



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEES
JULY 8, 2025, JOINT VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Predetermined final sites.**

a. Recommendation. The men's and women's ice hockey committees recommend both championships transition to predetermined finals sites after the current pilot program concludes in 2027-28.

b. Effective date. September 1, 2028.

c. Rationale. With the new bid cycle for 2028-2031 approaching, the committees discussed whether to continue the current pilot program alternating predetermined and non-predetermined finals sites for the men's and women's ice hockey championships. The committees discussed the pros and cons of both options then voted 5-2 in favor of transitioning to predetermined final sites for both the men's and women's ice hockey championships beginning in 2028-29 after the current pilot program concludes in 2027-28. The committees highlighted the cost of flights and quality hotels, more control during the bid selection process and the student-athlete experience as key points in the decision. The committees suggested using "West-preferred" or "East-preferred" language in the bid process to ensure equitable hosting opportunities for each region.

The committees believe providing hosts an entire year (or more) to plan for the championship will allow them more time to ensure they are providing a positive student-athlete experience. It is common for hosts and the NCAA staff to feel rushed by the quick turnaround when the site is not predetermined. The expanded planning timeline also allows more opportunities for the sport committee(s) to collaborate with the hosts and provide feedback. Quality hotels can be contracted much earlier, which could lead to better rates for the participants. The committee(s) would also have more control during the bid process to select the most suitable hosts possible instead of leaving that to chance with a non-predetermined site. The two Division III ice hockey championships are the only of the NCAA's 91 championships that have nonpredetermined finals sites.

d. Estimated budget impact. None. There are even potential cost savings on equipment purchasing and shipping.

e. Student-athlete impact. The more time the hosts have to prepare for the event, the

better the experience is likely to be, as thoughtful and detailed planning often leads to a more memorable experience. Better quality hotels could be contracted earlier, which would be better for participating teams. The committee acknowledged while there is the risk of low attendance if the host school does not advance to the finals site, it is the same risk for other championships with predetermined finals sites.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Predetermined finals site pilot program.** The committees discussed the pilot program at length and voted to recommend moving both championships to predetermined finals sites in the future. (See Action Item 1.)
- 2. Bid specifications.** The committees recommended including three items in the bid specifications for the upcoming cycle: a potential host's plan to reserve a backup ice resurfacing machine (Zamboni) for practice and competition; a potential host being required to have a skate sharpener on site; and a potential host providing all participating teams with contact information for a local skate repair company.
- 3. Locker room discussion.** During the 2024-25 Division III Women's Ice Hockey Championship, the committee decided that the host school, the four-seed, would move out of their home locker room, and the home locker rooms would be awarded to the top seeds. This decision became a hot topic not only at the championship but in other Division III coaches association and sport meetings as well. The Division III Championships Committee discussed the topic during its June meeting and agreed that the policy in all sports should be clarified to state that the host team is allowed to retain use of its locker room regardless of that team's seed in the bracket. The ice hockey committees support the Championships Committee's decision and voted unanimously to include similar language in future championships manuals and documentation effective in 2025-26.

Committee Chairs: (W) Wendy McManus, State University of New York at Oswego
(M) Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University
Staff Liaisons: (W) Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances
(M) Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Committee July 8, 2025, Joint Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Tristan Durgin, University of New England.	
Danielle Harris, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University.	
Tracy Johnson, St. Olaf College.	
Keith Maurice, Trinity College (Connecticut).	
Wendy McManus, State University of New York at Oswego.	
Kelly Rider, Curry College.	
Absentees:	
Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances.	
Dante Jones, Championships and Alliances.	
Kimberly Sorensen, Marian University (Wisconsin).	

Guests:
None.
NCAA Staff in Attendance:
Mariah Martin, Championships and Alliances.
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.