



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 29-30, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Access ratio model for selections.** The committee is recommending that bids be allocated annually based on an access ratio model, similar to the process for baseball, women's soccer and men's and women's tennis. (See Nonlegislative Item.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative item.**

- **Access ratio model for selections.**

1. Recommendation. Allocate bids annually based on an access ratio model, similar to the process for baseball, women's soccer and men's and women's tennis.
2. Effective date. For the 2024 championship.
3. Rationale. As a result of the expansion of the field hockey bracket from six to eight teams and the implementation of automatic qualifiers beginning with the 2024 championship, the committee reviewed any necessary changes to the current regional alignment. Due to the uneven distribution of conferences in each region, this model will ensure equitable access to the championship while maintaining the natural regions for regular-season competition. The committee will recommend an access distribution based on sports sponsorship annually to the Division II Championships Committee. Under current sports sponsorship, this would result in a distribution of five bids from the Atlantic region (two automatic qualifiers, one each from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and South Atlantic Conference, plus three at-large teams) and three bids from the East region (one automatic-qualifier from the Northeast-10 Conference plus two at-large teams).
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. This model will ensure equitable access to the championship.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Approval of 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the Jan. 30, 2023, annual meeting report as written.
2. **2023 championship review.** The committee was pleased with the overall championship experience for student-athletes, from the first round through the finals site. The committee was unhappy with Tupelo Honey's placement of their cameras used for streaming at the finals site, as they were not what was discussed prior to arriving on-site and did not work well for video review. The committee would prefer to have one camera at each goal at the ends of the field, and at least one (or possibly two) camera(s) at the center line. If Tupelo is unable to help with specific video review cameras, the committee plans to recommend adding a requirement for hosts to provide this equipment for all rounds.

The host operations manual states that the NCAA championship first-round host institutions are responsible for providing video of their game to all teams in the championship field using open video exchange through TeamXStream or other means if necessary. Once at the finals site, the championship host is responsible for uploading video of the semifinal and final games to TeamXStream. At the finals site, the host coach was out of TeamXStream hours, so the committee took on this responsibility, working late into the night. If this happens again in the future, the committee will charge the host to share via other means so the committee does not have to do this. The coaches who are still playing can then upload to TeamXStream themselves if needed.

Positive feedback was received regarding the web stream and the commentator. The teams liked the hotels but would prefer breakfast included in the price and a lower rate. The hotels for the 2024 championship do include complimentary breakfast.

The committee agreed to announce the all-tournament team immediately after the conclusion of the championship game beginning with the 2024 championship. In past years, the committee voted on the team the week after the championship and names were added to the NCAA championships newsletter. The committee wants to recognize the athletes publicly at the finals site to make it a more special event.

The committee noted that the National Field Hockey Coaches Association is no longer supporting the all-star game.

3. **2024 championship site planning – Gaffney, South Carolina.** Limestone College will host the 2024 championship. Hotels are secured in Spartanburg, South Carolina, approximately 20 miles from the venue.

4. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the selection criteria and made no changes. The committee discussed confidentiality in regional and national calls and commented that it is improved and will keep up with reminders on calls.
5. **2024-45 committee timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the timeline.
6. **Division II governance update.** Maritza Jones and Ryan Jones from the Division II governance staff updated the committee on the 2023-24 Division II priorities.
7. **Division II academic and membership affairs update.** Rachel Denton, assistant director of academic and membership affairs, spoke with the committee about key updates from the NCAA Convention, including five proposals, all of which are effective August 1, 2024. Two key proposals are automatic qualifiers for all team sports except football and establishing 35 as the minimum number of schools to sponsor a sport to establish and maintain a Division II championship. If the number of schools falls below 35, there is a three-year grace period. There will also be a waiver opportunity if extenuating circumstances warrant an extension of the grace period. The Division II Championships Committee will discuss the waiver process at the February 14-15 meeting.
8. **Division II Championships Committee update.** Karen Kirsch, director of championships, updated the committee on key topics from the championships committee. She relayed that bracket expansion was approved to increase from six to eight teams and that the automatic-qualification proposal was adopted.
9. **Regionalization Review.** The committee discussed a request from the Division II Championships Committee seeking feedback regarding the Division II regionalization model and opportunities to revise the current approach to bracketing. The Championships Committee will review the sport committee feedback at its June 17-18 meeting.
10. **Rules update.** Cheryl Bruttomesso, rules interpreter, updated the committee on the rules proposals discussed at the convention and explained that the proposals will be discussed and reviewed by the rules subcommittee. Ms. Bruttomesso noted that she would vet the proposals with the rules subcommittee before putting out to the membership in the future. She also discussed better timing for the rules process in the future.
11. **Officiating update.** Tim Vaughan, national coordinator of officials, updated the committee on the prior year's championship. The committee noted that field hockey needs to expand its officiating pool for all divisions. The committee considered Mr. Vaughan's suggestion that Division II hold its selection show Sunday night, similar to Divisions I and III, to help get information to officials sooner and therefore secure the best available Division II officials, but the committee ultimately decided to keep the announcement on Monday afternoon. Since the bracket is expanding by two teams, the committee wants to see how the 2024 selections go

before considering a change to Sunday evening. Mr. Vaughan suggested that in the future the NCAA hire a national assignor for all divisions, like men's lacrosse.

- 12. National Field Hockey Coaches Association update.** The committee received an update from the committee member coaches who attended the NFHCA convention. The committee reviewed and discussed key items from the convention.
- 13. Review of manuals.** The championship staff will implement changes and edits as appropriate based on the informational items and any feedback the committee provides.
- 14. Chair election.** The committee selected Julie Munson, head field hockey coach at Southern New Hampshire University, to continue as chair for the 2024-25 academic year.
- 15. Other business.** The committee discussed the low number of bids submitted so far and will reach out to schools in their area to garner more. The committee also discussed looking at a more "special" location for the championship, since usual hosts are locations where they have played during the regular season, along with potential combined championships (once every four years). Location for a joint championship is crucial and not many venues have access to two similar fields.
- 16. Future meeting dates.** The next annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27-28, 2025. The group intends to remain on the same timeline as Divisions I and III to continue having joint meetings.

Committee Chair: Julie Munson, Southern New Hampshire University, Northeast-10 Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances

Division II Field Hockey Committee January 29-30, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Renee Hellert, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania	
Julie Munson, Southern New Hampshire University	
Jessica Roque, Adelphi University	
Rayell Wallace, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Terrie Beattie, West Chester University	
Cheryl Bruttomesso, rules interpreter	
Tim Vaughan, coordinator of officials	

NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Linda Godby.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, John E. Bugner, Rachel Denton, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones and Karen Kirsch.