



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JUNE 13-14, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING

*10/17/2022 All items were approved by the Competition Oversight Committee.

All Non-legislative and Informational items will be implemented in specified years.

Please see the October COC report here: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/3/16/division-i-competition-oversight-committee.aspx>
KEY ITEMS.

1. **Predetermined quarterfinal sites.** The committee proposes implementing predetermined quarterfinal sites for the 2024 championship and beyond, which will create the opportunity for a wider range of institutions to host and provide them additional time to plan, prepare, and advertise the event. (See Action Item 2.)
2. **Affirm quarterfinal date change to Thursday for 2023.** The committee affirmed that adjusting the quarterfinal round for the 2022 championship from Saturday or Sunday to the second Thursday prior to the finals was effective, as it allowed ESPN to broadcast all quarterfinal games at separate host locations. Accordingly, the committee agreed to maintain that schedule for the 2023 championship. (See Informational Item 2.)
3. **Amend preliminary-round host requirements.** The committee will elevate the criteria institutions must satisfy to be selected as a preliminary-round host beginning in 2023-24. (See Informational Item 7.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Predetermined quarterfinal sites.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the quarterfinal round during the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship be conducted at predetermined sites.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship. (The delayed effective date gives institutions an opportunity to prepare bids.)
- (3) Rationale. Predetermined quarterfinal sites provide hosts more time to plan, prepare, and advertise for the event. The additional time enables them to purchase product, supplies, and décor well in advance of the event. Additionally, the committee will have a wider range of host sites to select from, ensuring that the games are held at efficient and updated facilities. Further, the committee may select sites where championship games are not often held, fostering growth of the game in those locations.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. To be determined and may vary from year to year, as travel expenses will increase if a team that advances to a particular predetermined quarterfinal site is not the host.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Predetermined sites should increase attendance and elevate the quarterfinal-round experience for student-athletes. Additionally, because the semester has concluded for many institutions by the time of quarterfinals, student-athletes traveling for games are not likely to miss class time.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2022 championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2022 championship and agreed to standardize practice times across all sites and all rounds going forward. Practices must be scheduled between 11 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. at 90-minute increments with 15 minutes in between. Changes are permitted by mutual agreement among the host and participating teams.
2. **2023 championship preview.** The committee discussed initiatives they would like to see implemented at the 2023 finals, including: police escorts, hotel signage, reduced concession and merchandise queues, improved parking accommodations, and elevated in-venue fan experience.

The committee also affirmed that the quarterfinal round for the 2023 championship will once again be conducted the second Thursday prior to the finals. The committee was granted approval from the Competition Oversight Committee's Administrative Committee in February to adjust the quarterfinal round for the 2022 championship from Saturday or Sunday to the second Thursday prior to the finals to allow ESPN to broadcast all quarterfinal games at separate host locations. Because that change was effective, the committee plans to maintain it for the duration of the broadcast agreement with ESPN, which runs through the 2024 championship.

3. **Strategic planning and future initiatives.** The committee engaged in discussion about the 2025 and 2026 joint championships to be hosted by Harvard University at Gillette Stadium. The group also met with the Division I Men's Lacrosse Committee to discuss common issues.
4. **Officials.** The committee noted that RQ+ will be the new system where officials register and access content beginning August 22, 2022.
5. **Rules committee update.** The committee received an update from the Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee regarding potential rules proposals going forward.
6. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee encourages all of its members to serve as a site representative at preliminary rounds. The committee members are well-educated and informed about the policies and procedures at preliminary rounds and should be the first choice to serve

as site representatives. They will be reliable advocates on behalf of the NCAA while building relationships and trust with teams who they will later serve at the semifinals and final. Local site representatives will still have the opportunity to serve at sites where committee members are unable to attend.

7. **Amend preliminary-round host requirements.** For 2023-24 the committee will elevate the criteria institutions must satisfy to be selected as a preliminary-round host, including: locker room facility adjacent to the field (within an approximate two-minute walk for halftime); space for a minimum of 35 players and four staff, including seating; general meeting space; running water for restroom use; white board; and television for halftime film review. The committee will continue to consider additional criteria to elevate championship-site requirements.

The committee received negative feedback and observed from personal experience the subpar standards of locker rooms at some preliminary-round sites. The amendment will add more objective requirements for host locker rooms. The committee understands this may disqualify some institutions from hosting but believes it will encourage institutions in the short term to use other sports' updated locker rooms during the event and in the longer term to update their lacrosse locker rooms. The amendment ensures student-athletes are provided an equitable championship-level experience at all preliminary-round sites.

8. **Selection of 2022-23 committee chair.** The committee elected Lauren Eads, chief operating officer for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, as committee chair for the coming year.

Committee Chair: Michael Scerbo, Duquesne University, Atlantic 10 Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Noël Couch, Championships
Linda Godby, Championships

Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee June 13-14, 2022, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ryan Cobb, California (via videoconference).	
Lauren Eads, Chief Operating Officer; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Samantha Eustace, Mercer University.	
Lynne Robinson, Mount St. Mary's University.	
Bonnie Rosen, Temple University.	
Michael Scerbo, Duquesne University.	
Absentees.	
None.	
Guests in attendance.	
Jonathan Kindred, Johns Hopkins University.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	

Noël Couch, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Christian Bilkovic, Corporate Relations.
Melissa Coyne, National Coordinator of Officials.
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.
Cassie Langdon, Media Coordination and Statistics.
Chris Rakow, Coordinator, Marketing & Ticketing.
Amy Skiles, Broadcast Services.