

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Officials. Officials for all championship competitions are selected by the Women's Ice Hockey Committee based on recommendations submitted by the NCAA national ice hockey coordinator of officials via the eligibility requirements outlined.

1. Must be eligible on RefQuest by completing all RefQuest postseason eligibility requirements which include but are not limited to, registering, consent and passing a background check, watching the pre-season video, passing the rules test, and completing the annual sport radar video. (Note additional requirements may be added yearly.)
2. Must have participated in an NCAA conference clinic or preseason meeting.
3. Must be formally recommended by a conference supervisor via RefQuest and/or email directly to the National Coordinator in accordance to the timeline below.
4. Officials must complete the conflict-of-interest form when registering for RQ and confirm conflicts when asked by the national coordinator of officials prior to postseason assignment. If an official has a conflict of interest with an institution, they will not be assigned to officiate that institution during the postseason.
5. It is highly recommended that officials work a minimum of 10 games at the level and in the position for which they are recommended (referee or linesman).

Policies. Officials shall adhere to the conference's policies relating to gambling activities and drug and alcohol use. Furthermore, officials must conduct themselves in a manner befitting intercollegiate athletics. Failure to do so may result in termination of the officiating assignment. This includes self-reporting any injuries that could affect their ability to officiate in the NCAA championship competition.

Background checks. All officials must consent and pass the NCAA background check to be considered for assignment. Background screening is verified once the final recommendations are submitted.

TIMELINE

August 5	RefQuest+ hub opens.
Sep/Oct	Conference/NCAA clinics.
Nov. 21	Deadline for Officials to complete NCAA postseason eligibility on RefQuest.
Nov. 21	Initial recommendations due from conferences to NCAA national coordinator and staff liaison.
Jan. 21	Final recommendations due from conferences to NCAA national coordinator and staff liaison. <i>Changes past this deadline must be submitted with explanation directly to the NCAA national coordinator with copy to the Conference Commissioner and NCAA staff liaison.</i>
March 8	Teams selected for championship; national coordinator submits final recommendations to committee.
March 8	Bracket publicly announced; national coordinator notifies coordinators and officials of selections.
March 9	National coordinator confirms travel arrangements have been made, and all officials have received documents with instructions for the championship.

Evaluation, Selection and Assignment of officials. Selection and assignment of officials for all tournament games will be made by the NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- 1) Evaluations. Women's Ice Hockey conference supervisors will conduct evaluations of their conference officials in their own manner. The women's ice hockey National Coordinator of Officials may also evaluate the same officials in-person, online/TV, or through trained regional observers. All three evaluations are considered when making postseason recommendations and assignments.
- 2) All conference supervisors recommendations will be considered by the national coordinator and the committee without bias. The women's ice hockey national coordinator of officials will utilize the evaluation process outlined to make a final recommendation to the committee for each round. The women's ice hockey committee will be the final decision-making authority as to the selection and assignment of officials for all NCAA tournament games.

- 3) The national coordinator will make assignment recommendations to the Women's Ice Hockey Committee utilizing these principles:
 - a. Neutral conference officials (referee, linesperson, video replay) will be assigned to each game, when possible.
 - b. While neutral officiating crews are preferred, if sufficient neutral crews do not exist due to officiating evaluations, conferences represented in the bracket (i.e. many teams from one or two conferences) and/or potential advancement within the bracket, a split crew may be recommended. This involves using two referees from one team's conference and two linespersons from the other team's conference. In a game with a split crew, a referee pair will be assigned from the conference of the higher seed's conference, and a lines pair from the lower seed's conference.
 - c. In the event an official worked multiple games in multiple conferences, and is recommended by more than one conference coordinator, an examination of the official's game schedule will be utilized with the two specific opponents in their assigned game to confirm neutrality still exists.
- 4) At Regionals, two separate crews will be utilized when there is more than one game at the site, if possible.
- 5) At Women's Frozen Four, a separate crew will be utilized for each game (three total crews,) if possible.

Video Replay Official. At each regional site and the Women's Frozen Four, a video replay official will be assigned. The video replay official will be a neutral conference official, if possible. The video replay official will assist the on-ice crew in making the decision but has no authority on the final decision. The video replay official will have specific training regarding video replay rules and technology. This person must be involved with college hockey with thorough knowledge of the men's and women's ice hockey rules. This person watches and analyzes video footage to assist the on-ice officials (who make the final decision). This official is usually working in a central replay booth working in conjunction with the technical equipment operator. This person must possess in depth knowledge of the NCAA Men and Women's Ice Hockey Rule Book to determine if a play meets criteria for successful review.

Video Ice Coordinator. At each regional site the video ice coordinator will be provided by the host institution and has no influence on the game. At the Women's Frozen Four, the NCAA will assign the video ice coordinator to work with the video replay coordinator. This person communicates with the replay official and video replay compound and the officials on the ice.

Officials Liaison At each regional site, an on-site official's liaison will be assigned by the NCAA. This is the officiating representative that will handle any/all inquiries and communication between the championship committee representative/NCAA staff and the entire officiating crew. This individual will give the Coaches the officiating assignments approximately 90 minutes prior to the game. This individual will also complete a game evaluation for each game. They will remind the officiating crew to complete one self-evaluation survey. Conference coordinators are provided with the first opportunity to be on-site and have no influence on the assignments made for future rounds of the championship. The NCAA Women's Ice Hockey National Coordinator of Officials will fill this spot at the Women's Frozen Four.