey Oversight Committee and NCAA staff liaisons engaged in brief introductions.

2. **2024-25 annual meeting report.** The committee received an update on the annual meeting reports, including the purpose of the meeting, a recap of the 2024-25 season, and a summary of discussion regarding the playing rules.

3. **November Field Hockey Oversight Committee meeting report.** The committee was provided with a recap of the November 2025 report.

4. **National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) annual convention collegiate voting results regarding NCAA rules modifications.** The committee reviewed the annual National Field Hockey Coaches Association convention, focusing on the playing rules feedback, votes surrounding the notification-of-transfer window and discussions and feedback concerning the 2026 championship (e.g., the banquet, hotels, gifts, etc.).

5. **2025 championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2025 field hockey championship, including the selection process, bracketing, preliminary-round and finals site evaluations, site representatives, broadcast, hotels, and awards.

6. **Discussion on legislative concepts.** The committee continued discussing several legislative concepts presented by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. In addition, the committee was provided with an update on the ongoing legislative audit and next steps with the Division I Cabinet to conduct a comprehensive review of NCAA Division I Bylaws 11 (Personnel), 13 (Recruiting and Inducement) and 17 (Playing and Practice Seasons).

    a. **Travel restriction during nonchampionship segment**. The committee began discussing the travel restrictions during the nonchampionship segment and expressed interest in eliminating the restriction requiring teams to travel by ground transportation. While the committee considered a legislative change, it provided feedback to the NCAA staff on potential waiver relief on a case-by-case basis in unique circumstances specific to participation against a national team.

    b. **Notification-of-transfer window.** The committee began discussing the notification-of-transfer window, reviewing data and guidance from the Division I Cabinet. The committee reviewed two concepts presented at the annual NFHCA convention: (1) move to one transfer portal window that opens after the end of the season, and (2) move to opening the transfer portal window to the Tuesday after the end of the NCAA field hockey championship. The committee will continue discussing this matter during future meetings.

c. **Amend Bylaws 13.1.3.1 (Recruiting Contact Date – Telephone Calls), 13.1.5.1(Contacts), and 13.6.2.1. (Official Visits), and 13.7.1.1 (Unofficial Visits)**. The committee continued discussing initial recruiting contact and did not support introducing a legislative change at this time. The committee requested that the NFHCA share the committee's feedback on the impact on prospective student-athletes. The committee will hold further discussion until feedback is received from the NFHCA.

7. **2026 action plan.** The committee was provided with an update on the 2026 action plan for the upcoming championship specific to game and practice times, sponsorship, alignment and automatic qualification.

   a. **Game times.** The committee discussed game time structure and suggested staggering game times in the first and second rounds. The committee feels this will allow for greater exposure of the championship coverage with games being played throughout the day from the four different host sites.

   b. **Practice times.** The committee discussed the current practice schedule structure and agreed to increase the buffer between practices from the current 15 minutes to 30.

   c. **Banquet.** The committee discussed discontinuing the championship banquet. This was also discussed at the NFHCA convention and received support. The committee will use the budgeted funds to provide the student-athletes with an additional gift at the championship site. Each of the participating teams can now have a special dinner with just their teammates prior to the national semifinals.

   d. **Championship seeding.** The committee continued discussing the ability to seed 50% of the championship instead of the current 25% during the bracketing process. The committee noted several other sports recently adopted this policy.

8. **Playing rules and officiating.** The committee received reports on the playing rules from the secretary-rules editor and the national coordinator of officials and reviewed the 2026-27 committee calendar.

9. **Future championship locations.** The committee received an update on the future championship locations.

10. **Regional advisory committee.** The committee received an update and provided feedback on the regional advisory committee structure and roster. Specifically, the committee discussed the approach surrounding the makeup of the RAC and determining regional

rankings with regard to developing the bracket. The new structure will have one representative from each of the 10 conferences that sponsor field hockey along with the seven members of the championship subcommittee. This will allow the RAC to assist the championship subcommittee with a more national rather than regional approach.

11. **Joint meeting agenda and preparation.** The committee reviewed and prepared for the joint Divisions I, II and III meeting.

12. **Other business.** The committee did not discuss any other agenda items during the other business session.

Committee Chair: *Amy Densevich, Kent State University*
Staff Liaison(s): *Khadian Harrison, Division I Governance and Member Services*
Will Hopkins, Championships

NCAA Division I Field Hockey Oversight Committee Jan. 26-27, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Stacey Bean, Virginia Commonwealth University.
Cheryl Bruttomesso, Rules Editor (nonvoting member).
Cate Clark, National Field Hockey Coaches Association (nonvoting member).
Tim Coffey, Longwood University (nonvoting member).
Amy Densevich, Kent State University.
Jarred Martin, The Ohio State University.
Joanie Milhous, Villanova University.
Caityln Prandato, Harvard University.
Sydney Van Der Merwe, Sacred Heart University.
Tim Vaughn, National Coordinator of Officials (nonvoting member).
Richard Zhu, Stanford University.
Absentees:
Maddie Zimmer, Northwestern University.
Guests in Attendance:
None.

NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Khadian Harrison and Will Hopkins.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Paden Alie, Danielle Day, JD Hamilton and Miriah Martin.