REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative items.**

   - **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

   a. Automatic qualification.

      1. Recommendation. That the following 10 conferences be afforded automatic-qualifying status to the 2027 NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Championship: Conference of New England; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; Northern Collegiate Hockey Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; United Collegiate Hockey Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

         The anticipated pool allocations for the 2027 championship are as follows: Pool A – 10 and 4 at-large.

      2. Effective date. September 1, 2026.

      3. Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. (Note: Pool allocations may adjust based on 2026-27 sponsorship numbers.)

      4. Estimated budget impact. None.

      5. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

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

2. **2025 annual meeting report**. The committee approved the 2025 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 made during the 2025-26 academic year.

4. Review of 2026 championship.

a. Preliminary-round hosts. The committee noted no significant negative feedback regarding the preliminary-round hosts.

b. Finals site. The committee noted that the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium was a great venue for the championship. The facility had LED dasher boards that allowed for more branding opportunities. The committee also noted that the practice and game time schedule worked very well. The Utica University staff did another tremendous job with the banquet.

c. Venue. The committee noted the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium was a great facility. There was ample locker room space, LED dasher boards, video board, ice art and the ice maintenance was tremendous. The committee greatly appreciate the great work of the staff to get this accomplished.

d. Practice schedule. The committee noted the championship schedule worked well this year.

e. Hotels. The committee did not receive any issues or concerns from the participating teams regarding their hotels. It was noted that hotel rates and catering costs continue to increase at high rate while per diem increases are at a smaller rate.

f. Awards presentation. The committee noted the awards presentation was executed flawlessly again this year. The Utica staff were great getting everything turned over in a timely fashion.

g. Video review. The committee discussed video review for the preliminary rounds which was allowed for the first time this. Since division III has required streaming as a host requirement for championships, the committee feels the use of replay should be allowable. Overall video review went well and should continue to improve with the advancement in technology. Some views may be inconclusive due to the camera angle but having the ability is in the best interest for the championship.

NCAA Power Index (NPI). The committee NPI data from the previous two years and currently has not identified any changes to the dials. The committee will look at their dials again in late June after all playing rules is approved as potential rule changes could impact on the values in the dials. The committee recommended that the NPI data be released earlier and more often. Additionally, they have identified some other enhancements that should be made, including easier identification makers for selected teams and then also additional data points to assist in understanding the NPI and assistance in schedule making for teams.

5. **Predetermined sites.** The committee discussed and reminded new members that it was decided during last years annual meeting both the men and women ice hockey championships will move to all predetermined final sites. Currently, the two Division III ice hockey championships are the only of the NCAA's 92 championships that have nonpredetermined finals sites every other year.

6. **American Hockey Coaches Association**. The committee discussed hot topics shared from the 2026 ACHA convention.

7. **2026-27 committee calendar**. The committee reviewed the 2026-27 calendar.

8. **Championship manual review**. The committee provided edits to incorporate into the 2026- 27 manuals.

9. **Committee chair.** The committee voted unanimously that Tristan Durgin, Director of Sports Information at the University of New England, will serve as the chair for 2026-27.

10. **2027 annual meeting.** The committee agreed to meet on April 20-21, 2027.

Committee Chair: *Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University, Middle Atlantic Conference*
Staff Liaison(s): *Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee June 3, 2026, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Tristan Durgin, University of New England
Jon Garver, University of Wisconsin-Superior.
Tyler Hynes, Wilkes University.
Tyler Walsh, Gustavus Adolphus College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Tim Danehy, NCAA Power Index (NPI).
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Will Hopkins.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mariah Martin.