



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 27-28, 2023, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Bracket expansion.**

(1) Recommendation. That the bracket for the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship be expanded to 13 teams.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

(3) Rationale. In 2022-23, sponsorship for men's ice hockey is projected to be at 86 teams, which warrants an expansion in accordance with the 1:6.5 ratio. As such, the committee is requesting that the Championships Committee support expanding the bracket to 13 teams.

(4) Estimated budget impact. \$15,000.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Adding more championship bids will have a very positive impact on student-athletes across Division III men's ice hockey. Increasing the opportunity to make it to the championship could potentially help grow the sport across the country.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Agenda and meeting schedule. The committee reviewed the meeting agenda and schedule.

2. 2022 annual meeting report. The committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as presented.

3. Key actions of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee. The committee reviewed recent actions the Division III Championships Committee took relevant to men's ice hockey. Notable items included August 1, 2023, is the start of the DIII budget cycle and top priorities will be travel party increase, increased per diem, permissible flights and championship access.

4. Ice Hockey Rules Committee. The committee heard updates from Secretary-Rules Editor Jeff Fulton.

5. Statistical record keeping. The committee noted that College Hockey Stats is no longer available, which presents challenges for administrators to track on major penalties and DQs for

supplemental discipline. The committee asked for clarification regarding whether the NCAA will provide support for tracking penalties.

6. Review of 2022 Championship.

- a. Venue. The committee noted challenges faced with Endicott as a non-predetermined host site. Overall, the committee felt the venue was sufficient but noted wanting to implement base-level standard minimums for non-predetermined sites for locker rooms, seating capacity, bathrooms, etc.
- b. Practice schedule. The committee noted that championship day practice should occur at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Also, for the first practice day five minutes should be added to each practice to allow for a team photo to be taken on the ice beforehand.
- c. Hotel. The committee noted that hotel accommodations worked well for the teams this year. The committee suggested reaching out to On Location for the 2023 championship to make sure Trinity has enough hotels.
- d. Awards presentation. The committee suggested having someone stand with the announcer as the script is read as well as having different colored paper to distinguish the award script from the other scripts. Additionally, the awards table should be set up at the top of center ice.
- e. Hydration. The committee noted a positive experience with the hydration product and that teams appreciated hydration being near the locker rooms.
- f. Facility/Staff. The committee noted that the Endicott staff were pleasant to work with throughout the weekend, specifically noting they continued a positive environment after their team was eliminated.
- g. Committee responsibilities and assignments. The committee wants to establish more standard committee responsibilities at the championship and will discuss them in more detail during their monthly meetings.

7. Championship discussion.

- a. Bracket Expansion. The committee discussed bracket expansion being warranted this year due to sponsorship numbers and agreed to recommend an immediate increase (see Action Item 2 above). The committee also noted needing to discuss championship format if bracket increase is approved.
 - b. Selection criteria/Pairwise. The committee noted a positive experience in working with Pairwise. Tim Danehy of Pairwise joined the meeting to provide an update.
- 8. Officials.** Frank Cole, national officials coordinator, provided an overview of the season and updates to the committee. He also reviewed officials criteria and noted that he received feedback from the officials coordinator at each preliminary-round site. The committee noted

wanting to place more emphasis on the officials feedback form that should be collected at the end of each game. The committee also noted emphasizing conference affiliation during the preliminary-round games but selecting the best officials for the finals site regardless of conference. The committee noted preferring officials with replay experience for the semifinals and final but that it should not be a deciding factor in game assignment.

- 9. American Hockey Coaches Association.** The committee discussed hot topics shared from the 2023 ACHA meeting.
- 10. 2023 host site selection review.** The committee discussed potential challenges with securing hotels for the 2024 championship at Trinity College. The committee also discussed Utica College as the 2026 championship host and the possibility of Utica moving to Division I. Ultimately, the championship can still be held at Utica if it is a Division I school as long as all parties agree to do so. The committee noted that 2027 will be a non-predetermined year with preference for the finals to be in the West region.
- 11. Joint meeting with the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee.** The committees met jointly to hear updates from staff on Division III governance issues and actions from the Division III Championships Committee.
- 12. 2023 -24 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the 2023 -24 calendar.
- 13. Committee chair.** Katie Boldvich will continue being chair for the 2023-24 season. Ms. Boldvich's years of service on the women's and men's ice hockey committees, her knowledge of the sport, and her experience as an administrator has been beneficial to the committee in her role as chair.
- 14. Championship manual review.** The committee will be assigned manuals to review once the new committee member has been named.

Committee Chair: Katie Boldvich, New England Hockey Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Ashley Caldwell, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee June 27-28, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University.	
Katie Boldvich, New England Hockey Conference.	
Danielle Harris, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Guests:	
Tim Danehy, Pairwise.	
Wendy McManus, Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee Chair.	
Frank Cole. National Coordinator of Officials.	
Jeff Fulton Secretary-Rules Editor.	

NCAA Staff in Attendance:
Ashley Caldwell, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Laura Peterson Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Bill Regan, Law, Policy, and Governance.
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Caleb Kolby, Championship and Alliances.