



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 14-15, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Conference automatic qualification for championship.** The committee is recommending conferences to receive automatic qualification for the 2024 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship. (See Action Item 2.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following six conferences receive automatic qualification privileges for the 2025 championship: Atlantic Hockey Conference, Big Ten Conference, Central Collegiate Hockey Association, ECAC Hockey Conference, Hockey East Conference and National Collegiate Hockey Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Officials selection criteria.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends an adjustment to the official's selection criteria, removing the existing criteria requiring an official to work the quarterfinals (or beyond) of a conference tournament in order to be nominated by a conference to work the NCAA Championship.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. With this current criteria, strong and well-qualified officials are occasionally not eligible to be nominated by a conference as they did not work a quarterfinal-round or beyond.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2024 championship review.** The committee reviewed the survey feedback regarding the 2024 Division I championship from student-athletes, coaches, athletics administrators, NCAA site representatives, host tournament directors and members of the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship Committee. The committee noted that the responses overall were very positive but highlighted several repeat comments regarding areas for improvement.
2. **ESPN.** The committee met with ESPN to discuss the successful ratings from the 2024 Division I Men's Ice Hockey Championship, game time concerns for the 2025 championship, the selection announcement show and the broadcast talent working the championship.
3. **Officials and NCAA ice hockey rules committee.** The committee heard from the national coordinator of officials, Frank Cole, and NCAA staff member Ty Halpin to review officiating from the 2023-24 regular season and 2024 NCAA championship. The committee also met jointly with the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee to review potential rule-change proposals being considered by the rules committee.
4. **Championship selection process.**
  - a. Selection meeting. The committee confirmed that the meeting time and format from the 2024 championship worked well. The committee encouraged staff to work with our broadcast partner, ESPN, to potentially move the selection show up earlier in the day on selection Sunday.

The committee also discussed the possibility of allowing campus sites to host a regional and whether to continue to allow a school that is hosting to play at their host site if selected to participate in the championship and allowing conference matchups in the regional semifinals. Ultimately, the committee did not take any action on these issues.

- b. Pairwise vs. National Power Index (NPI). Discussion occurred on the main selection tool, the Pairwise, and the possibility of moving to the NPI as a replacement. The committee is generally supportive of moving to the NPI but further discussion is needed with the membership before taking any action.

NCAA staff will set up a series of videoconferences with men's ice hockey head coaches and conference commissioners to provide more information on the impact of moving to the NPI. The committee will consider the matter after additional membership input is provided.

5. **Media - open locker room during the championship.** The committee voted to adjust the locker room media availability policy during future championships that during any scheduled press conferences with participating teams, the locker room should also be open to the media during that time.

6. **Future regional and Men's Frozen Four sites.** The committee did an initial review of bids submitted to host the 2028 and 2029 Division I Men's Ice Hockey regional and Men Frozen Four sites. Further review will take place in the coming months. In the meantime, the committee requested that 30-minute virtual meeting be conducted with select Men's Frozen Four bidders.
7. **2025 Men's Frozen Four site visit – St. Louis, Missouri.** The committee chair will join NCAA staff on a site visit to St. Louis in late October/early November of 2024.
8. **Conference commissioners.** The committee met with the conference commissioners and discussed items including RPI vs. NPI in the Pairwise metric, head-to-head and common opponents weighting in overtime results, and ESPN game times.
9. **NCAA travel staff.** The committee met with Melissa Piening, NCAA director of travel, to discuss some of the travel concerns experienced during the 2023 championship.
10. **Committee chair.** The committee voted Tim Troville, senior associate director of athletics at the Harvard University, to serve as the chair of the committee for the 2024-25 academic year.

*Committee Chair:* Jeff Schulman, University of Vermont.

*Staff Liaison:* Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee May 14-15, 2024, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Bob Daniels, Ferris State University.	
Rick Gotkin, Mercyhurst University.	
Josh Richelew, University of Michigan.	
Scott Sandelin, University of Minnesota Duluth.	
Jeff Schulman, University of Vermont.	
Tim Troville, Harvard University.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Tommy Barrett, Championships and Alliances.	
Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances.	
Phil Pierce, Championships and Alliances.	
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Frank Cole, NCAA National Coordinator of Officials.
Tim Denehy, College Hockey Stats.
Michael Feinberg, ESPN.
Doug Christiansen, ECAC Hockey.
Don Lucia, Central Collegiate Hockey Association.
Dan Margulies, ESPN.
Steve Metcalf, Hockey East Association.
Michelle Morgan, Atlantic Hockey Association.
Adam Auguestine, Big Ten Conference.
Heather Weems, National Collegiate Hockey Conference.