



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JAN. 26-27, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- **Video review.** The committee approved allowing preliminary-round hosts to use video replay if the host has the capability. This is a permissive rule rather than a mandatory due to the limited number of schools and conferences that have the capability. (See Informational Item 11.)

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024-25 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024-25 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2025 championship review.**
 - a. **Selections.** The committee discussed the rationale and decisions made in selecting the at-large teams and seeding in the championship field. Members are confident that they were consistent with applying criteria throughout the ranking season and during the selection process. Although there was pushback about the last team selected, the committee defends its use of late-season performance (secondary criteria) to reach the decision. The committee is excited about NPI and its ability to be more transparent and to relieve the stress of committee decisions during the process. The committee was very satisfied with the decision to have the selection show on Sunday along with Division I and Division III this season, as members felt it provided a spotlight on all of collegiate field hockey, which can help grow interest in the game.
 - b. **First-round and finals site surveys.** The committee reviewed post-championship survey results, which were mostly positive. The most common request from coaches and officials was for the NCAA and committee to work to establish consistent and sufficient camera angles for the video replay official to use during review. This year had four cameras all with similar angles and the coaches and officials recommend one camera behind each goal if the facility has the capability. This provides better views of scoring plays inside the circle, which are the most important calls to be correct and the most likely to be reviewed. The committee and NCAA liaison are committed to finding ways to increase participation after the second consecutive year with a low survey response rate.
 - c. **Web stream.** The committee noted the web stream and broadcast were clear and well done. The committee emphasized how impactful it was having Kelsi Lykens doing color commentary, since she is a former Division II field hockey student-athlete and head coach. Her knowledge and experience enhanced the broadcast. The committee would like to continue with high-quality commentators in the future.

- d. Schedule of events and gameday timeline.** The committee reviewed the gameday timeline and recommended maintaining this schedule in 2026 since no feedback has been submitted to the contrary. The committee applauded the change this year having the administrative meeting at the banquet venue prior to the banquet, which provided some relief for the coaches trying to get to the meeting on the travel day.
- 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 host also invited the elementary students to the first semifinal game and several hundred of them came. Having so many of them in the crowd really energized the game for which the away team did not have many fans. They had all made signs for the team that came to their respective school. Following the game, the student-athletes interacted with their students with high fives, hugs, and hand signals, which was a great and memorable moment for all involved. The committee recommends earlier and more consistent communication from the Division II governance contractor who manages community engagement, but they did a good job making this year unique and special for the student-athletes and kids.
- f. Host/venue.** The committee applauded the exceptional job Bloomsburg University did. The staff was organized and well led by tournament director Mike McFarland. They were flexible and proactive in resolving potential issues. They also communicated well throughout the planning process. The committee noted the exceptional idea to space out the team gift giving into several special moments throughout the weekend instead of giving all the gifts upon arrival. The facilities were outstanding and provided the championship with everything that was needed. The host organized police escorts to the venue on Sunday for the two competing teams, which was a nice touch. Members of their staff were always available and willing to help, especially members of their field hockey team who were knowledgeable about the sport and the event. The committee emphasized how important it is to have hosts that are excited to host and care about the details, which Bloomsburg clearly did. The committee hopes that Bloomsburg plans to bid in the future and will strongly consider them in future site selection.
- g. Hotels.** The committee praised the team hotels 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 committee noted that the headquarters hotel was an upgrade from years past. The number of quality hotels in Bloomsburg is a unique benefit for their community and great for hosting NCAA events.
- h. Awards presentation.** The committee was highly satisfied with the results of the planning and coordination highlighted as needed improvement during the 2024 annual meeting. starting with requiring teams to indicate exactly who should receive awards. The NCAA liaison created a form for teams to fill out and indicate exactly who would receive awards to help the committee and the host staff during the presentation. The committee allowed the teams to “opt-out” of receiving their individual trophies on the field in the event they did not advance to the finals out of respect for the heightened emotions after the game. It helped make the committee and host staff aware of the postgame options. The championship manager had walkie communication with the PA announcer in the press box

7. **2026-27 committee timeline.** The committee reviewed the tentative timeline for committee and host calls for 2026-27. The committee agreed that combining host and committee calls in 2025 was more effective and efficient than separate calls. The cadence may change slightly due to this being a festival year, so the committee will remain flexible.
8. **2026 championship – Fall Festival – Kansas City, Missouri.** The committee discussed the host site for 2026, Pembroke Hill School. The committee wants to be sure that the color of line paint is confirmed at the site visit because the pictures provided in the bid show the games will be played on a football field with two different tones of green, which could cause visibility issues with certain colors of paint. The committee feels this is the top priority because it has such a large impact on the game. Overall, the committee is satisfied with the bid information and photos of the campus and facilities and is optimistic that next year's championship can be a great success.
9. **NFHCA rules proposals.** The committee reviewed the rules proposals and each division's voting results from the NFHCA convention in preparation for the joint meetings with Divisions I and III. The hot topic is a proposed change to the number of competing players and duration of overtime before continuing to a shootout.
10. **Division II governance update.** Maritza Jones and Ryan Jones from the Division II governance and member services staff updated the committee on the 2025-26 Division II priorities.
11. **Video replay.** The committee approved allowing preliminary-round hosts to use video replay if the host has the capability. This is a permissive rule rather than a mandatory due to the limited number of schools and conferences that have the capability. Division III has a similar permissive rule in place. The committee discussed the topic that has been raised by coaches at the NFHCA convention for the past two years and the committee's goal is to make sure all resources are being used to ensure calls are correct. Since this would be a policy related to the administration of the championship and there are no rules or budgetary impacts, the committee's approval is sufficient. The NCAA will provide baseline specs and guidelines to potential hosts during the bid process. The NCAA staff and the committee also discussed their commitment to creating consistent, reliable guidelines for the camera angles that video replay officials will use during reviews at the finals site. This year's review had four cameras all with similar angles, which was not helpful. Coaches and officials recommend one camera behind each goal if the facility has the capability. This provides better views of scoring plays inside the circle which are the most important calls to be correct and the most likely to be reviewed. The NCAA liaison discussed the idea of asking the host to solicit quotes for rental scissor lifts that can be placed behind each goal with a manned camera.
12. **Championship communication.** The NCAA liaison requested feedback from the committee on the amount of information and the method in which that information is distributed during selections. The committee confirmed that they are satisfied with the amount, method, and accuracy of the information provided by the NCAA. The selections file-sharing site is extremely helpful for providing instant access to important documents and information to the participating teams and hosts.
13. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** Tim Danehy, creator of NPI, educated the committee on its role in establishing the dials that will be used by the NPI algorithm for championship selections beginning in the 2026-27 academic year. Mr. Danehy tasked the committee with discussing the

philosophical priorities for the selection criteria and working to decide how the dials will be set when we meet with him again in February.

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

15. Chair election. The committee confirmed Jessica Roque, associate athletics director for compliance at Adelphi University, to continue as chair for the 2026-27 academic year.

16. Future meeting dates. The next annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25-26, 2027. The group intends to remain on the same timeline as Divisions I and III to continue having joint meetings.

Committee Chair: Jessica Roque, Adelphi University, Northeast-10 Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Field Hockey Committee Jan. 26-27, 2026, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Renee Hellert, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.	
Marissa Kocher, Roberts Wesleyan University.	
Jessica Roque, Adelphi University.	
Rayell Wallace, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests:	
Pam Arpe, Division II Coaches Connection.	
Tim Danehy, NCAA Power Index (NPI).	
Tim Vaughan, National Coordinator of Officials – NCAA Field Hockey.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Dante Jones, Championships and Alliances.	
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Rachel Denton, Governance and Member Services.	
Maritza Jones, Governance and Member Services.	
Ryan Jones, Governance and Member Services.	
Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances.	