



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 14-15, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING

Action Items: The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider recommendations to approve automatic qualification for the 10 qualified conferences, increase the bench size and add the KPI as a selection criterion.

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Bench size.** 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-b).
2. **Selection criteria.** The committee recommends adding the KPI as a selection criterion (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 2021 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.** 2021 championship.
- (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
- (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

b. **Bench size increase.**

- (1) **Recommendation.** Increase the bench size from the current 30 to 34 to accommodate additional rostered student-athletes. The parameters for the 30 original spots remain

as 24 student-athletes in uniform, four official travel party members, a team administrator, and one medical personnel. The four additional spots must be used for rostered student-athletes only.

- (2) Effective date. 2021 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 past few years, there is generally an additional one to four student-athletes to accommodate per team. 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. Also, the additional student-athletes cannot be in uniform – which is the same policy currently in place for additional student-athletes in the bench area.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None. Teams are already bringing these individuals to the tournament.
- (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.

c. Selection criteria.

- (1) Recommendation. That the KPI be added to the primary selection criteria for the Division I Field Hockey Championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2022 championship.
- (3) Rationale. For the last few years, the National Field Hockey Coaches Association has requested that the KPI be added as a selection criterion for the Division I Field Hockey Championship and not as a replacement for the RPI. The committee has reviewed the data and agrees that the metric has value to the selection process by providing another data point to differentiate teams. The current selection criteria rely heavily on the strength of schedule, which is a component of the RPI. The RPI relies on winning percentage, yet it is known that winning percentage cannot tell the whole

story of a team.

KPI is a results-based metric that quantifies and ranks team resumes by assigning a value to each game played. The best win possible is worth about +1.0, the worst loss about -1.0, and virtual tie is worth zero. Adjustments are made to game's value based on game location, efficiency and opponent quality. Game values are averaged for a team's KPI ranking. KPI's game values are non-linear, meaning that the midpoint of the data set is not at the 50% mark of team quality. A team's schedule can be sorted from highest-quality win to lowest quality loss. All games are counted, and each team begins each season at zero.

By assigning a value to each game played (as KPI and select others can do), the Field Hockey Committee can compare resumes side by side from best win to worst loss; coaches and administrators can get a real-time snapshot of their resume; and coaches and administrators can budget and project metrics in how they schedule for a subsequent season. By referencing more than one metric, the committee can create a narrative around a team and identify and minimize potential outlier data points.

The committee cites Bylaw 27.7.6.3.1.3.3. Championships Selection Criteria, which gives each committee "the authority to establish championships selection criteria" in requesting approval from the Competition Oversight Committee for this addition. The committee also notes that KPI is already an official resource that the Division I Men's Basketball Committee uses to enhance its evaluation of each team, so there is precedent for its use by a sport committee.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. There would be more data available to the committee to help select the best teams for the tournament.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2020 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2020 committee report as submitted.
- 2. Strategic plan review.** The committee reviewed and made the following adjustments to the short-term and long-term goals:
 - Moved the creation of a full field hockey rules committee from long term to short term.
 - Moved goals related to the site selection process from short term to long term.
 - Added a short-term goal of including a clinic or professional development opportunity at the championship final site
 - Added a long-term goal of maintaining linear broadcast coverage for the championship beyond 2023.

- 3. National Field Hockey Coaches Association report.** The committee reviewed the document NCAA staff provided to the membership at the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division I coaches' huddle. The committee received an update regarding coaches association actions, including a new executive director and plans for the annual convention in 2022.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 2020 championship review.**

 - a. Selection.** The committee noted the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic put on the selection process with limited or no nonconference scheduling and reduced number of competitions. The committee discussed strategies to improve consistencies in the regional advisory committee rankings and on-boarding of new committee members going forward.
 - b. First- and second-round predetermined site evaluations.** The committee reviewed the administration of the predetermined 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 tournament directors.
 - c. Final site evaluations.** The committee reviewed all areas of administration at the finals hosted by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Participant surveys indicated positive feedback and specifically highlighted the host staff. The committee directed NCAA staff to share that feedback with the host staff and commend them for their outstanding efforts.
 - d. Broadcast.** The committee was extremely pleased with the ESPN3 and ESPNU coverage of the championship this year and noted it was the first time since 1987 that the championship was on broadcast television. The committee noted the exceptional viewership and anticipates continuing the partnership with ESPN to showcase the student-athletes and the sport.
 - e. Umpires.** The committee reviewed participant feedback on the umpires and directed NCAA staff to share it with the national coordinator of officials for improvement. National Coordinator of Officials Steve Horgan informed the committee that he would be retiring at the end of his current contract. The committee thanked Mr. Horgan for his service and will work with the other divisional field hockey committees to hire a new national coordinator for the 2021 season.
- 6. 2021 action plan.**

- a. **Bench size.** With the completion of the review being conducted by the Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group, the committee submitted a recommendation to increase the bench size at the championship (see Action Item 2-b).
 - b. **Selection criteria.** The committee submitted a recommendation to add the KPI metric to the selection criteria (see Action Item 2-c).
 - c. **Committee and staff responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the worksheet outlining the committee responsibilities at the final site and made no changes.
 - d. **Sponsorship and alignment.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions sponsoring field hockey by region. The committee noted Bellarmine University will join the Mid-American Conference for the 2021 season.
 - e. **Review 2021 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed and approved the updated 2021 committee calendar.
7. **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 them as necessary.
8. **Future championship locations.** The committee reviewed selected championship sites through the 2025 championship.
9. **Sport committee composition.**
 - a. **Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee thanked Steve Kanaby, outgoing committee member, for his dedication and service to the championship and for his service as committee chair, especially during this challenging year.
 - b. **Rules subcommittee.** The committee selected Jennie Gilbert to replace Mr. Kanaby as a representative on the rules subcommittee.
 - c. **Regional advisory committee.** The committee reviewed conference representation by region. Conference offices will assign replacement members for the regional advisory committees to complete the 2021 championship season rosters.
 - d. **Committee chair.** Ms. Gilbert, associate athletics director and senior woman administrator of Miami University (Ohio), was selected as the committee chair.

Committee Chair: Steve Kanaby, Colonial Athletic Association
Staff Liaison: John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee June 14-15, 2021, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Britt Broady, University of California, Davis.	
Lynn Farquhar, Saint Joseph's University.	
Jennifer Gilbert, Miami University (Ohio).	
Steve Kanaby, Colonial Athletic Association.	
Becca Main, Quinnipiac University.	
Caitlyn Prandato, Harvard University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
John E. Bugner, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Zach Christopher, Championships and Alliances.	