



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

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Video review.** The committee will continue discussions and potentially recommend that video review be required at all rounds of the championship. (See Informational Item 2-k.)
2. **Sunday selection show.** The committee would prefer to have the selection show on Sunday, similar to Divisions I and III. Currently, Division II is the outlier that has the show on Monday. This has been suggested by Tim Vaughan, national coordinator of officials, for consecutive years. It would help Mr. Vaughan to communicate sooner and secure the top officials for all divisions. (See Informational Item 12.)

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2024 championship review.**
 - a. **Semifinals and final surveys.** The committee reviewed post-championship survey results, which were mostly positive. The committee acknowledged the need for this championship to increase survey participation to help identify opportunities to improve. Members tasked the NCAA liaison to contemplate ideas to achieve this.
 - b. **Officials evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations completed by head coaches from the preliminary, semifinal and final rounds. The committee echoed the positive response from the coaches. The officiating crew was professional and managed the games well. This year the committee and NCAA staff were invited to the officials' onsite pregame preparation meeting led by evaluator Lurah Hess. The committee chair emphasized that this was an insightful opportunity and would like it continued in the future, if possible.
 - c. **Web stream.** The committee noted the web stream and broadcast was clear and well done. The only concern was the color commentator mentioning an incident with one of the semifinal teams multiple times, which had the potential to take the focus off the game. The NCAA liaison quickly addressed it on site, so the impact was limited. The committee requested the ability to nominate local color commentators familiar with the area and with the sport.
 - d. **Game day timeline.** The committee reviewed the gameday timeline and recommended maintaining this schedule in 2025 since no feedback has been submitted to the contrary.
 - e. **Community service.** The committee discussed positive feedback from participating coaches and

players. This year all the teams visited local elementary schools on the semifinal practice day to interact with students and teach them about field hockey. The committee thought that Jill Willson, who coordinates community engagement at all Division II championships, did an outstanding job.

- f. **Host/venue.** The committee emphasized what a great job Limestone University did. The staff was organized and well led by tournament director Matt Hayes. They were flexible and proactive in resolving potential issues. They communicated well throughout the planning process. The committee noted that the facilities were outstanding to operate the event and would recommend considering Limestone for future championships. The committee noted hosting the championship in the South was a nice change of pace to provide a different experience for participating teams.
- g. **Hotels.** The committee praised the team hotels and the local organizing committee for their attention to the needs of participating teams. The welcome decorations, team meeting rooms, staff availability and friendliness, breakfast areas and close proximity to the facility were all beneficial to the teams. The BirdieBox team gifts were staged in the team meeting rooms instead of giving them at the banquet or staging them in locker rooms, which allowed student-athletes to easily transport them to their rooms. The committee noted that the headquarters hotel was a downgrade from the team hotels, but still adequate for what was needed.
- h. **Awards presentation.** The committee emphasized that better planning and coordination is needed for awards, starting with requiring teams to indicate exactly who should receive awards. Members tasked the NCAA liaison to create an awards list to be distributed at selections for each team to fill out for the quarterfinals, semifinals and final. The committee noted that teams need to communicate how they would like to receive their trophies. While the plan was to hand out trophies to the non-advancing teams after each semifinal and to both teams after the finals, the heightened emotions post-game can cause a team to choose not to accept their trophies on the field and request they be taken to the locker room. If teams communicate their preference prior to the game, it will help the staff. The committee also noted that it is a must to have a method of communication between the field and press like a walkie-talkie for quick updates.
- i. **Online score reporting.** The committee noted during quarterfinals that one host institution did not close out their game in the score reporting system, which prevented a final score from showing on NCAA.com for several hours after the actual completion of the game. The committee recommended a checklist reminder to site representatives to confirm this action has been completed post-game.
- j. **All-tournament team selection.** The committee recommended formalizing the selection and announcement of the all-tournament team. The committee agreed that 11 student-athletes should be selected: two from the non-advancing semifinal teams; three from the runner-up; and four from the champion. The committee noted that selecting a goalkeeper is not a requirement. The committee recommended awarding selected (and present) members of the all-tournament team with a certificate on the field during the post-championship awards ceremony and allow a photo opportunity. The committee, along with the recommendation of the Division II representative of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA), requested the NCAA make a formal announcement of the all-tournament after the championship game by press release and/or social media.
- k. **Video review.** The committee discussed feedback provided by coaches at the NFHCA Convention requesting video review being mandatory for all rounds of the championship. The member

coaches feel that if a host site has the ability to use video review in the quarterfinal round, they should be able to do so, and requiring all host sites to use it may encourage more hosts to invest in the equipment and make video a possibility during the regular season. The committee noted that any item with budgetary impact is not likely to be implemented until the next budget cycle. Accordingly, the topic was tabled to allow the NCAA liaison to discuss policy and budgetary impacts internally.

- l. Administrative meeting.** The committee discussed possibly moving the administrative meeting to a different time/date. Currently the on-site meeting is held late in the evening on the team travel day, which the committee feels adds unnecessary stress. The topic was tabled until a later date to allow the committee to examine possible times/dates to accommodate the change.
- m. Banquet.** The committee applauded the host for the success of the student-athlete banquet, especially the banquet speaker, Team U.S.A. Field Hockey player Jillian Wolgemuth, who clearly made an impact on the attendees because several student-athletes lined up to speak with her after her speech.
- 3. 2025 championship – Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.** The committee discussed the host site for 2025 including enhancement opportunities and items that will need attention during the planning phase. Overall, the committee is confident next year's championship will be a success.
- 4. 2025-26 committee timeline.** The committee reviewed the tentative timeline for committee and host calls for 2025-26. The committee agreed with a suggestion by the NCAA liaison to combine these calls like other championships in order to improve lines of communication and limit the amount of calls committee members must attend during an already busy fall season.
- 5. Division II Championships Committee update.** Karen Kirsch, director of championships, updated the committee on key topics from the Championships Committee.
- 6. Division II governance update.** Maritza Jones and Ryan Jones from the Division II governance staff updated the committee on the 2024-25 Division II priorities.
- 7. Officiating update.** Tim Vaughan, national coordinator of officials, updated the committee on the prior year's championship. The committee felt Mr. Vaughan did an excellent job with official selections. 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.
- 8. NFHCA update.** The committee reviewed the minutes, rules proposals and key items from the January NCAA Convention. One key item was the possibility of an incoming proposal from coaches in the East Region recommending bid allocations be shifted from three to four for the East Region and from five to four for the Atlantic Region. The member coaches discussed the topic during the Division II breakout session at the Convention and cited ratio between teams in the East and the Atlantic is nearing 1:1. No formal proposal has been received at this time, so the committee tabled the discussion until that occurs.
- 9. 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 seven of the eight proposals that were adopted, all of which are effective August 1, 2025.

One key proposal is all Division II sports allowing athletes to compete in 30% of the season in their first season on campus without using a season of eligibility. The hope is that this would eliminate the need for medical hardship waivers in year one.

10. Review of manuals. The committee will review manuals for outdated information and suggest updates.

11. Chair election. The committee selected Jessica Roque, associate athletics director for compliance at Adelphi University, as chair for the 2025-26 academic year.

12. Sunday evening selection show. The committee discussed 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. The committee voted in favor of moving the show to Sunday. The NCAA liaison will work with the broadcast staff on whether it is feasible and will determine if there will be any impact on the timing of conference championships held on Sunday before a final decision is made and communicated.

13. Future meeting dates. The next annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26-27, 2026. The group intends to remain on the same timeline as Division I and III to continue having joint meetings.

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

NCAA Division II Field Hockey Committee Jan. 27-28, 2025, 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:	
Pam Arpe, Division II Coaches Connection.	
Tim Vaughan, National Coordinator of Officials – NCAA Field Hockey.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.	
Dante Jones, Championships and Alliances.	
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Rachel Denton, Academic and Membership Affairs.	
Maritza Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.	
Ryan Jones, Law, Policy and Governance.	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	