



**2020 WOMEN'S
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE
ICE HOCKEY
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP
2019-20 MANUAL**

NCAA General Administrative Guidelines

Contents

Section 1 • Introduction	2
Section 1•1 Definitions	2
Section 2 • Championship Core Statement	2
Section 3 • Concussion Management	3
Section 4 • Conduct	3
Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability	3
Section 4•2 Drug Testing	4
Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship	4
Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies	4
Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy	4
Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey	5
Section 5 • Elite 90 Award	5
Section 6 • Fan Travel	5
Section 7 • Logo Policy	5
Section 8 • Research	6
Section 9 • Religious Conflicts	6

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Section 1 • Introduction

During the 2019-20 academic year, the Association will sponsor 90 national championships – 42 for men, 45 for women, and three for both men and women. Of the men's championships, three are National Collegiate Championships, 13 are Division I championships, 12 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. Of the women's championships, six are National Collegiate Championships, 12 are Division I championships, 13 are Division II championships and 14 are Division III championships. The combined men's and women's championships are National Collegiate Championships.

The Pre-Championship Manual will serve as a resource for institutions to prepare for the championship. This manual is divided into three sections: General Administrative Guidelines, Sport-Specific Information, and Appendixes.

The first section applies to policies applicable to all 90 championships, while the other two sections are sport-specific.

Section 1•1 Definitions

Pre-championship Manual. Resource for institutions to prepare for the championship.

Administrative Meeting. Pre-championship meeting for coaches and/or administrators.

Appendixes. Any supplemental documents to be provided and distributed through the various resources.

Championship Manager. The NCAA staff member(s) responsible for the operational oversight of the championship.

Games Committee. The committee assigned to supervise the conduct of each championship session at a specific site. For finals sites, the games committee is typically the NCAA national committee.

NCAA National Committee. The sport committee with direct oversight responsibilities for the championship.

Non-predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host at the time of the participant/team selections announcement.

Playing Rules. The rules under which the competition will be conducted.

Predetermined Sites. Those sites that are selected to host before the participant/team selections announcement.

Preliminary Rounds. The rounds of the championship before the final or championship round.

Regional Alignment. The geographic location of institutions or regional advisory committees.

Schedule of Events. Official event schedule – includes all required activities (e.g., practices, banquets, etc.).

Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the team selection process.

Site Selection Criteria. Policies and procedures in place to guide the site selection process.

Squad Size. Number of student-athletes per team allowed to dress in uniform and participate at the championship.

Tournament Physician. The physician designated by the host institution/conference to serve as the chief medical advisor for the championship.

Section 2 • Championship Core Statement

The championships and alliances staff strives to administer competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner so that the experience of the student-athlete is paramount.

This is attained by:

Ensuring student-athletes' optimal experience.

Executing championship events reflecting appropriate quality and values to/for stakeholders — student-athletes, coaches, administrators, member institutions, sport committees, fans, broadcast partners and corporate champions/partners.

Coordinating all aspects of the championship in an efficient, effective manner through common operating policies and practices, using internal and external resources.

Integrating championships with broadcast and corporate relationships in a manner that maintains the integrity of the championship.

Assuring effective management of the business aspects of the operation.

Enhancing the assets of the NCAA and their value by collaborating with internal and external expertise to achieve heightened exposure (e.g., community programs, fan events, banquets, anniversaries, etc.).

Section 3 • Concussion Management

[Reference: Concussion Management in Constitution 3.2.4.20 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4.17 in the NCAA Division II Manual, and Constitution 3.2.4.17 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

The NCAA has adopted legislation that requires all active member institutions to have a concussion management plan for their student-athletes. Traveling institutions shall follow their concussion management plan while participating in NCAA championships. If a participating team lacks appropriate medical staff to activate its concussion management plan, the host championship concussion management plan will be activated.

The legislation notes, in part, that a student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from athletics activities (e.g., competition, practice, conditioning sessions) and evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g., sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; a student-athlete diagnosed with a concussion is precluded from returning to athletics activity for at least the remainder of that calendar day; and medical clearance for return to athletics activity shall be determined by the team physician or the physician's designee from the student-athlete's institution. In the absence of a team physician or their designee, the NCAA tournament physician will examine the student-athlete and will determine medical clearance. Within the rules of the sport and policies established for the championship, medical staff should have access to the injured student-athlete without interference (e.g., coach).

A concussion is a brain injury that may be caused by a blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an "impulsive" force transmitted to the head. Concussions can occur without loss of consciousness or other obvious signs. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the previous one (hours, days or weeks) can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having more severe and/or long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in brain swelling, permanent brain damage and even death.

For further details, please refer to the [NCAA Sports Sport Science Institute website](#) for additional guidance.

Section 4 • Conduct

Section 4•1 Certification of Eligibility/Availability

[Reference: Certification of Eligibility/Availability in Constitution 3.2.4 and Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 31.2.1.7.1, 31.2.1.7.1.2 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Constitution 3.3.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaws 31.2.2 and 31.2.1.5 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaws 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 may compete in NCAA championships. Member institutions are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes before the beginning of each academic year and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all intercollegiate competition.

Member institutions are reminded to notify the NCAA national office before the selection date for each championship of any student-athlete who may have participated in regular-season competition but subsequently is determined to be ineligible or unavailable for NCAA championship competition.

DISCOVERY OF INELIGIBILITY OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE AFTER SELECTION

If an institution fails to report an ineligible student-athlete and the omission is not discovered until after the institution is selected to participate in the championship, necessitating the institution's withdrawal from the championship, that withdrawal shall be considered as one of the years of ineligibility, provided another institution participates in the championship in place of

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

the disqualified institution. If the discovery of the ineligible student-athlete occurs so near the beginning of the championship that the governing sport committee does not have a reasonable period of time to replace the disqualified institution in the bracket, that fact shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of years the disqualified institution shall be ineligible to participate.

Section 4•2 Drug Testing

[Reference: Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual and Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.3 in the NCAA Divisions II and III Manuals.]

Student-athletes who compete in NCAA championships may be subjected to drug tests in accordance with Bylaws 18.4.1.4 and 31.2.2 (Division I); 31.2.3 (Divisions II and III), and may be determined to be ineligible as a result thereof. Only student-athletes who have consented in writing to such testing are initially eligible for these championships; and thereafter, student-athletes who are tested shall remain eligible only if they test negative.

Section 4•3 Honesty and Sportsmanship

Individuals employed by (or associated with) a member institution to administer, conduct or coach intercollegiate athletics and all participating student-athletes shall act with honesty and sportsmanship at all times so that intercollegiate athletics as a whole, their institutions and they, as individuals, shall represent the honor and dignity of fair play and the generally recognized high standards associated with wholesome competitive sports.

Section 4•4 Misconduct/Failure to Adhere to Policies

MISCONDUCT

Misconduct in an NCAA championship is any act of dishonesty, unsportsmanlike conduct, unprofessional behavior or breach of law, occurring from the time the championship field is announced through the end of the championship, that discredits the event or intercollegiate athletics. Each games committee shall hold an administrative meeting with the representatives of participating institutions to review and explain the policies related to misconduct.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A governing sport committee may assess a financial penalty against an institution for failure of any of its representatives to adhere to the policies and procedures governing the administration of the competition. This includes, but is not limited to, failure to comply with the procedures and deadlines for submitting scores, score sheets, schedules, rosters and entry/march-in forms for qualification and other materials necessary for the efficient administration of the competition. [Click here](#) to see the full misconduct/failure to adhere to policies and procedures outline.

Section 4•5 Sports Wagering Policy

Sports wagering includes placing, accepting or soliciting a wager (on a staff member's or student-athlete's own behalf or on the behalf of others) of any type with any individual or organization on any intercollegiate, amateur or professional team or contest. Examples of sports wagering include, but are not limited to, the use of a bookmaker or parlay card; internet sports wagering; mobile betting; auctions in which bids are placed on teams, individuals or contests; and pools or fantasy leagues in which an entry fee is required and there is an opportunity to win a prize.

The current NCAA legislation against sports wagering prohibits NCAA student-athletes, member institutions' athletics staff and non-athletics staff with athletics responsibilities, and conference office staff from participating in sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics practice or competition in a sport in which the NCAA conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women.

A wager is any agreement in which an individual or entity agrees to give up an item of value (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner, etc.) in exchange for the possibility of gaining another item of value.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

A student-athlete found in violation of the prohibition against knowingly participating in any sports wagering activities or providing information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activity that involves intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility.

POSTSEASON

In championships in which a bracket format is used, student-athletes, coaches and administrators may not participate in bracket competitions where there is both a required entry fee and an opportunity to win a prize. Student-athletes and administrators may participate under current NCAA rules in bracket contests where there is no entry fee but a possibility of winning a prize. Some NCAA member schools, however, have chosen to ban student-athletes from participating in these types of bracket contests.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

It is permissible for NCAA championships to be conducted at locations in states that permit sports wagering.

Section 4•6 Student-Athlete Experience Survey

After each championship, institutional administrators, coaches and student-athletes will be asked to participate in a post-event survey intended to capture feedback on their recent championship experience. Institutional administrators and coaches will receive an email containing a link to the survey and will be asked to ensure participation from all student-athletes.

Section 5 • Elite 90™ Award

The Elite 90 award was created to recognize the true essence of student-athletes by honoring individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. The award is presented in every sport, every division, and goes to the student-athlete who has the highest cumulative grade-point average of all student-athletes on all teams competing at the finals site. Each institution that has at least one student-athlete qualify for the final round/site is eligible to nominate a student-athlete for the award. One student-athlete per championship will receive the award, and the announcement of the winner will be made at the finals site.

Institutions that wish to nominate a student-athlete must do so through an online nomination process. To receive more information or access the online form and submit a nomination, go to ncaa.org.

Section 6 • Fan Travel

NCAA Travel provides an easy and affordable way for family and fans to follow their favorite student-athlete(s) and team(s) as they participate in NCAA championships competition. Travel arrangements completed through NCAA Travel help support NCAA student-athletes. Please direct your fans to NCAA.com/travel to search and book online hotel, car and air travel, all in one easy transaction.

Section 7 • Logo Policy

[Reference: Bylaws 12.5.4, 31.1.7 and 31.1.8 in the NCAA Division I Manual, Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Division II Manual and Bylaw 12.5.3 in the NCAA Division III Manual.]

A student-athlete may use athletics equipment or wear athletics apparel that bears the trademark or logo of an athletics equipment or apparel manufacturer or distributor in athletics competition and pre- and postgame activities (e.g., celebrations

on the court, pre- or postgame press conferences), provided the following criteria are met:

1. Athletics equipment (e.g., shoes, helmets, baseball bats and gloves, batting or golf gloves, hockey and lacrosse sticks, goggles and skis) shall bear only the manufacturer's normal label or trademark, as it is used on all such items for sale to the general public; and
2. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform (including numbered racing bibs and warmups) and all other items of apparel (e.g., socks, head bands, T-shirts, wrist bands, visors or hats, swim caps and towels) shall bear only a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark (regardless of the visibility of the label or trademark), not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches in area (rectangle, square, parallelogram) including any additional material (e.g., patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The student-athlete's institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel shall not bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's trademark/logo that is in addition to another trademark/logo that is contrary to the size restriction.

Section 8 • Research

It is essential that all research efforts be coordinated by a single entity within the national office structure in order to ensure maximum efficiency and quality, avoid unnecessary duplication of effort on the part of staff and membership, allow the NCAA to prioritize research efforts given the limited time and resources of our members and adhere to federal guidelines on the responsibilities of researchers to properly protect research participants from harm.

For the purpose of this policy, "research" is defined as any systematic collection of data for the purpose of drawing generalized conclusions.

Any proposal to conduct research must be submitted to the NCAA research staff for review at least six weeks before the project begins. Research to be conducted during NCAA championships or related events, and which involves competing student-athletes or attendees, is also subject to review. This includes all research, including that conducted by or under the direction of any employee, contractor or paid consultant of the NCAA. It also includes any research conducted by other persons, but funded totally or in part by the NCAA. Any research that detracts from the student-athlete experience or requires physical activity may not be permitted at the championships (preliminary rounds and finals sites). The NCAA retains sole discretion as to whether to allow such research.

Examples of activities considered research include: Conducting surveys of athletics administrators, college presidents, faculty, coaches and student-athletes; leading an organized focus group; funding an outside study under the auspices of the NCAA; conducting market research at championship events; secondary analysis of data originally collected by the NCAA from people for other purposes; any systematic collection of data from the membership or other entities; etc.

Section 9 • Religious Conflicts

[Reference: Bylaws 31.1.4.1 and 31.1.4.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Institutional Policy. If a participating institution has a written policy against competition on a particular day for religious reasons, it shall inform the NCAA national office on or before September 1 of each academic year in order for it or one of its student-athletes to be excused from competing on that day. The championship schedule shall be adjusted to accommodate that institution. (Adopted: 4/22/98, Revised: 8/11/98, 10/28/99, 5/2/13)

Individual Championships. In individual championships, an athlete must compete according to the institution's policy regarding Sunday competition (if the institution has no policy against Sunday competition, the student-athlete shall compete on Sunday if required by the schedule).

National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey

Contents

Section 1 • General Administration	8
Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information	8
Section 1•2 National Committee	8
Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees.....	8
Section 1•4 Important Dates.....	9
Section 1•5 Equipment.....	9
Section 1•6 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships.....	10
Section 1•7 Rules.....	10
Section 1•8 Uniforms	10
Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation	11
Section 2•1 Championship Format	11
Section 2•2 Results	12
Section 2•3 Selection Information	12
Section 2•4 Selection Criteria	13
Section 2•5 Site Selection.....	14
Appendix A • Bracket	16
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship	17

Section 1 • General Administration

Section 1•1 NCAA Tournament Operations Staff Contact Information

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Section 1•2 National Committee

[Reference: Administration and Management in the Division I General Section, and Bylaws 31.1.1 and 31.1.2 in the NCAA Division I Manual.]

Current members of the committee are:

EAST REGION

Anita Brenner

Deputy Director of Athletics/SWA
Cornell University

WEST REGION

Paul Flanagan

Head Women's Ice Hockey coach
Syracuse University

EAST REGION

Katie Crowley

Head Women's Ice Hockey Coach
Boston College

WEST REGION

Abbey Strong, chair

Assistant Athletic Director-Compliance and Camps
University of Minnesota Duluth

EAST REGION

Kate McAfee

Associate Athletics Director for Event Management
University of New Hampshire

For additional information about the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship, contact:

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248-880-6877 / spiotrowski@bigten.org

Andy Supergan

NCAA Playing Rules
317-917-6081 / asupergan@ncaa.org

Section 1•3 Regional Advisory Committees

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
EAST REGION		
Katie Crowley, chair	Boston College	Hockey East Association
Anita Brenner	Cornell University	ECAC Hockey
Greg Fargo	Colgate University	ECAC Hockey
Kate McAfee	University of New Hampshire	Hockey East Association
Tom O'Malley	Sacred Heart University	New England Women's Hockey Alliance

NAME	INSTITUTION	CONFERENCE
WEST REGION		
Abbey Strong, chair	University of Minnesota Duluth	Western Collegiate Hockey Association
Chad Davis	Rochester Institute of Technology	College Hockey America
Paul Flanagan	Syracuse University	College Hockey America
Brad Frost	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Western Collegiate Hockey Association
Nadine Muzerall	The Ohio State University	Western Collegiate Hockey Association

Section 1•4 Important Dates

Tuesday, Jan. 28	Regional advisory committee call.
Wednesday, Jan. 29	First rating poll.
Friday, Jan. 31	National office begins accepting proposed budgets and bid materials for quarterfinals.
Tuesday, Feb. 11	Regional advisory committee call.
Wednesday, Feb. 12	Second rating poll.
Tuesday, Feb. 25	Regional advisory committee call.
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Third rating poll.
Wednesday, Feb. 26	Proposed budget materials for quarterfinal-round sites due to national office.
Thursday, March 5	Quarterfinal site representative call, 2 p.m. Eastern time.
Sunday, March 8	NCAA.com selection show, 9 p.m. Eastern time (tentative).
Monday, March 16	Call with championship participants, 11 a.m. Eastern time.
Wed.-Sat., April 22-25	American Hockey Coaches Association Convention – Naples, Florida.
Sat.-Sun., June 2-3	Women's Ice Hockey Committee annual meeting – Indianapolis.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

Sunday, March 8	Championship selections and pairings announced.
Fri. or Sat., March 13 or 14	Quarterfinals, to be determined, on campus.
Friday, March 20	Semifinal games – Agganis Arena, Boston University.
Sunday, March 22	Championship game – Agganis Arena, Boston University.

DATE FORMULA

Quarterfinals	Weekend before Women's Frozen Four (Friday or Saturday).
Finals	Friday and Sunday before men's ice hockey regionals.

FUTURE DATES

2021	March 19 and 21; Mercyhurst University and the Erie Sports Commission at Erie Insurance Arena – Erie, Pennsylvania.
2022	March 18 and 20; Pennsylvania State University at Pegula Ice Arena – University Park, Pennsylvania.
2023	March 17 and 19; TBD.

Section 1•5 Equipment

PUCKS

The NCAA shall provide practice and game pucks for all rounds of the championship.

Section 1•6 Eligibility for National Collegiate Championships

[Reference: Bylaw 20.8 in the NCAA Manual.]

An active member institution in good standing, regardless of division, is eligible for the National Collegiate Championships if a division championship in the respective sport is not offered in its division. Such an institution normally is required to meet only the institutional and individual eligibility requirements of its division that govern the sport in question.

Section 1•7 Rules

Per NCAA Bylaw 17.30, member institutions shall conduct all of their intercollegiate competition in accordance with the playing rules of the Association in all sports for which the NCAA develops playing rules. For those sports in which the Association follows rules that are developed by other governing bodies and modified by the governing sports committee, the adopted playing rules shall be used. The governing sports committee will not consider any results for selection purposes that are not played in accordance with NCAA rules, or those rules adopted by an outside organization.

Section 1•8 Uniforms

Each participating institution should bring both home and away uniforms to the site of the competition. Student-athletes shall wear their jerseys at all news conferences.

LOGOS

Refer to [General Administrative Guidelines, Section 7](#).

Division I Additional Requirements

The logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel set forth in 12.5.4 shall apply during the NCAA championships to all personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers) who are on the team bench for practices and games or who participate in news conferences. Also, the logo restriction on student-athletes' apparel as set forth in 12.5.4 shall apply to commercial logos on uniforms worn by band members, cheerleaders, dance team members and the institution's mascot during NCAA championship events.

These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of competition, which includes any pregame or postgame activities.

This bylaw will be strictly enforced at all NCAA championships and the names of individuals and institutions that are not in compliance with this bylaw shall be forwarded to the NCAA enforcement staff.

Section 2 • Determination of Championship Participation

Section 2.1 Championship Format

NCAA Divisions I and II institutions that sponsor intercollegiate women's ice hockey are eligible for the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship. The championship will include eight teams. The championship playoff format consists of four quarterfinal games that are played on the campuses of the participating institutions. The four quarterfinal winners will advance to the Women's Frozen Four. The entire championship will use a single-elimination format.

Squad Size. Participating teams are limited to 19 skaters plus not more than three nor fewer than two goalies on the bench for competition. Participating teams are limited to a squad size of 24. Replacements are permitted consistent with NCAA game protocol; however, after the game begins, no replacements shall be permitted for any reason. Only six non-playing personnel shall be allowed on the bench, providing a maximum bench limit of 28.

The number of student-athletes in competitive uniform shall not exceed the prescribed number at the start of the contest. An institution that is advised it is in violation of this regulation and does not conform promptly to it automatically shall forfeit the competition. There shall be no inordinate delay of the competition to allow the institution to conform to the rule.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

(All Times Local)

Wednesday, March 18

Teams arrive.

Thursday, March 19

10 to 11 a.m.	Practice A - (Semifinal #1 higher seed chooses practice A or B).
11:15 to 11:30 a.m.	Practice A - news conference.
11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Practice B - (Semifinal #1 higher seed chooses practice A or B).
12:30 to 12:45 p.m.	Practice B - news conference.
12:30 to 1:30 p.m.	Practice C - (Semifinal #2 higher seed chooses practice C or D).
1:15 to 1:30 p.m.	Practice D - news conference.
1:45 to 2 p.m.	Practice C - news conference.
1:45 to 2:45 p.m.	Practice D - (Semifinal #2 higher seed chooses practice C or D).
5 p.m.	Reception (student-athletes only).
5:45 p.m.	Championship celebration.
7 p.m.	Team dinner.

Friday, March 20

9:15 to 10 a.m.	Semifinal No. 1 visitor practice.
10:15 to 11 a.m.	Semifinal No. 1 home practice.
11:15 a.m. to noon	Semifinal No. 2 visitor practice.
12:15 to 1 p.m.	Semifinal No. 2 home practice.
4 p.m.	Semifinal Game 1.
7 p.m.	Semifinal Game 2.

Saturday, March 21

Noon to 2 p.m.	Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award and Brunch.
3:15 to 4 p.m.	Semifinal No. 1 winner practice.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

3:30 to 4 p.m. Semifinal No. 2 winner news conference.

4:15 to 4:45 p.m. Semifinal No. 1 winner news conference.

4:15 to 5 p.m. Semifinal No. 2 winner practice.

Sunday, March 22

4:30 p.m. Championship game.

START TIMES

Start times for the quarterfinals will be recommended by the host institution and the committee will reserve the right to approve these times. The preferred day for quarterfinal competition is Saturday, March 14. All quarterfinals will conclude by March 14.

During the Women's Frozen Four, the second semifinal will not begin before the scheduled start time but may begin after this time depending on the completion of the first game. After the completion of semifinal No. 1 and the resurfacing of the ice, a minimum of 43:00 (time to begin when ice resurfacing machine leaves the ice) will be put on the scoreboard. The only exception to this is when a goal is scored five minutes or less into any overtime session. In this case, the ice will not be resurfaced and a minimum of 48:00 (time to begin after players and officials have left the ice) will be put on the clock. In all cases, warm-ups for the second game will begin at 38:00, according to the NCAA ice hockey protocol.

TRAVEL PARTY

Transportation expenses and per diem will be provided for an official travel party of 34. Please refer to the NCAA Travel Policies for all information regarding transportation and per diem expenses. Travel policies can be found on the NCAA website at NCAA.org. The NCAA is not responsible for the expenses of persons beyond these limits. Once the championship is completed, participating institutions must submit reimbursement requests online through the NCAA Travel Expense System within 30 days of the conclusion of competition.

Section 2•2 Results

The RPI will be posted on NCAA.com beginning in mid-February.

During the championship and at the conclusion of the competition, the host sports information director, media coordinator or designee is responsible for reporting official results to the NCAA official website. Please email a copy of results to ncaa-content@turner.com. Please be sure to submit all information in the following manner:

- Send the information to ncaa-content@turner.com.
- Specify the sport (Division, Championship, Round) in the SUBJECT area.
- Paste the text directly into an email or send email as an attachment in a Word document.
- Please convert photos to JPEG format and attach to the email.

Section 2•3 Selection Information

BYLAW 31.3.3.1 - COUNTABLE COMPETITION

For NCAA team-championship selection purposes, competition is countable only when the teams played are varsity intercollegiate teams of four-year, degree-granting institutions that conduct a majority of their competition in that team sport against varsity intercollegiate teams (see Constitution 3.2.4.5) of United States four-year, degree-granting institutions. Competition against service teams, professional teams, semiprofessional teams, amateur teams, two-year colleges and club teams shall be excluded.

ALLOCATION OF BERTHS

Four conferences will receive automatic qualification for the 2020 championship. The remaining four teams will be selected on an at-large basis.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

The following conferences have been granted automatic-qualification privileges for the 2020 championship:

EAST REGION:	ECAC Hockey Hockey East Association
WEST REGION:	College Hockey America Western Collegiate Hockey Association

AT-LARGE SELECTION

To be considered during the at-large selection process, teams must be at or above 50.00 in the RPI. Divisions I and II institutions that wish to be considered for selection to the National Collegiate Championship must schedule a minimum of 20 games against Divisions I and II opponents.

CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

Championship information, including the complete bracket, will be available on NCAA.com subsequent to the official announcement. Updates can be found on this site throughout the championship.

Section 2•4 Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championships competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]:

- Won-lost record;
- Strength of schedule; and
- Eligibility and availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships.

In addition to Bylaw 31.3.3, the Women's Ice Hockey Committee has received approval from the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the women's ice hockey championship (not necessarily in priority order):

- *Rating Percentage Index (RPI) [won-lost record (30%), opponents' winning percentage (24%) and opponents' winning percentage (46%)]; including quality win bonus**
- Head-to-head competition; and
- Results versus common opponents.

*If points awarded for any win lower a team's average RPI, those points will not count toward the RPI.

**Quality win bonus awarded for wins against the top 12 championship eligible teams in the final selection RPI.

During the selection process, each team's full body of work will be evaluated. Each of the above criteria will carry one point, except head-to-head competition, which will carry the number of points equal to the net difference in the results of these games (e.g., if Team A defeats Team B three out of four games, Team A would receive two points in the selection process). When comparing two teams, the committee reserves the right to weight criteria differently based on relative team performance.

In situations where a high-impact player is unavailable, the committee may consider this as part of its evaluation of the above criteria.

The National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Committee does not consider outside polls as a source for selections.

SEEDINGS AND PAIRINGS

The Women's Ice Hockey Committee will seed the selected participants as follows:

1. The top four teams according to the selection criteria will be seeded 1-4 at the time of the selection call. The remaining four teams will be placed in the bracket based on relative strength as long as these pairings do not result in additional flights. These teams will not be reseeded and the committee will not change the bracket once the tournament has begun.

2. Assuming it meets the committee's hosting criteria, the highest seeded team will be given the opportunity to host the quarterfinal game.

Pairings in the quarterfinal round shall be based primarily on the teams' geographical proximity to one another, regardless of their region, in order to avoid air travel in quarterfinal-round games whenever possible. Teams' relative strength, according to the committee's selection criteria, shall be considered when establishing pairings if such pairings do not result in air travel that otherwise could be avoided. The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee shall have the authority to modify its working principles related to the championship site assignment on a case-by-case basis.

Section 2•5 Site Selection

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the 2020 championship must submit a proposed budget, respond to sport-specific questions and ensure that the institution's key contacts and facility information are complete and current in the Championships Bid and Profile System. Please note that in order to submit a bid, you must first locate the desired championship in the "Championships Available for Bidding" section and select "Start Bid."

Please note that all member institutions have regular and easy access to their profiles by visiting championships.ncaa.org. For profile issues, user access or to reset a password, please email championshipbid@ncaa.org or contact the respective championship manager.

The Championships Bid and Profile System can be accessed at championships.ncaa.org. The deadline to submit all bid materials for this championship is Wednesday, Feb. 26.

In addition to projected ticket sales and game expenses, prospective hosts should include the following when completing a proposed budget:

- Committee/site representative lodging.
- Game officials lodging.
- State and city taxes/fees.
- Ticket and facility fees.

Committees/site representative's per diem and mileage will be paid by the NCAA, not the host institution. Game officials will be reimbursed via the ArbiterPay system for their game fees, per diem, mileage and baggage fees.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

[Reference: Bylaw 31.4 in the NCAA Manual.]

A final financial report from each championship site must be submitted via the Championships Bid and Host Profile portal under the "budget" tab not later than 60 days after the conclusion of competition.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact Paige Newman at 317-917-6660 or pnewman@ncaa.org, or email us at championshipbid@ncaa.org, if you have any questions regarding the bid process.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN

Each facility profile should include the safety and security plan for that facility. This information can be uploaded and attached to the profile by visiting championships.ncaa.org.

FACILITY EVALUATION

Any institution interested in hosting preliminary-round competition of the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship must submit a facility profile. If an institution is proposing to play a quarterfinal game at a facility where it has not played a minimum of 10 games during the regular season, that facility must be approved in advance by the committee.

Appendixes

Contents

Appendix A • Bracket.....	16
Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship.....	17

Appendix A • Bracket



2020 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship



* Host Institution
 All times are Eastern time.
 Information subject to change.

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Appendix B • Sport Sponsorship

WEST REGION

College Hockey America (6)

Lindenwood University
 Mercyhurst University
 Pennsylvania State University

Robert Morris University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Syracuse University

Western Collegiate Hockey Association (7)

Bemidji State University
 Minnesota State University, Mankato
 University of Minnesota Duluth
 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

The Ohio State University
 St. Cloud State University
 University of Wisconsin-Madison

EAST REGION

ECAC Hockey (12)

Brown University
 Clarkson University
 Colgate University
 Cornell University
 Dartmouth College
 Harvard University

Princeton University
 Quinnipiac University
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 St. Lawrence University
 Union College (New York)
 Yale University

Hockey East Association (10)

Boston College
 Boston University
 University of Connecticut
 College of Holy Cross
 University of Maine, Orono

Merrimack College
 University of New Hampshire
 Northeastern University
 Providence College
 University of Vermont

New England Women's Hockey Alliance (6)

Franklin Pierce University
 Long Island University
 Post University

Sacred Heart University
 Saint Anselm College
 Saint Michael's College