



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 3-5, 2020, VIRTUAL 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 2021 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. 2021 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Rating Percentage Index (RPI) – Overtime.

- (1) Recommendation. That the method for computing RPI credit for games decided in overtime be revised to award partial credit to both teams. The computation of the RPI would be adjusted to award 55 percent of a win to the team scoring in three-on-three overtime and 45 percent of a win to the opponent. Corresponding adjustments will be made as applicable in the Quality Win Bonus (QWB) calculation. Games ending in a tie (or in the optional shootout period) will continue to award 50 percent of a win to each team.
- (2) Effective date. October 2020.
- (3) Rationale. This year the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee recommended to the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel that a uniform overtime format be instituted for college hockey in which teams would play three on three for a five-minute overtime period rather than five on five as had been conducted

previously for overtime play. This three-on-three format has been an option available to teams for the past couple of years only if the game remains tied after the normal five-on-five overtime session, and it has been calculated only for conference points and not toward a team's RPI. With the implementation of this new format, the committee supports a shift in the percentages awarded in overtime. All divisions of ice hockey are asking their respective oversight committees for this same approval. Awarding partial credit for an overtime result is consistent with what is done at all levels of the sport. The NHL, AHL, USHL, etc., all play three-on-three overtime that only awards partial credit to both teams due to the extreme difference in the format. Removing four skaters (two per team) from the ice creates a fundamentally different game than teams are used to playing in five on five and thus partial credit should be awarded to both teams in overtime.

If PROP does not approve this recommendation, the Men's Ice Hockey Committee will revert to the current policy of the RPI calculation stopping at the end of five-on-five play and that game would end in a tie. The overtime would then be for league points only.

This has been an ongoing discussion in the hockey community for the past three years. With all three divisions and the rules committee all in lock step, this would be a great move for college hockey to align with the hockey community.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Estimated budget 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. 2019 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2019 annual meeting report as written.
- 4. Review of 2020 championship.**
 - a. Review of cancelled championship.** The committee reviewed the cancellation for the 2020 championship in Detroit. Members commended the Detroit Sports Commission and

Michigan State University for their attention to the needs of all involved with the cancellation.

- b. Committee calls.** The committee will continue to include planning calls conducted with a coach and the commissioner of each league this upcoming season, as they have helped make the presentation and discussions at the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) convention more productive.
- c. Selection process.** The committee discussed the championship selection criteria and noted that with the current pandemic, there may need some adjustments to the selection criteria as the season progresses. The committee and staff will continue to monitor the situation.

The committee also discussed adapting a new RPI system called the NPI. Tim Danehy joined the committee to talk through the NPI and also discuss the RPI adjustments being recommended for overtime. The NPI system looks only at two factors – a team's winning percentage and its SOS. The committee will continue discussing the NPI and explore how it can apply in the future.

- d. Home/neutral/away contests.** The committee reviewed 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.
- 5. Committee composition and vacancies.** The committee noted that Jeffrey Schulman, administrator at the University of Vermont, will start his term September 1, 2020. The committee also agreed that Mike Kemp will serve as the committee chair for 2020-21.
 - 6. Annual meeting dates.** The 2021 annual meeting will take place virtually June 3-5.
 - 7. Future regional and Frozen Four sites.** The committee started the review of the future regional and frozen four sites currently in the bid process. The sites will be announced in October. The committee will continue working throughout the summer to finalize its recommendations.
 - 8. 2021 Frozen Four.** Staff noted that planning for the 2021 Frozen Four has begun. Staff will meet with the Pittsburgh host staff to review the current status. A site visit this year will be conducted virtually. Staff will work on a time for that visit and arrange it with the host.
 - 9. Conference commissioners.** The committee met with the ice hockey conference commissioners and discussed the current state of the sport while working through the pandemic. Staff will be kept up to date on conference plans as fall practices commence.

- 10. Rules committee.** The committee met with the rules committee to discuss potential items to review for 2021. The groups talked at length about the overtime format the rules committee is proposing (see Action Item 2-b).

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, 2020, Videoconference
Attendees:
Mike Corbett, University of Alabama, Huntsville.
Michael Cross, Penn State University.
Mike Kemp, University of Nebraska, Omaha.
Steve Metcalf, University of New Hampshire.
Mike Schafer, Cornell University.
Derek Schooley, Robert Morris University.
Guests in Attendance:
Bob DeGregorio, Atlantic Hockey Conference.
Josh Fenton, National Collegiate Hockey Conference.
Steve Hagwell, ECAC Hockey Conference.
Billy Robertson, Western Collegiate Hockey Conference.
Jeffrey Schulman, University of Vermont.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.
Paula Wustrack, Championships and Alliances.