



REPORT OF THE
NCAA WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 25, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative action item.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Selection criteria change.**

(1) Recommendation. Adopt the NCAA Power Index (NPI) as the sole selection criterion for the National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship (replacing PairWise).

(2) Effective date. October 1, 2025.

(3) Rationale. The committee believes the NPI is the best available selection criterion for the championship. The committee has been using NPI as one of the three factors of PairWise since 2022, but many coaches have been under the impression that the committee was already using NPI instead of PairWise. The committee has engaged with Tim Danehy, creator of PairWise and NPI, over the past year to understand the differences and the potential impact on institutions. Mr. Danehy presented data indicating that this is a minor change overall, as solely using NPI would not have changed the teams selected in any of the last four years. However, Mr. Danehy is advising the change, as the current criteria could potentially have a negative impact, highlighted by a "flip" in the NPI number and PairWise comparison in 2025. While that ultimately did not impact who was selected, it did affect seeding.

The committee collaborated with the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) to conduct an informational webinar regarding the NPI, and a subsequent straw poll taken at the AHCA convention showed 42 of 45 attendees supporting the change to NPI with two abstentions. Additionally, the AHCA took a formal vote after the convention on June 1, 2025, with 33 of 45 programs voting, and 32 supporting the change to NPI. With this information, along with the recommendation from Mr. Danehy, the women's ice hockey committee believes this change is needed to ensure the best available teams are selected and seeded for the championship. The committee is also aware that the men's committee is requesting a similar change this year. Finally, since the women's committee has already been using NPI, the "dials" (25% winning percentage, 75% strength of schedule, quality win base of 51.50 with a .5 multiplier, and 67/33 overtime factor) do not need to be adjusted. There is currently no home/away factor with a home win counting the same as a road win. The committee members acknowledged that they must include a new dial (minimum wins) as part of the transition to solely using NPI. When asked for a recommendation, Mr. Danehy advised 12 as the minimum number

of wins, as that would not have impacted the last four years of the championship (all teams had kept at least 12 wins). This dial will be added to the NPI if it is adopted. Additionally, the committee confirmed that the first six ranked teams in the NPI that do not receive automatic qualification into the championship should be selected into the field, no matter their win/loss record.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will be provided with a better selection tool to ensure the best teams are selected and appropriately seeded during the championship, ultimately allowing them the best opportunity to win a national championship based on their regular-season body of work.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Officiating policies and procedures document.** The committee approved the officiating policies and procedures document developed by NCAA staff and the national coordinator of officials. This committee requested this document be developed and made public for the membership to provide transparency regarding how an official becomes eligible, is recommended and is assigned during the women's ice hockey championship.
2. **Governance structure.** The committee discussed the new committee duties for National Collegiate committees. The committee also discussed the committee composition and the differences between National Collegiate sport oversight committees and Division I sport oversight committees.
3. **Site selection.** The committee was provided an update on the timeline for the next bid cycle.
4. **2026 site visit.** The committee discussed the upcoming site visit at the 2026 host of the Women's Frozen Four.

*Committee Chair: Janine Oman, The Ohio State University, Western Collegiate Hockey Association
Staff Liaison(s): Caleb Kolby, Championships and Alliance*

NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee August 25, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Brittany Kane, Boston University.	
Dean O'Keefe, Stonehill College.	
Janine Oman, The Ohio State University.	
Britni Smith, Syracuse University.	
Absentees:	

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None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Caleb Kolby.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Markell Staton.