



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FIELD HOCKEY COMMITTEE
MAY 16, 2025, ELECTRONIC MAIL

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Game ball change.**

- a. Recommendation. Allow a preliminary-round host that has a water-based astro surface only to use the Kookaburra dimple ball during preliminary rounds of the 2025 championship so long as the host indicates such a desire in its bid submission and provides the appropriate quantity of practice and warm-up balls (minimum 40 per team with a preference of 75 per team). The committee wants to emphasize the Kookaburra dimple ball will only be allowed on water-based-astro surfaces and not artificial turf or non-water based astro surface. Further, starting with the 2026 championship, require preliminary-round hosts that have a water-based astro surface only to use the Kookaburra dimple ball and provide the appropriate quantity of practice and warm-up balls (minimum 40 per team, preference of 75 per team). The committee also recommends that the Kookaburra dimple balls be used at the finals site starting immediately in 2025 and into the future whenever the championship is held at a water-based astro- surface, which is currently confirmed through the 2027 championship. The NCAA will provide all game and practice balls for the finals site.
- b. Effective date. September 1, 2025, and September 1, 2026.
- c. Rationale. The committee, with support the Division III membership of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, believes that the Kookaburra dimple ball should be allowed during postseason play. Historically, the championship only allowed for a smooth ball, even on Astroturf surfaces, when the preferred ball is the dimple ball due to field watering. Through feedback from the membership, the committee proposes allowing the Kookaburra dimple ball during postseason at sites that wish to use it. The committee will work with NCAA staff to send the appropriate amount of game balls (12 per game) but will require the host to have the appropriate amount of practice and warm-up balls that must also match the game ball. After the initial recommendation, the committee surveyed the membership directly rather than through the NFHCA and had over 126 responses from head coaches and directors of athletics. Of the 126 respondents, 74 supported a change to allow the Kookaburra dimple ball, and 52 opposed. Of the 74 supporting respondents, 40 preferred to delay the requirement until

2026. Of the 52 respondents that did not support the change, only five indicated having a water-based astro surface. Therefore, of the respondents that didn't support the recommendation, only five would be impacted if they were to host a postseason game. The full survey results with comments are included in the attachment.
- d. Estimated budget impact. Minimal. The NCAA will reduce the prior year's order of the smooth ball to ensure the dimple ball can be ordered without impacting the budget. This includes no longer sending a dozen orange smooth balls per site, as well as no longer sending any practice balls to preliminary-round sites. Finally, the committee will no longer order a commemorative smooth ball for the finals site to help mitigate the budget impact. The committee acknowledges that there could be a budget impact on institutions that will now want to use the Kookaburra game ball during regular-season competition and practice to prepare for postseason. Historical pricing indicates that a dozen Kookaburra dimple balls is more than double the price of a dozen smooth balls.
- e. Student-athlete impact. The committee believes that allowing the Kookaburra dimple ball during postseason play, if the host can satisfy the requirements, will positively affect the student-athlete by allowing them to use the preferred ball for the type of surface on which the game is being played.

Committee Chair: Victor Brady, Bryn Mawr College, Centennial Conference

Staff Liaison: Caleb Kolby, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Field Hockey Committee May 16, 2025, Electronic Mail	
Attendees:	
Wendy Andreatta, University of Rochester.	
Carrie Austin, University of the South.	
Victor Brady, Bryn Mawr University.	
Therese Doyle, Kean University.	
LA Lane, Clark University.	
Krystyanna Ramsdell, Worcester State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Caleb Kolby.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	