



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JUNE 14, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Bracket, travel party and squad size increases.** The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee continues to discuss future budget requests and the desire to expand the championship bracket and increase the travel party and squad size. (See Informational Items 6, 7 and 8.)
2. **2025 and 2026 joint championships.** The Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee continues to believe the decision to conduct the Divisions II and III championship games at venues other than Gillette Stadium for the joint championships in 2025 and 2026 should be reconsidered. (See Informational Item 15.)

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2021 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2021 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2022 championship review.**
 - a. **Selection timeline.** The committee discussed the selection timeline for 2022 and believes it was efficient and should be continued moving forward. The committee emphasized ensuring that conferences are aware of the timeline as soon as possible, as timing of conference championship games impacts the selection process.
 - b. **Selection show.** The committee discussed the selection show in 2022 and felt the production was sufficient.
 - c. **Hotels.** The committee was pleased with the team hotel for the finals and reiterated the need for the teams to continue to have meeting rooms at the hotel. The committee discussed ensuring all rounds of the championship have a great hotel experience and will continue to reiterate that to future hosts. The committee also discussed the need to emphasize the importance of hotels meeting championship standards during the preliminary rounds.
 - d. **Broadcasting/streaming.** The committee was pleased with the broadcasting of the national championship and was pleased that all preliminary-round hosts streamed the games.
 - e. **Survey review.** The committee reviewed the survey results and discussed them throughout the various sections of the agenda.

- f. Practice times.** The committee discussed the need to ensure consistency regarding the amount of practice time at preliminary-round and championship sites. The committee will consider extending practice time at the championship site to allow more time for teams to become acclimated to the championship field and make it consistent for the entire tournament.
 - g. Weather concerns.** The 2022 Championship encountered two weather-delayed days. The committee discussed strategies to ensure that an equitable championship experience can be provided during weather delays. The committee will ask future hosts to ensure they have an adequate indoor space available to accommodate weather issues. Additionally, the committee discussed moving up practice times on Thursday to ensure maximum flexibility for potential weather delays.
 - h. Officials.** The committee wants to continue improving the officiating assignment process and enhance the relationship with the national coordinator of officials.
- 3. 2023 championship.**

 - a. 2023 committee timeline.** The committee affirmed that the timeline for 2022 worked well and will use a similar timeline in 2023.
 - b. Banquet.** The committee supports continuing to examine the best way to honor student-athletes, whether it's through a banquet or some other initiative. The committee is open to considering alternatives with host institutions but still does prefer a banquet when possible.
 - c. Locker rooms.** The committee noted the need to emphasize with hosts during prep calls and site visits that each team's locker room spaces must be as equitable as possible. The committee noted the positive student-athlete reaction to the locker room experience in 2022 and wants to replicate that as best as possible moving forward in future years.
- 4. Selection criteria.** The committee discussed the three additional selection criteria it has selected to use over the past two years. In preparation for the next cycle of choosing the additional criteria, the committee began discussing whether to retain the current criteria or consider replacement(s).
- 5. "Under consideration" ranking.** The committee affirmed that the under-consideration rank for ranking No. 1 worked well in 2022 and would like that option to be applied in future years.
- 6. Bracket size and automatic qualification.** The committee noted the need for an increased bracket size as women's lacrosse continues to grow in sponsorship. The committee noted that budget requests will be due in 2023 and has begun the process to understand the financial impact of adding teams. The committee noted that women's lacrosse currently has the highest access ratio among all Division II team sports (6.9; bracket of 16 for 111 sponsoring institutions) and would like to see the sport more in line with other Division II championships. The committee also discussed automatic qualification in relation to bracket expansion and noted that automatic qualifiers should likely be

considered and influenced by the number of teams added to a future bracket (the committee currently does not use automatic qualification in its selection process). As sponsorship continues to grow among institutions and conferences, these two items will continue to be a point of emphasis for the committee.

- 7. Bench size/travel party/squad size.** The committee desires to see the bench limits and travel party and squad sizes for women's lacrosse mirror those for men's lacrosse's and plans to formally request this during the next budget cycle. The committee believes like sports of different genders should have similar numbers. Additionally, women's lacrosse currently plays with one more student-athlete on the field than men's lacrosse, which further warrants matching the men's numbers.
- 8. NCAA patches.** The committee desires to see all student-athletes who qualify for the championship receive NCAA Blue-Disc patches for preliminary rounds in addition to the championship.
- 9. Regional advisory committees (RACs).** The committee reviewed the RAC rosters and noted vacancies. The committee asked staff to re-emphasize on the RAC training webinar that RAC members are expected to serve as site representatives.
- 10. Committee Roster.** The committee elected Doug DeBiase, associate commissioner of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, to serve as chair of committee beginning in September when current chair Regan McAthie's term on the committee expires. Mr. DeBiase served the committee well in his first year and will be an excellent leader and spokesperson for the committee. His experience and leadership were well noted in 2022 and the committee is looking forward to continuing the momentum during his tenure. The committee thanked Ms. McAthie for her many contributions to the committee and the championship during her term. The committee also noted an immediate vacancy in the East Region.
- 11. Division II update.** NCAA Associate Director of Division II Ryan Jones provided an update from the NCAA Convention and other ongoing Division II initiatives. The committee supported all the potential initiatives discussed on the call.
- 12. Academic and membership affairs update.** NCAA Assistant Director of Academic and Membership Affairs Jordan Lysiak provided an update on the Division II Implementation Committee and other membership initiatives.
- 13. Discussion with Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA).** Liz Robertshaw, executive director of the IWLCA, joined the videoconference to discuss the IWLCA membership's goals for the championship, including the bracket expansion, and squad/travel/bench size increases the committee already supports. The IWLCA also commended the committee for providing an outstanding student-athlete experience at the 2022 the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship. The committee is determined to continue to grow the relationship with the IWLCA and is proud of the strides made through the 2021-22 academic year.

14. 2025 and 2026 joint championship. The committee continues to believe the decision to conduct the Divisions II and III championship games at venues other than Gillette Stadium for the joint championships in 2025 and 2026 should be reconsidered. While the committee understands hosting six championships (men's and women's) at one site will provide logistical challenges, they are confident that working together with the other championship committees and NCAA staff, that all six championships could be hosted together and provide a great student-athlete experience. The committee feels that including four of the six championships at one site and keeping two of the championships at a different site will provide a much different and lesser experience for the Division II and III women's lacrosse student-athletes.

15. Future championships. The committee discussed the desire to consider future joint championships in the 2027-2031 bid cycle.

16. Lacrosse manuals review. The committee reviewed the various manuals for lacrosse and instructed staff to make the appropriate updates.

Committee Chair: Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Caleb Kolby, Championships and Alliances; Sydney Klecka, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee June 14, 2022, Annual Meeting via Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Regan McAthie, Concordia University, St. Paul.	
Doug DeBiase, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Casey Petrusic, Newberry College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Liz Robertshaw, IWLCA.	
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:	
Caleb Kolby, Ryan Rae.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jordan Lysiak, Ryan Jones.	