



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 10-11, 2019, MEETING**

**Action Item:** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider an addition to the secondary selection criteria and automatic qualification approval.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 15 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2020 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship:

American Athletic Conference, America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; ASUN Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and Southern Conference.

- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.

- (3) Rationale. All the conferences have met requirements to receive automatic qualification.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Secondary selection criteria adjustment.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the nonconference RPI be added as secondary selection criteria.

- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.

- (3) Rationale. This data is already available on the team-sheet used during selections. The committee would like to formally add it to the secondary selection criteria as data it is able to consider during selections if it need to move to the secondary selection criteria. This additional data point will help the committee to fully compare teams and determine which should be selected to the championship.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student athlete impact. None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Approval of 2018 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year's annual meeting.
- 2. 2019 championship review – preliminary rounds.**
  - a. Evaluations. Due to the low number of responses, the evaluations yielded no significant feedback for the committee to act upon.
  - b. Hosting requirements. The committee discussed the requirement for teams to play at least one regular-season game in the venue a team submits with their postseason hosting bid. The committee will continue to enforce this requirement but will give priority to on-campus venues to ensure student-athletes have a positive experience. The committee also would like to strongly recommend that preliminary-round hosts secure full-service hotels that provide team meeting space for each visiting team.
  - c. Other preliminary-round items. The committee determined that teams should be provided 90 minutes of practice on practice days throughout the championship preliminary rounds and teams will only have access to the game field one day prior to competition.

The committee would like to continue to predetermine the game times for the quarterfinal round. Game times will be at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Eastern time Saturday unless television requests to deviate from these times. This will be so all lacrosse fans can have an opportunity to watch most of the games either through streaming or on television. Institutions will need to submit a request to the committee if there is a reason the host needs to move the game to another time/date. Sunday games will be considered only in extenuating circumstances.

### **3. 2019 championship review – finals.**

- a. Evaluations. Due to the low number of responses, the evaluations yielded no significant feedback for the committee to act upon. Therefore, it was difficult for the committee to gauge how the championship experience was for all teams.
- b. ESPN game times. The committee would like to keep the same semifinal and final game times moving forward and will provide those time recommendations to ESPN for the 2020 championship. The committee was pleased to have all semifinal and final games on a linear network and would like the games to remain on a linear network moving forward.
- c. Banquet. The committee noted all aspects of the banquet were outstanding and commended the championship host for providing a great event for the participating teams.
- d. Hotels. The committee would like to ensure that all championship team hotels are full service and have experience hosting large teams. One hotel did not seem to be accustomed to hosting and providing meals for large teams, which caused issues leading up to the championship. NCAA staff will work with Anthony Travel to ensure all hotels can accommodate large teams moving forward.
- e. Operations. The committee noted that Johns Hopkins University staff did an excellent job hosting the championship and provided an excellent experience for teams and fans. Moving forward, the committee would like to see more security and host personnel at the championship to help with crowd flow and monitoring. Additionally, the NCAA staff will schedule a site visit this summer to identify additional space needed for teams during the joint Divisions I and III championships in 2020.

### **4. Selection weekend.**

- a. Selection criteria. The committee reviewed and voted to recommend an adjustment to the secondary selection criteria (see Action Item 2-b).
- b. RPI. No changes were recommended to the RPI system.
- c. Selection show time. The committee discussed the last-minute selection show time change and noted the adjusted time worked very well. The committee would like to keep the selection show time at 8 p.m. Eastern in the future, and staff will work with the social media and media teams to ensure this change is captured across departments.
- d. Top 10 ranking release. The committee discussed the inaugural Top 10 ranking release and thought the release went very well. The committee would like to continue to do a Top 10 ranking release after the second week of rankings. NCAA staff will work with the social

media team and broadcast partners to determine the best medium for the release. The committee would also like to continue to have Sheehan Stanwick Burch provide commentary on the release, if possible.

## **5. Strategic planning and future initiatives.**

- a. Sponsorship and conference affiliation. The committee reviewed upcoming changes to conference alignment and sport sponsorship for 2019-20. NCAA staff will update the various sponsorship documents as necessary.
- b. Travel party/bench area. The committee reviewed the change to allow up to 50 personnel in the bench area and thought the change worked very well for teams. The committee would like to emphasize that any number of available bench area personnel are allowed to be dressed student-athletes. However, only 32 players will be allowed on the official game roster. Additionally, the committee would like NCAA staff to include language in all manuals that teams may receive one additional spot on the bench for a physician and only institutional staff members or student-athletes are allowed on the sidelines. No children should be on the bench.
- c. 2020 championship. Johns Hopkins will host the joint Divisions I and III championships next year. The committee members reviewed the joint championships schedule from 2016 and noted that the scheduled work well. NCAA staff will share this schedule with Johns Hopkins staff and review all necessary requirements for a joint championship during the site visit later this fall.
- d. Review strategic plan. The committee reviewed the Division I Women's Lacrosse Strategic Plan and made a few adjustments. The committee voted to adopt the plan and will continue to review it annually.

## **6. Officials.**

- a. Report from national coordinator. National coordinator of officials Melissa Coyne, joined the meeting via teleconference to provide a report on the year. Ms. Coyne noted that it was challenging to find enough quality officials during the first weekend of the championship due to the large number of games across all three divisions. Ms. Coyne also discussed the process for selecting and assigning officials and urged the committee to develop conflict-of-interest guidelines for future assignments. The committee also thanked Ms. Coyne for her service over the past five years as she will resign from her position August 30, 2019. The committee noted that Ms. Coyne did a tremendous job throughout her five years as the national coordinator of officials and she will be greatly missed. NCAA staff will lead the hiring process to select a new national coordinator of officials this summer.

- b. Flights for officials. NCAA staff will work with new national coordinator of officials to determine the number of flights for next year's championship.
  - c. Evaluations. Officials evaluations were not available at the time of the meeting.
- 7. Playing rules update.** Rachel Seewald, associate director of playing rules, joined the meeting to discuss the rules proposals and changes for the 2019-20 season.
- 8. Regional advisory committee replacements.** The committee noted the changes to the RACs for the 2019-20 season. NCAA staff will reach out to the appropriate conferences this fall for replacements. The committee applauded the chair, Amy Foster, and member Scott Strasemeier for their years of service on the national committee.
- Kelly Reinke was voted chair of the committee for 2019-20.
- 9. Committee timeline.** NCAA staff will make appropriate updates to the committee timeline for 2019-20.
- 10. Review bid specifications.** The committee reviewed the bid specifications document and noted necessary changes for the upcoming bid process. NCAA staff will make changes to the document by the bid specification posting deadline in August.
- 11. Championship manual updates.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary changes and general updated to the manuals in preparation for posting for the 2019-20 season.
- 12. Future meeting dates.** The 2020 annual meeting will be held June 10-11 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Amy Foster, Cornell University; Ivy League*  
*Staff Liaison: Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee June 10-11, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Ryan Cobb, University of California, Berkeley	
Amy Foster, Cornell University	
Kerstin Kimel, Duke University	
Christy Leach, Stetson University	
Kelly Reinke, George Mason University	
Scott Strasemeier, U.S. Naval Academy	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Melissa Coyne, NCAA Coordinator of Officials (via teleconference).
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances.
Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.
Daniel Zewde, Championships and Alliances.