



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-26, 2024, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting agenda and schedule.
- 2. 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 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 a bracket increase resulting in a 14-team bracket, using "AQ" and "At Large" language when referring to championship berths, discussion regarding allowable flights to protect top-seeded teams, and requiring web streaming at all preliminary-round and regional sites.
- 4. 2024-25 ice hockey landscape and AQ pools.** The committee noted that there are now 10 AQs with the addition of the Middle Atlantic Conference. Johnson and Wales University (Providence) was granted early entry into the Commonwealth Coast Conference specifically for ice hockey. The committee also noted that for the next two years there should be four at-larges due to conference realignment.
- 5. Ice hockey rules update.** NCAA Ice Hockey Secretary-Rules Editor Jeff Fulton joined the meeting virtually and noted that 2023-24 was a rules change year and that there were 60 rule changes and clarifications. During the American College Hockey Coaches Association convention, a rules meeting was conducted with each division and gender. Mr. Fulton shared that there was a major rule change regarding shootouts as well as delayed penalties and major penalties.
- 6. Ice hockey officials update.** National Coordinator of Officials Frank Cole joined the meeting virtually and noted no major issues with officials this year. When receiving officials recommendations during the tournament the committee paid close attention to the number of times a team had seen an official in effort to eliminate teams seeing an official multiple times consecutively. Mr. Cole noted that he monitors how many times a team sees an official at the start of the conference season. The committee also discussed the plan for officials for the 2025 finals site as it is a West preferred year and posed questions regarding officials with video replay experience. The committee noted wanting to prioritize that finals site officials have Division III experience over officials with video replay experience. Mr. Cole also shared names of individuals who could serve as coordinator of officials for the 2025 championship. The committee noted that

this person should be neutral.

7. Review of 2023 championship.

- a. Preliminary-round hosts.** The committee noted no significant negative feedback regarding the preliminary-round hosts. The committee wants to emphasize that site reps be at the post-game interviews and understand what to do if misconduct occurs. The committee discussed having a site rep be on site just for the game versus the team practices as well but ultimately acknowledged this would be an issue for the visiting team. If this does become an issue in the future the committee discussed handling it by speaking with each team's administrator. The committee noted the QR codes used for officials' evaluations was a challenge for some coaches. The NCAA liaison will connect with RefQuest on the possibility of emailing coaches the evaluation.
- b. Finals site.** The committee noted that Koeppel Community Sports Center was an adequate venue for the championship. The committee also noted that the practice and game time schedule worked very well. The committee noted challenges with the host staff regarding overall preparation for the championship. The committee suggested creating a banquet 101 document to assist with banquet standards as well as ensuring the venue is "game ready" for the committee walkthrough. The committee also noted some challenges on the media coordination side and reiterated the importance of highlighting media requirements in the manual. The committee noted the hosts did a great job managing the hydration and snack stations.
- c. Venue.** The committee noted the Koeppel Community Sports Center was an adequate site for the championship. There were enough locker rooms for all teams and officials and seats for press and spectators.
- d. Practice schedule.** The committee noted the championship schedule worked well this year.
- e. Hotel.** The committee noted some challenges with the hotel due to the Division I women's basketball tournament also being in Hartford, CT the same week. Also, one of the teams was displaced due to a system issue.
- f. Awards presentation.** The committee noted the awards presentation was an improvement from 2023. The committee suggested the NCAA liaison inquire about acquiring dummy trophies for photos only so that every student-athlete and staff member has a trophy for the award presentation photos.
- g. Hydration.** The committee noted a positive experience with the hydration product and snacks.

- h. Facility/Staff.** The committee noted there were some challenges with the host staff and meeting the requirements that were in the host operations manual.
 - i. Community service.** The committee noted the community service went well and suggested having a standing community service opportunity each year (e.g., greeting cards).
 - j. Committee responsibilities and assignments.** The committee felt responsibilities and assignments worked well this year.
- 8. Championship discussion.**
 - a. Bracket expansion.** The committee noted that the championship bracket increased by one team for a total of a 14 for the 2025 championship. The committee drafted a potential 14-team bracket, and the NCAA liaison will confirm the bracket can be used next season.
 - b. Selection criteria/Pairwise.** The committee noted the transition from Pairwise to NPI. The committee recently set the NPI dials for the 2024-25 season and does not anticipate any major changes for ice hockey.
- 9. American Hockey Coaches Association.** The committee discussed hot topics shared from the 2024 ACHA meeting such as a joint championship in the future, preseason language and the 25-game schedule.
- 10. 2028 host site selection review.** The committee reviewed bids for the 2028 championship and submitted a recommendation for the bid selection process and announcement in the fall.
- 11. Joint meeting with the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee.** The committee met with the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee to discuss action items and hot topics around bracket expansion, NPI, shared hosting sites and permissible flights.
- 12. Updated from governance and AMA.** Bill Regan and Sarah Turner joined the committee to share updates in the AMA and governance space. Ms. Turner provided updates regarding the noncontroversial legislation submitted regarding preseason language to be implemented this year. She also encouraged the committee to share with their membership the importance of having international students register early with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Mr. Regan provided updates on a variety of topics pertaining to Division III.
- 13. Championships Committee update.** Laura Peterson shared updates from the recent Championships Committee meetings that included the items noted in Informational Item 3 above.
- 14. 2024-25 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed the 2024-25 calendar.

15. Committee roster. The committee noted each member's term and welcomed incoming committee member Tristan Durgin who joined virtually. The committee elected Tyler Hynes as chair for the 2024-25 season. Mr. Hynes has been of member of the committee for two years, and his knowledge of the sport and experience as a coach has been beneficial already and will be especially important in his role as chair.

16. Championship manual review. The committee provided edits to be incorporated into the 2024-25 manuals.

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 25-26, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University.	
Katie Boldvich, New England Hockey Conference.	
Danielle Harris, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Graham Johnson, Milwaukee School of Engineering.	
Guests:	
Tim Danehy, Pairwise/NPI.	
Wendy McManus, Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee Chair.	
Kelly Rider, Curry College.	
Michelle McAteer, Augsburg University	
Frank Cole. National Coordinator of Officials.	
Jeff Fulton Secretary-Rules Editor.	
NCAA Staff in Attendance:	
Ashley Jenkins, Championships and Alliances.	
Elise Boulton, 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.	

