



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JULY 29-30, 2019, MEETING

Action Item: The NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee recommends that all eligible conferences be awarded one automatic qualification spot for the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following conferences be awarded one AQ spot for the 2020 NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship: America East Conference, Big East Conference, Big Ten Conference, Colonial Athletic Association, The Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Northeast Conference, Patriot League and the Southern Conference. The two lowest-ranked automatic-qualifying teams as determined by the committee, regardless of conference RPI, will compete in one opening-round game to determine the final AQ spot in the championship bracket.
- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification. However, given that the championship bracket allows for 16 teams, one opening-round game is required to comply with NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.7.1.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. No change from 2019.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. No change from 2019.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Regional advisory committee (RAC).** The committee reviewed the current RAC roster and noted several upcoming vacancies. The committee recommended at least two of the members scheduled to rotate off be retained for one more year to assist in the transition. The RAC will

continue to conduct calls on Wednesdays. While RAC members will continue to provide their top 20 rankings each week, they will continue to be asked to discuss only the top 15 rankings during the weekly calls.

2. **Selection criteria.**

- a. The committee will continue to seed the top eight teams and rank every other team in the field (9-17). While the bracket must be based on geography, maintaining competitive balance and preserving bracket integrity will be a priority.
- b. The lowest-ranked AQ teams will continue to be paired in the opening-round game. The committee will add a step in the selection process to compare all AQ teams.

3. **Upcoming four-year bid process.** The committee reviewed the timeline for the upcoming four-year bid process (academic years 2022-23 through 2025-26) along with the bid specifications. The committee noted the challenge in conducting a four-year bid process and making recommendations without having gone through most of the previous cycle's sites.

4. **Championship review.**

- a. The committee supports continuing the practice of not presenting championship hats, T-shirts, or trophies until the handshake is completed. This change was made to shorten the time the losing team stands on the sideline waiting for the handshake, and it worked well. The committee also believes this is a better act of sportsmanship to manage this process in this order.
- b. The committee discussed the team locker room situation at the final site and would like staff to develop options, if possible, for teams not to be next to each other during pregame, halftime and postgame.

5. **Annual meeting dates.** The next annual meeting will take place July 27-28, 2020, in Indianapolis. However, the committee asked if it was possible to combine the annual meeting and the site visit for next year to allow the entire committee to get a better understanding of the new site. Staff will work with the NCAA travel staff to see if this is an option.

6. **Review of NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee actions from the past year.** The committee reviewed reports over the past year and took no action.

7. **ESPN.**

- a. The committee recommends continuing to release two Top 10 rankings during the season. However, the committee wants the reveals to occur on Wednesday on social media prior to the Saturday reveal. The rankings should take place in mid-to-late April to ensure there are enough games played to provide data points needed for ranking.
- b. Committee members reviewed the ratings from the broadcast and noted that, overall, they were down from the previous year.

8. **Committee chair.** The committee approved Tim Leonard, director of athletics at Towson University, as the chair beginning September 1, 2019. Mr. Leonard will replace current chair, Jack Hayes, director of athletics at Brown University, when Mr. Hayes' term on the committee expires August 31.

Committee Chair: Jack Hayes, Brown University
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee July 29-30, 2019, Meeting
Attendees:
Jack Hayes, Brown University.
Tim Leonard, Towson University.
Richie Meade, Furman University.
Donna Woodruff, Loyola University Maryland.
Guests in Attendance:
Kyle Brennan, University of Utah.
Andrew McMinn, Robert Morris University.
Absentees:
Joe Amplo, Marquette University.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.
Heidi Wurster, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Tommy Barrett, Championships and Alliances.
Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances.