



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEES
JUNE 4, 2019, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

Legislative items.

- **None.**

Nonlegislative items.

- **Bracketing.**
 - a. Recommendation. To allow the Division III men's and women's ice hockey committees to pair teams outside of the 500-mile travel radius (i.e., create a flight) in the quarterfinal round when the bracketing principles would otherwise require two teams to face one another for a third consecutive year (and the quarterfinal round is the bracket entry point for the teams).
 - b. Effective date. 2020-21 championship year.
 - c. Rationale. Due to the small size of the Division III men's and women's ice hockey championship fields, existing bracketing principles can negatively affect institutions that are geographically isolated. Current policies require championship brackets to be developed based on geography with the goal to minimize flights. When current policies have been applied, the same two institutions have been paired in the quarterfinals of the Division III women's ice hockey championship for the past four seasons (note: the same circumstances have not traditionally occurred with the men's ice hockey championship, but the potential exists given the bracket size and location of sponsoring schools in the sport). Because one institution is geographically isolated and typically only has one other participating institution located within the 500-mile travel radius, the committee is often forced to develop the championship bracket around the matchup of these two institutions. Based on participant feedback, having the same two teams play each other in the quarterfinal round four years in a row has negatively impacted the student-athlete experience. Therefore, the Division III men's and women's ice hockey committees are requesting an exception to the current bracketing principle when the same two teams have been paired together for two consecutive years. This exception would allow the committees to utilize no more than one flight in the quarterfinal round to create a matchup of different opponents. And, while this exception would be applied narrowly to men's and women's ice hockey, the committees recognize that it could be helpful for new championships and those with fewer than 16 teams, for example men's volleyball.

- d. Estimated budget impact. \$56,400.00. The estimated budget impact is the total required for one instance occurring in either the men's or women's ice hockey brackets in a given year. Current bracketing trends show this impact could potentially be applied once every three years for the women and it is not likely to be applied for the men at this time. If approved, the committees would review the policy exception on an annual basis to capture the frequency of application and actual expense incurred.
- e. Student-athlete impact. Will be a positive impact on the student-athletes as seen attached in letters from Directors of Athletics.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. **PairWise.** The committees evaluated the PairWise ranking and selection tool and agreed to maintain the formula for the 2019-20 championship season, the second year of the two-year pilot program. The committees will evaluate whether to adopt PairWise for the 2020-21 season and beyond at the 2020 annual meeting.
- 2. **Other business.** The committees discussed other topics of mutual interest.

*Committee Chairs: Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
 Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University*
*Staff Liaison(s): Aaron King, Championships and Alliances
 Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances*

Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Committees June 4, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Katie Boldvich, Colonial Hockey Conference/New England Hockey Conference.
Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
Jackie MacMillan, College of St. Scholastica.
Bill Mandigo, Middlebury College.
Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University.
Craig Russell, Plymouth State University.
Deb Steward, William Smith College.
Mike Szkodzinski, Lawrence University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:

Division III Men's and Women's Ice Hockey

Annual Meeting Report

June 4, 2019

Page No. 3

Tim Danehy, College Hockey Stats.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Aaron King, Championships and Alliances.
Laura Klee, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Adam Skaggs, Division III Governance.