



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

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

1. Recommendation. That the following eight conferences be approved for automatic qualification to the 2021 NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship: Commonwealth Coast Conference, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, New England Hockey Conference, New England Small College Athletic Conference, Northern Collegiate Hockey Association, State University of New York Athletic Conference and the United Collegiate Hockey Conference.

Anticipated Pool Allocations

Pool A - 8

Pool B - 0

Pool C - 4

2. Effective date. September 1, 2020.
3. Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Committee chair.

1. Recommendation. That Craig Russell, Head Men's Ice Hockey Coach at Plymouth State University, serve as chair of the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee.
2. Effective date. September 1, 2020.

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3. Rationale. Mr. Russell has provided strong service as a veteran committee member and will be an integral part of the planning for the 2021 Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship to take place at a non-predetermined site.
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee chair welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.
2. **Key actions of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee.** The committee reviewed recent Championships Committee actions and their relevancy to the work of the men's ice hockey committee, including COVID-19 related issues and adjustments.
3. **2019 report.** The committee approved the 2019 annual meeting report as presented.
4. **2020 championship.**
 - **Championship cancellation.** The committee discussed the events surrounding the cancellation of the 2020 Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship. They agreed that COVID-19 will continue to affect how competition and the championship will be conducted in the future. The committee expressed disappointment that the city of Buffalo and the LECOM Harborcenter were not able to host the 2020 championship.
5. **American Hockey Coaches Association.** The committee discussed topics relevant to the AHCA, including the benefits and challenges to assigning the finals site host on a non-predetermined basis (i.e., 2019 and 2021 championships). The committee also anticipates more discussion with coaches on the topic of the PairWise pilot for rankings and selections and the impact of the anticipated change to the overtime format (refer to the report of joint meeting with the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee).
6. **Selection criteria.** The committee discussed the two-year pilot for the PairWise rankings and selections. The committee was again satisfied with the application of the PairWise, but acknowledged the cancellation of the championship did not allow for a complete second year and determined to extend the pilot (refer to the report of joint meeting with the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee). The committee also discussed whether to incorporate results versus Division II opponents into the PairWise and determined not to make any

adjustments as results versus Division II opponents are not primary results in Division III rankings and selection criteria for any sport.

- 7. Officials update.** The committee met with Frank Cole, national coordinator of men's ice hockey officials, about officiating issues. The committee affirmed the practice of assigning officials to the finals site based on conference alignment whenever possible and discussed some challenges with the Arbiter registration and background check process that slowed down the confirmation of the pool of officials to consider as eligible for championship assignment.
- 8. 2021 automatic qualification (AQ) and pool allocation.** The committee reviewed AQ applications for the 2021 championship. (Refer to the nonlegislative action item above.)
- 9. 2022 Lake Placed planning timeline.** The committee began discussion of the 2022 championship and a timeline to follow for host preparation.
- 10. 2023-26 host site selection process – bid submissions.** The committee reviewed bid submissions and formulated preliminary recommendations for the 2023 through 2026 final site hosts (confirmed during a subsequent videoconference). The committee agreed to recommend a return to non-predetermined host sites for two of the four years.
- 11. Joint discussion with Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee.** The committee met with members of the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee to discuss several areas of common interest (refer to report of joint discussion).
- 12. 2020-21 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the committee calendar for the 2020-21 season.
- 13. Review of championship manuals.** The committee spent limited time reviewing championship manuals but acknowledged the need for several updates based on committee decisions made during the course of the meeting (e.g., overtime format and PairWise rankings) and other anticipated adjustments for the 2020-21 season (e.g., no celebratory banquet at the finals site).
- 14. Other business.** The committee thanked outgoing members Tom Di Camillo and Jared Phillips for their excellent service to NCAA men's ice hockey. The committee also agreed to reconvene via videoconference later in the summer to finalize the host site recommendations and discuss any developments related to COVID-19 and impact on the upcoming year.

Committee Chair: Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison: Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee June 3, 2020, Meeting	
Attendees:	
	Craig Russell, Plymouth State University.
	Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
	Jared Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University.
	Mike Szkodzinski, Lawrence University.
Absentees:	
	None.
Guests in Attendance:	
	Frank Cole, Coordinator of Officials.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
	Laura Klee, Championships and Alliances.
	Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
	None.