



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-5, 2019, MEETING**

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 2020 championship: Atlantic Hockey Conference, Big Ten Conference, ECAC Hockey Conference, Hockey East Conference, National Collegiate Hockey Conference and Western Collegiate Hockey Conference.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
- 2. Announcements.** Announcements were made, and the committee took no action.
- 3. 2018 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2018 annual meeting report as written.
- 4. Review of 2019 championship.**
 - a. Review of championship evaluations.** The committee reviewed the evaluations submitted and noted the need to continue working with Anthony Travel to ensure hotels are full service.

Committee members also noted that the ice conditions at regional sites should be reviewed. Future host operations manuals will require that regional ice needs to be in by the Tuesday prior to regionals. The sites will also be asked to have the ice skated on prior to the teams' first practices.

The committee again discussed the length of intermission for the championship. The item will be reviewed with ESPN to see what issues, if any, they would have with a reduced intermission length.

- b. Committee calls.** The committee will continue to include planning calls conducted with a coach and the commissioner of each league this upcoming season. It has been very beneficial in making the presentation and discussions at the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) convention productive.
- c. Student-athlete reception.** The committee commended Buffalo on this year's student-athlete reception. The addition of Brian Gionta to the program was so beneficial to the student-athletes. The chance to hear from someone who has been in their shoes was so relevant. The reception once again included John Buccigross as the emcee and the committee would like to continue that for the 2020 championship.
- d. Ticketing and marketing.** The committee reviewed the ticket sales for the Frozen Four and noted the decrease in attendance. Members asked staff to follow up with Detroit as plans go forward for 2020 to thoroughly review ticket prices.

The committee also noted that for the regional sites the amount of tickets being held for the teams will be reduced from 400 to 300 or 250. Staff will review these numbers historically and provide guidance. For the Frozen Four the team allotments will be reduced from 600 to 500, with 400 tickets being in the lower bowl and required for the teams to purchase and 100 tickets in the upper level. Institutions are not required to purchase the upper level tickets.

- e. In-venue/game presentation.** The committee wants to continue thinking of additional ways to showcase the sport and championship through the game presentation. Possibilities include incorporate mini-mite competitions into the intermissions and showing additional videos of moments like greatest tournament comebacks, goals etc. Staff will continue to work internally on exploring opportunities.
- f. Team charters.** The committee continues to discuss the ability for teams to charter for the championships and whether this should be proposed to the Competition Oversight Committee. The committee understands the reality of the cost associated with this proposal and will continue to evaluate it through the year.

- g. Regional amenities.** The committee discussed an institution's use of its home recovery equipment this year during the tournament. While it is not something the committee can deny, members will work with hosts to see what recovery amenities are available onsite or nearby for all teams.
- h. Officiating.** The committee met with Frank Cole, national coordinator of officials, to review the tournament and the process for selecting the officials for the tournament. Mr. Cole noted that there were 12 new officials that worked the Frozen Four this year.

Members noted that at this year's championship the committee awarded supplemental discipline after a postgame review. The process was followed for the review and all felt the appropriate action was taken.

The 2019-20 season will be the last year for Steve Piotrowski to serve as the secretary-rules editor for ice hockey. A national search will commence this summer to fill the position. The new person will shadow Mr. Piotrowski for a year.

The committee noted that Mr. Cole and the officials want to continue being good partners with ESPN and assisting with initiatives they want to implement during the tournament. The committee asked that those requests from ESPN be made earlier so there is time to vet and evaluate the potential impact on the officials and the game.

- i. Selection process.** The committee reviewed the current championship selection criteria as they apply to the 2019 championship and believes they are sufficient. The committee continues to evaluate the current RPI structure and whether it is the best model for the championship. The committee will consider other options during the 2019-20 season to see what changes could be made to better reflect the college hockey makeup.

The committee noted that the later selection time was beneficial for the conferences and will work with ESPN to continue to provide a later selection show.

- j. Home/neutral/away contests.** The committee reviewed the guiding principles for determining if a contest is home, neutral or away. The committee will review on a conference call this fall any extenuating circumstances before providing the final signoff to teams. Members also noted that the document should reference venue vs. arena to accommodate for those games that are conducted in nontraditional facilities.
- k. Discussion with ESPN.** The committee met with ESPN representatives Morgan Ainslee, Anthony DeVita, Dan Margulis and John Vassallo via teleconference. The committee thanked ESPN for its continued support of the championship. Members noted that ESPN's investment continues to enhance the championship.

The later selection show was beneficial for the conferences and appreciated by the membership. ESPN will look to continue the later show in the future. ESPN will explore potential broadcast windows for the selection show and let NCAA staff know the availability.

The committee commended ESPN for adding the on-site studio show that brought another new element to the championship and enhanced the overall experience. NCAA staff will continue working with future hosts to allow for the access to these studio sets if available. Future bid specs will note that these studios will be available at no cost to the NCAA's television partner.

The committee also asked about the opportunity to work with ESPN during the regular season to consider adding "college hockey plays of the day" as part of weekly broadcasts.

5. **Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee noted that Michael Cross, administrator at Pennsylvania State University, will start his term September 1, 2019. The committee also agreed that Steve Metcalf will serve as the committee chair for 2019-20.
6. **Annual meeting dates.** The 2020 annual meeting will take place June 3-5 in Indianapolis.
7. **Future regional sites.** The committee discussed future regional site formats and will continue to have four predetermined sites. The committee reviewed format options with ESPN and reviewed the challenges the tournament would face from a television aspect if the format was altered.

Regional sites for 2022-26 will be part of the overall bid process that will commence in August. It was also determined that the regional sites will now be called by their city versus geographic region. This will allow for more flexibility in awarding sites.

8. **2020 Frozen Four.** Staff noted that planning for the 2020 Frozen Four is underway. Staff will conduct a site visit toward the end of October.
9. **Conference commissioners.** The committee met with the ice hockey conference commissioners and reviewed items related to officiating, rules and future regional sites. The commissioners and committee agreed that meeting together at the championship and the annual meeting continues to be beneficial to both groups and want to continue it going forward.
10. **Rules committee.** The committee met with the rules committee to discuss potential items to review for 2020. While it is not a rules change year, the committee will be looking at video replay procedures and the reviewable criteria. This may reduce the length of video review. The rules committee will provide follow-up information on the video review procedures.

11. **Guarantees.** The committee will be adjusting the financial guarantees with the next bid cycle to host regional and Frozen Four competition. The Frozen Four guarantee will be \$2.7 million and the regional guarantees will be \$100,000. The committee feels that the reduction in the regional guarantees will entice more sites to bid on the championship.
12. **Strategic plan.** The committee reviewed the strategic plan for the championship and will continue to explore ways to enhance the championship going forward. The committee discussed the future bid process and will work with NCAA staff as bids are submitted and questions asked.

Committee Chair: Steve Metcalf, University of New Hampshire; Hockey East Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Kristin W. Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
 Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

| Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee June 3-5, 2019, Meeting |
|--|
| Attendees: |
| Mike Corbett, University of Alabama, Huntsville. |
| Mike Kemp, University of Nebraska, Omaha. |
| Tom McGinnis, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. |
| Steve Metcalf, University of New Hampshire. |
| Derek Schooley, Robert Morris University. |
| Mike Schaefer, Cornell University. |
| Guests in Attendance: |
| Joe Bertagna, Hockey East Conference. |
| Frank Cole, National Coordinator of Ice Hockey Officials. |
| Michael Cross, Penn State University. |
| Bob DeGregorio, Atlantic Hockey Conference. |
| Anthony DeVita, ESPN (via teleconference). |
| Josh Fenton, National Collegiate Hockey Conference. |
| Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey Conference. |
| Dan Margulis, ESPN (via teleconference). |
| Billy Robertson, Western Collegiate Hockey Conference. |
| John Vassallo, ESPN (via teleconference) |
| Kathy Wynters, Hockey East Conference. |
| NCAA Staff Support in Attendance: |
| Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances. |
| Tommy Barrett, Championships and Alliances (via teleconference). |
| Sean Ward, Championships and Alliances. |
| Lori Wolf, Championships and Alliances. |