



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
MARCH 29 AND APRIL 24, 2025, ANNUAL MEETINGS**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2025 championship review.**
 - a. **Semifinals and final surveys.** The committee reviewed post-championship survey results, which were mostly positive. The committee acknowledged the need for this championship to increase survey participation to help identify opportunities to improve. Members tasked the NCAA liaison to contemplate ideas to achieve this.
 - b. **Site rep recruitment and training.** The committee noted that the amount of information provided to site reps, while important, could be considered overwhelming to new site reps and committee members. The committee asked for a one-sheet document to simplify and clarify duties and responsibilities at preliminary-round sites.
 - c. **Preliminary-round hosts.** The committee was pleased with the quality of events the preliminary-round hosts conducted. The hosts were organized and professional and provided a high-quality experience for all teams.
 - d. **Preliminary-round operations.**
 - (1) **Pucks.** The committee recommended sending fewer pucks to each host site as a potential cost-saving measure. The hosts have been using about half the pucks provided for the event.
 - (2) **Streaming.** The committee noted that streaming all preliminary-round games was a great enhancement and should be continued going forward. However, from a host perspective, Hudl's platform was not as easily integrated for hosts that use different systems to stream during the regular season.
 - (3) **Officials.** The committee agreed that the officials did an outstanding job, and the committee members that were on site at the first round and quarterfinal games received positive reviews from coaches.
 - e. **Finals site host/venue.** The committee emphasized what a great job the University of Wisconsin-River Falls did as host. The staff was organized and well led by tournament director Charles Sowa. They were flexible and proactive in resolving potential issues. They

communicated well throughout the planning process. The committee noted that the venue was one of the best Division III ice hockey venues in the country and would recommend considering UW-River Falls for future championships.

- (1) **Banquet.** The committee noted the banquet was phenomenal. The host did an outstanding job, including the speaker, the food, and the awards portion.
 - (2) **Community service.** The committee discussed positive feedback from participating coaches and players. This year all the teams visited a local food bank to help prepare meals and stock shelves. The committee recommends continuing this in the future.
 - (3) **Signage.** The committee emphasized how much better the signage and the facility looked with personalized, custom signage and more time to plan due to this being a predetermined year. The new branding for the ice art and dasher boards were a nice touch as well.
 - (4) **Hotels.** The committee praised the team hotels for their attention to the needs of participating teams. The welcome decorations, team meeting rooms, staff availability and friendliness, breakfast areas and close proximity to the facility were all beneficial to the teams.
 - (5) **Video replay.** The committee is considering submitting a recommendation for having video replay starting in the quarterfinal round. With the site selection criteria protecting the top four teams by allowing them to host and receive a bye, that would provide an extra week to get the replay equipment to each site for installation. The concern is that video replay is not used during the regular season, and coaches and officials would be expected to learn and understand how to use it during the most critical games of their season.
3. **Bid specifications.** The committee reviewed the current host bid specifications and suggested updates to the NCAA liaison to reflect the current needs of the championship.
 4. **Selection and ranking procedures.** The committee recommends the “back door” view to NPI be provided to the committee to help with what-if scenarios prior to selections, specifically during non-predetermined championship years to help plan for where and whom may be hosting.
 - a. **Bracket.** The committee applauded Division III's decision to protect the top four seeds.
 - b. **Shootouts.** The committee discussed that some conferences are considering a rules recommendation to remove the shootout requirement. In 2024-25, the NCAA Men's and Women's Hockey Rules Committee made shootouts mandatory for a game to be considered a countable contest. However, winning a shootout only counts as a tie and does not have any impact on the NPI calculation due to the current rules in effect until they can be changed in 2026-27. Member conferences and coaches are confused as to why they are required to complete shootouts when they have no impact on rankings. The committee reviewed data on the subject provided by Tim Danahy (NPI creator) and will discuss this further with the Division III Men's Ice Hockey Committee during a joint meeting.

5. **Championship format.** The committee emphasized how much better the Saturday-Saturday-Friday-Sunday format was for the championship. The committee also discussed how the sponsorship number would suggest 13 teams in the field at the current access ratio. A bracket with 13 teams would force a shift away from the current format, so the committee will continue discussing a possible recommendation for a 14-team bracket in 2025-26.
6. **Future bid cycle.** The committee will discuss the future of the predetermined pilot program as the bid cycle approaches for 2029 and 2030. The committee wants to be consistent with the men's committee, so the topic will be discussed during a joint meeting. The committee suggested a survey be sent to the membership after the joint meeting in June. Topics include site neutrality, locker rooms, etc.
7. **Division III Championships Committee update.** J.P. Williams updated the committee on items the committee is currently discussing, including the possibility of increasing per diem and bench sizes. The bench size discussion does not necessarily affect ice hockey since there is limited space on benches.
8. **Division III governance update.** Bill Regan from the Division III governance staff updated the committee on a variety of governance topics.
9. **Officiating update.** Krissy Langley, national coordinator of officials, updated the committee on the prior year's championship. The committee felt Ms. Langley did an excellent job with official selections. The committee approves of her intention to increase the amount of training videos and feedback provided to officials throughout the year. Ms. Langley also expressed her concerns for securing sufficient officials for 2025-26 at the National Collegiate and Division III levels due to it being an Olympic year.
10. **Academic and membership affairs update.** Corey Berg, associate director of academic and membership affairs, spoke with the committee about key updates from the NCAA Convention, including information about rule changes around Major Junior Hockey and possible rules modernization around Bylaw 16.
11. **Review of manuals.** The committee will review manuals for outdated information and suggest updates.
12. **Chair election.** The committee selected Kelly Rider, head women's ice hockey coach at Curry College, as chair for the 2025-26 academic year.

Committee Chair: Wendy McManus, State University of New York at Oswego, SUNYAC Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey Committee March 29 and April 24, 2025, Meetings	
Attendees:	
Tracy Johnson, St. Olaf College.	
Keith Maurice, Trinity College (Connecticut).	
Wendy McManus, State University of New York at Oswego.	
Kelly Rider, Curry College.	

Kimberly Sorensen, Marian University (Wisconsin).
Absentees:
None.
Guests:
Tim Danehy, NCAA Power Index.
Krissy Langley, National Coordinator of Officials – NCAA Women's Ice Hockey.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Dante Jones, Championships and Alliances.
Ryan Richardson, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Bill Regan, Law, Policy and Governance.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.