



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 12-13, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

Competition Oversight Committee (COC) feedback from September meeting included below in red.  
COC report available here: [https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/committees/d1/compoversig/Sep2023D1COC\\_Sep13Report.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/committees/d1/compoversig/Sep2023D1COC_Sep13Report.pdf)

KEY ITEMS.

- **Elevate preliminary-round host requirements.** The committee specifies criteria institutions must satisfy to be selected as a host. (See Action Item 2-a.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Elevate preliminary-round host requirements.**

- (1) Recommendation. To add the following requirements to the host bid specification criteria: Host sites must provide two locker rooms or team meeting spaces that are similar based on room size, number of seats, and amenities, including restrooms, running water, climate control, and proximity to the field. Additionally, if selected hosts do not meet any of the hosting requirements outlined in the bid specification document, the committee will acknowledge and address the shortcomings at its annual meeting and make note of such instances in the annual report.
- (2) Effective date. 2023-24 season.
- (3) Rationale. The criteria ensures that teams at any championship site receive equal accommodations. Further, it encourages accountability by institutions because any shortcomings will be written up in the annual report. The intention is to address these specific instances to avoid repeat mistakes and assist future hosts.  
Institutions were put on alert last year when the committee included in its annual report an intention to review and implement enhanced host requirements for 2023-24.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Institutions that are not currently able to provide two locker rooms of similar quality may be required to expend financial resources to meet this requirement if they wish to host.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes will be provided locker room accommodations of similar quality regardless of whether they are competing in a championship game at their home site or at an away location. The host bid specification criteria are intended to ensure a championship-level experience for all student-athletes and this recommendation holds hosts accountable to those criteria.

**Preliminary-round host expectations.** The COC noted in its review of sport committee reports a recommendation from the Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee to establish firm locker/meeting room standards and other requirements for hosts and that failure to meet them will be communicated back to the host and could impact future hosting. The COC noted that the women's lacrosse committee (and all sport committees) has the authority to award sites based on the evaluation of meeting the bid requirements and weigh the competitive strength and seeding of teams when assigning hosts. Accordingly, the COC not only supported the women's lacrosse initiative but also encouraged staff to communicate with all sport committees regarding their authority to develop accountability measures to ensure that all sites during all rounds of a championship provide an experience that meets expectations stated in the bid specifications, particularly with lodging (quality and proximity to competition site), meeting space and locker rooms. The COC emphasized the importance of 1) communicating bid expectations and requirements to potential hosts in the bid process; and 2) communicating back to hosts when they do not meet expectations.

**b. Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 15 conferences receive one AQ spot for the 2024 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; and Patriot League.
- (2) Effective date. 2024 championship.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 31.3.4.1.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None anticipated.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None anticipated.

Approved

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Approval of 2022 meeting report.** The committee rescinded the 2022 recommendation for predetermined quarterfinal sites in 2023-24 and instead focused on elevating requirements for non-predetermined sites. The intention is to award bids to teams that have earned the right the host by finishing in the top eight rankings and to focus on increasing attendance at the non-predetermined sites. The committee emphasizes that host sites whose teams are playing in the tournament will have a greater investment and interest in the event. The committee then approved the 2022 report.
2. **2023 championship review – preliminary rounds.** The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion about preliminary-round host requirements and proposes the recommendation noted in Action Item 2-a above. Preliminary-round hosts will also be asked to offer practice balls to teams.
3. **2023 championship review – finals site.** Upon review of practice times, the committee recognized that preliminary rounds scheduled 90 minutes while the finals site only had 75 minutes. The committee will offer 90-minute practice times with five minutes between each session for the 2024 championship. Further, the committee acknowledged that athletes practicing on top of the painted field logo resulted in a slightly messy logo for game day.

Therefore, the committee will request that teams avoid excess play on the field logo on practice days.

The committee met with NCAA staff member Amy Skiles, manager of broadcast and ESPN, who explained the broadcast will benefit from a shorter time between semifinal games on ESPNU. Committee members agreed to assist in getting semifinal game one teams off the field quickly so game two can begin sooner. For semifinals and the final, team benches will be moved to the opposite side of the venue so that team fan seating and party deck areas will be immediately behind teams. This keeps each team and its respective staff, guests, and fans on the same side of the stadium and should increase attendance in the party deck areas.

The committee received positive feedback regarding hotel selections from teams, and the same hotels have been contracted for 2024. Additionally, the committee acknowledged that new signage in the venue and at hotels, thanks to an increase in budget, made a significantly positive impact on the overall atmosphere of the championship, and the intention is to create a similar look for 2024.

4. **2024 championship preview.** The committee met with NCAA staff, including Christian Bilkovic, corporate relations; Connor Lancashire, marketing and ticketing; and Ali Narracci, championship engagement, to share ideas and recommendations for next year's championship. The plan includes more engagement with youth lacrosse leagues to sell tickets, enhancements to the fan fest, and inclusion again of the red-carpet entrance.

The committee looks forward making these improvements at next year's championship which will be held at WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, North Carolina, the same venue as 2023.

5. **Selections.** The committee intends to provide additional education and training to new committee members serving as leads on the regional advisory committees. The intention is to further ensure each region is adhering to the selection criteria and conducting their selections consistently. The KPI metric will not be added as selection criteria but will be referenced on an evaluation basis again for 2024.
6. **Strategic planning and future initiatives.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship and conference affiliation data and the strategic plan document. There were no recommended changes.
7. **Officials.** The committee reviewed the report from the national coordinator. They also met with the coordinator, Melissa Coyne, who shared her method for selecting officials at the championship and discussed their on-field performance. The committee met with the finals site officials during the championship and were given the opportunity to share recommendations with Melissa regarding the selection of championship game officials.

8. **Rules committee update.** The committee met with Jay Fitzwater, NCAA playing rules and officiating, who shared the recommendations put forth by the Division I Women's Lacrosse Rules Committee. The sport committee had the opportunity to ask questions and requested that they be notified of the rules proposals as soon as permissible.
9. **National committee replacements.** The committee reviewed the national committee members who will serve in 2023-24.
10. **Committee timeline.** Upon review of the timeline, one committee member requested alternate annual meeting dates for 2024 to avoid conflict with a collegiate athletics convention. The group also acknowledged that it was beneficial to begin host meetings earlier in the year than had been done previously.
11. **Manual updates.** The committee recommended manual updates be made according to the recommended changes noted above, as well as a review of all manuals to correct errors or outdated information.
12. **Academic and membership affairs.** The committee met with NCAA staff member Jerry Vaughn, academic and membership affairs, who shared a summary of the Division I Transformation Committee results and how they may impact Division I women's lacrosse. The committee had the opportunity to ask questions and get a better understanding of the new committee structure concept.
13. **Committee chair.** The committee re-elected Samantha Eustace, head coach at Mercer University, to again serve as the chair for 2023-24. If Samantha's team is in the championship, Jessica Grasso will serve as the chair.

*Committee Chair:* Samantha Eustace, Mercer University, Big South Conference  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Noël Couch, Championships and Alliances  
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee June 12-13, 2023, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Samantha Eustace, Mercer University.	
Jessica Grasso, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Amy Strickland, Central Connecticut State University.	
Cathy Reece, University of Maryland.	
Bonnie Rosen, Temple University.	
Lindsey Thomas, University of Florida.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
John Brunner, University of North Carolina.
Melissa Coyne, Officials Coordinator.
David Crotts, WakeMed Soccer Park.
Jason Philbeck, Greater Raleigh Sports Alliance.
Adeline Rhodes, WakeMed Soccer Park.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Noël Couch, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Christian Bilkovic, Corporate Relations.
Jay Fitzwater, Playing Rules and Officiating.
Connor Lancashire, Marketing and Ticketing.
Ali Narracci, Championship Engagement.
Amy Skiles, Broadcast and ESPN.
Jerry Vaughn, Academic and Membership Affairs.