



**NCAA DIVISION I COMPETITION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NCAA WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15-16, 2022, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Automatic qualification.** The NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee recommends automatic qualification for each of the five eligible conferences (see Action Item 2-a).
- 2. NCAA Percentage Index.** The committee is asking to use the NPI as a replacement for the RPI (see Action Item 2-b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following five conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2023 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship: College Hockey America, ECAC Hockey, Hockey East Association, New England Women's Hockey Alliance and Western Collegiate Hockey Association.
- (2) Effective date. The 2023 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. All five eligible conferences are being recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. It would allow all the student-athletes competing in conferences to have the opportunity to qualify for the NCAA Championship.

b. NCAA Percentage Index.

- (1) Recommendation. That the committee be allowed to use the NCAA Percentage Index (NPI) as a replacement for the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) in the selection criteria.
- (2) Effective date. The 2023 National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship.
- (3) Rationale. In the fall of 2020, the committee submitted this proposal to the Competition Oversight Committee and it was requested that the committee use this in conjunction with the RPI and not instead of the RPI for the next couple years to make sure of its impact on selections and return with a recommendation to the COC. The committee has done its review

and continues to feel the NPI uses better math in its calculations. The NPI is calculated based on winning percentage and the opponent's rating itself (rather than the combination of opponents' winning percentage and opponents' opponents' winning percentage) as the measure of schedule strength.

The recommended change from RPI to NPI is essentially a more straightforward, accurate and consistent method of calculating strength of schedule that will be valuable and therefore the committee supports immediate implementation.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2022 championship.** The committee felt the 11-team bracket went well in its first year and will continue with the same format in 2022-23.

In addition, the committee felt that the increased budget due to the gender-equity review was well used as the signage and branding at regionals as well as at the hotels and venue at the Frozen Four were noticeable and impactful.

2. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee noted that Stonehill will be competing at the Division I level for the first time in 2022-23. In addition, Robert Morris' program has been reinstated and will start play in time for the 2023-24 season.
3. **Playing rules and officiating update.** The committee met with the NCAA Ice Hockey Rules Committee and Ty Halpin, NCAA, to discuss information regarding playing rules updates and the annual rules video. The committees jointly determined that a major point of emphasis would be clarifying the definition of body checking and ensuring players are allowed to make legal body contact.
4. **National coordinator of officials.** The committee conducted a thorough evaluation/clarification of job responsibilities for the national coordinator of officials. The committee wanted to ensure that the coordinator will move forward the women's hockey community's agenda of allowing more contact in the game. In addition, the coordinator will help with the recruitment and retention of officials as the number of officials in the game continues to decrease.
5. **Committee chair.** Jeremy Gibson, Merrimack College, will become committee chair for the 2022-23 academic year.
6. **Site selection standards.** The committee decided to remove the minimum capacity requirement for the finals site to increase the number of viable venues.

Committee Chair: Anita Brenner, Cornell University.
Staff Liaison: Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Committee June 15-16, 2022, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Josh Berlo, University of Minnesota Duluth.	
Anita Brenner, Cornell University.	
Katie Crowley, Boston College University.	
Jeremy Gibson, Merrimack College.	
Shelley Looney, Lindenwood University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Tom DiFusco, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Tim Danehy, Collegehockeystats (via videoconference).	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Mark Bedics, Championships and Alliances.	
Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	