



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4-5, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. 2018 annual meeting report.** The Division III Field Hockey Committee approved the 2018 meeting report as submitted.
- 2. Division III Championships Committee reports.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Championship Committee reports from the past year and discussed items applicable to field hockey.
- 3. Automatic qualification, pools breakdown and regional alignment.**
 - a. Automatic qualification and pools breakdown.** The committee reviewed the regional alignments by conference. Staff noted conference membership changes and will confirm once the 2019-20 sponsorship information is available. If the anticipated sponsorship additions are confirmed and no other institutions drop, the field hockey championship will be under consideration to increase the bracket size to 26 for 2020-21 academic year.
 - b. Regional realignment.** The committee reviewed the proposed realignment and the posed feedback questions and reaffirms its previous response that suggested one change in conference alignment. The suggested change is to move the North Coast Athletic Conference from Region V to Region VI. This change would preserve the current alignment of the Southern Athletic Association and the North Coast within the same region, which is a more natural geographical fit for the SAA. In addition, this move would better balance the number of teams in each region.
- 4. National assignor of officials presentation.** Steve Horgan, NCAA national assignor of officials, met with the committee to discuss the regular-season evaluation program, developing

the pool of officials for post-season assignment, and the development of the field hockey central hub on Arbiter.

The committee gave its feedback on the processes and commended Mr. Horgan on the weekly clarifications, video clips and interpretations on the application of rules. They emphasized the continued need to identify top officials for the Division III championship.

- 5. Recap of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) convention.** The committee discussed the bulletin provided to the coaches at the breakout meeting of the convention. The committee reviewed the voting outcomes regarding proposed rules modifications at the convention. These findings were taken forward to the joint meeting with the Divisions I and II field hockey committees.
- 6. Joint meeting materials review.** The committee reviewed the agenda and materials for the joint meeting with the Divisions I and II field hockey committees and prepared its position statements on current topics. See attached joint meeting report for joint meeting proceedings.
- 7. 2018 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2018 NCAA Division III Field Hockey Championship hosted by the Middle Atlantic Conference and Centennial Conferences. Middlebury College won the national championship with a victory over Tufts University. The committee made the following observations related to the championship:
 - a. Site representatives' history. The committee discussed the site representatives for 2018 and reviewed the history chart. The committee discussed the continued difficulty in securing site representatives. To increase the pool of potential site representatives, the committee added procedures to their duties to ask each regional advisory committee (RAC) member to identify two additional potential site representatives prior to the RAC training webinar so they could be invited to participate in the training.
 - b. Selection call. The committee was pleased with the selection procedures and software used to conduct them. The committee noted the lack of potential hosts again this year. The committee will reach out sooner to the top teams in each region to encourage them to bid for first-round and second/third-rounds.
 - c. Coaches/student-athlete surveys. The committee reviewed the submitted surveys, noting items to discuss/implement for the 2019 championship.
 - d. Site evaluations. The committee reviewed the site evaluations.
 - e. Officials' evaluations. The committee reviewed the officials' evaluation forms. The committee would like for the national coordinator to review the forms.
 - f. Financial summary. The committee reviewed the financial summary for the championship.

- g. Web streaming report. The committee reviewed the fall live video streaming report and discussed some of the trends from last year to this year.
- h. Closed practices. The committee reviewed an incident regarding closed practices and made suggestions to be included in the host operations manual as well as the site representative training webinar.

8. 2019 championship.

- a. 2019 committee timeline. The committee reviewed and updated the timeline for 2019-20.
- b. Committee championship duties. The duties and assignments document for the committee was updated.
- c. Officials. The committee commended the national assignor on his communication and addressed with him items of concern on the assignment process for Division III. The committee directed staff to work with Penn Monto to provide better ball runner pennies.
- d. Banquet. The committee discussed the banquet and directed staff to address the menu and explore if the banquet could be held at the team hotel to make it easier for the participants.
- e. Practice. The committee emphasized the need for sufficient practice balls and cones to be provided by the host for practices.
- f. Community service. The committee supports continuing offering a community service option on practice day.
- g. Hotels. Team hotel again will be the Doubletree Resort by Hilton Lancaster. The headquarters hotel will change for 2019 but the committee directed staff to explore using the same hotel as 2018. The 2018 hotel was brand new and contracted after the initial contracting phase due to lack of availability at the contracted hotel.
- h. Senior all-star game. Staff will discuss with Jenn Goodrich from the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) possible plans and time for the senior all-star game. The committee directed staff to investigate if the senior all-star game could be played in the dome regardless of whether the championships games are played in the door or the outdoor pitch.
- i. Official ball. The committee confirmed to use the smooth ball throughout the championship. The Penn Monto Elite will be the official ball for the 2019 championship.

9. **Regional advisory committees (RAC).** The committee reviewed the RAC rosters and made note of vacancies. The committee asked staff to re-emphasize on the RAC training webinar that it is an expectation that RAC members serve as site representatives.
10. **Division III update.** Jay Jones, NCAA associate director of Division III, provided an update from the NCAA Convention and other ongoing Division III initiatives.
11. **Field hockey manuals.** The committee reviewed the various manuals for field hockey and instructed staff to make the appropriate updates.

Committee Chair: Jenn Noon, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom

Staff Liaison: Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

Division III Field Hockey Committee February 4-5, 2019, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Jacqueline DeMarco, Kenyon College.
Kelly Kingsbury, State University of New York at Oneonta.
Christina Needham, Connecticut College.
Jennifer Noon, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Florham.
Ashley Smeltzer-Kraft, Shenandoah University.
Andrea Thebarger, Thomas College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Steve Horgan, NCAA national assignor of officials and NCAA rules interpreter.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Jay Jones, Division III.