



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S AND WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEES
JUNE 3, 2020, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Rankings and selection – pilot program with PairWise system.

- (1) Recommendation. That the men's and women's ice hockey committees extend the initial two-year pilot to use the PairWise selection system to rank and select teams for an additional two years.
- (2) Effective date. 2020-21 and 2021-22 championship seasons.
- (3) Rationale. The committees received positive feedback from the coaching body following the two-year pilot; however, because they did not get a full two years of data due to the 2020 winter championship cancellation and given the current climate of athletics, the committees would like to continue to move forward with PairWise on a pilot basis. The committees noted that coaches appreciate the transparency of the process and universally accept the selected teams and seedings.

PairWise calculates rankings based on a comparison matrix that applies an equal weight to the selection criteria to compare each team to all other teams. The recommendation to extend the two-year pilot program will again be based on the current Division I men's rating percentage index (RPI).

The committees noted there may be a need to adjust formulas or process based on schedule and sponsorship changes during the upcoming 2020-21 season and potentially beyond.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The committee expects that the PairWise system will continue to provide a clear and transparent team ranking that is both recognized by ice hockey student-athletes and consistent with Division III criteria.

b. Rankings – overtime rules change.

- (1) Recommendation. That the men's and women's ice hockey committees adjust the RPI weighting within the PairWise formula to 67% for a win and 33% for a loss in games that extend to overtime.
- (2) Effective date. Immediately.
- (3) Rationale. The rules committee has adopted a new rule requiring all conferences to play a 3-on-3 overtime if the game remains tied after 60 minutes. Since the teams will not be playing 5-on-5 hockey, the committees recommend the RPI weighting be adjusted. The committees are recommending a 67/33 weighting as a fair and understood approach given that is how most Division III conferences award points for conference standings.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The recommendation provides a fair approach for student-athletes as overtime outcomes are weighed by the committees.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Selection show date and time.** The committees would like to move the selection show from Monday morning at 10 and 10:30 a.m. to Sunday evening at 9 and 9:30 p.m. to allow hosts and participating teams more time to prepare, especially for women's ice hockey teams that open play on Wednesday evening. Alternatively, the committees suggested the production of a selections preview show to allow for a combination of live team footage and interviews with coaches that would be followed by a press release announcement on Sunday evening. NCAA staff liaisons will explore this concept with the NCAA broadcast and digital team members.
- 2. Regional advisory committees.** The committees discussed reinstating the regional advisory committees for the 2020-21 season based on the following reasons:
 - a. While the regional advisory committee members would not have any ranking responsibilities, the national committees could provide the regional advisory committees with training on PairWise to help educate the coaching body and potentially prepare future national committee members.
 - b. Regional advisory committee members would be required to serve as site representatives to provide the national committee a larger pool of individuals to assign.

c. The national committee members could seek feedback from regional advisory committees on facilities in their area to help decide future site selections.

3. Update from the rules committee. The committees discussed potential rules changes with the members of the NCAA Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

4. Update from the Division III governance staff. The NCAA governance provided an update on several topics, including impacts from COVID-19 and future anticipated impacts.

5. Other business. The committees discussed other topics of mutual interest.

Committee Chairs: Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
 Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference
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 3, 2020, Meeting
Attendees:
Tom DiCamillo, 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.
Dave Walberg, University of Massachusetts Boston
Absentees:
Crystal Lanning, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.
Guests in Attendance:
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:
Louise McCleary, Governance.