



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JULY 2, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Bench size.** The committee is recommending a bench size limit of 50 for the championship. (See Action Item 2.)
2. **Regional alignment.** The committee noted modifications in regional alignment due to changes in conference membership. (See Informational Item 6.)
3. **Automatic qualifiers.** The championship will have automatic qualifiers starting in the 2024-25 academic year. (See Informational Item 7.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Bench size limit.**

(1) Recommendation. Approve setting the maximum bench size for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship at 50 individuals.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Previously the recommended bench size was left to an institution's discretion; however, the committee was subsequently informed that setting a specific limit was in the best interests of safely managing the bench area. The committee believes 50 is a manageable number that still allows institutions the flexibility to include non-competing student-athletes as well as the necessary support personnel.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 annual meeting report as submitted.

2. 2024 championship review.

- a. **Selection timeline.** The committee discussed the selection timeline for 2024 and agreed it was sufficient. The committee emphasized ensuring conferences are aware of the selection timeline for 2025.
- b. **Selection show.** The committee discussed the selection show in 2024 and ways to enhance the experience for student-athletes, coaches and fans.
- c. **Hotels.** The committee discussed the team hotels for preliminary rounds and continues to emphasize the importance of hosts meeting all standards required. The committee also discussed the finals site hotel and highlighted some of the unique features that being part of the Division II National Championships Festival brought to the hotels.
- d. **Broadcasting/streaming.** The committee discussed the continued benefits of the lacrosse hub on NCAA.com for preliminary-round competition. The committee was pleased with the broadcast talent and stream for the finals site.
- e. **Survey review.** The committee reviewed and discussed the survey results throughout the various sections of the agenda. Committee members also explored options to engage the membership more effectively in the future.
- f. **Practice times.** The committee discussed length of practice times and agreed to change practice to one hour and 30 minutes for preliminary-round competition and at the finals site.
- g. **Game times.** The committee reviewed game times for upcoming year and emphasized the championship game on Sunday will be at noon.
- h. **Weather concerns.** The 2024 championship encountered high heat, which resulted in water breaks being instituted for the championship game. The committee emphasized the importance of instructions/best practices for managing such conditions be included in the pre-championship and host operations manuals.
- i. **Officials.** The committee discussed the officiating assignment process, noting the need to continue improving the timeliness of the process and enhancing the relationship with the national coordinator of officials.
- j. **Preliminary-round sites.** The committee was pleased with the hosts' ability to provide adequate hospitality for officials and others.
- k. **Equipment.** The committee discussed effectiveness, quantity and arrival of equipment used at the finals site.

3. 2024 championship.

- a. 2024 committee timeline.** The committee affirmed the effectiveness of the timeline for 2024 and will continue to use a similar timeline.
 - b. Banquet.** The committee reviewed the banquet that was a part of the festival and discussed options for future championships.
 - c. Locker rooms.** The committee noted the need to emphasize with hosts the importance of having four locker rooms that are as equitable as possible.
 - d. Athletic training.** The committee emphasized the need for athletic training facilities to be present at the championship site.
 - e. Festival.** The committee expressed its displeasure with the festival, believing that it hindered being able to provide an excellent championship experience for women's lacrosse participants. The committee continues to believe that women's lacrosse should not be part of the spring festival.
- 4. Selection criteria.** The committee discussed the three additional selection criteria that were used this past year and explored possible changes for the next cycle.
- 5. Bracket size.** The committee noted that the bracket for the 2025 season and beyond will now feature 24 teams.
- 6. Regional alignment.** The committee noted that the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference has been moved to the East Region and that the Mountain East Conference and the South Atlantic Conference have been moved to the Atlantic Region. All other conferences remain in their current regions.
- 7. Automatic qualifiers.** The committees noted that for the first time, automatic qualifiers will become a part of the women's lacrosse championship. The conferences already approved for automatic qualification into the 2025 championship are: Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; and Sunshine State Conference.
- 8. Team bench size/travel party/squad size.** The committee was asked to put a cap on the bench limit, which was previously unlimited. The committee is recommending a bench limit of 50. (See Action Item 2.)

9. **NCAA patches.** The committee continues wanting all student-athletes who qualify for the championship to receive two NCAA patches for preliminary rounds in addition to the championship finals site.
10. **Regional advisory committee.** The committee reviewed the RAC rosters and noted vacancies as a result of the new regional alignment. The committee asked staff to re-emphasize on the RAC training webinar that RAC members are expected to serve as site representatives and to go through a ranking scenario on the orientation call.
11. **Committee roster.** The committee will retain all members for the 2024-25 academic year. The committee elected Melissa Gyllenborg, head women's lacrosse coach at Maryville University of Saint Louis, as the chair of the committee for the 2024-25 academic year.
12. **Division II update.** The Division II governance staff provided an update from the NCAA Convention and other ongoing Division II initiatives, which the committee supported.
13. **Discussion with Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA).** The committee engaged with IWLCA Executive Director Liz Robertshaw regarding goals of the IWLCA membership for the championship. The groups agree about the need to modify the tournament date formula due to bracket expansion and the desire to conduct some type of joint championship with Division III in the future. The committee is determined to continue growing the relationship with the IWLCA and is proud of the strides made to date.
14. **2025 and 2026 championship.** The committee continues to work with external constituents to solidify a host site for 2025 and 2026. Members also continue to collaborate with Division III about a joint championship.
15. **2027 and 2028 championship sites.** The committee discussed sites for the 2027 championship and are reviewing all necessary information and continue to collaborate to stay on track with the bid process timeline. For 2028, the committee offered feedback to the Division II festival team about the venues that were submitted for women's lacrosse.
16. **Lacrosse manual review.** The committee reviewed the various manuals for women's lacrosse and instructed staff to make the appropriate updates.

Committee Chair: Doug DeBiase, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Ryan Rea, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee July 2, 2024, Annual Meeting via Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Doug DeBiase, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Dawn Sachs, Mercy University.	
Melissa Gyllenborg, University of Maryville, Saint Louis.	
Akasha Kasper, University of Alabama in Huntsville.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Ryan Rea, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones and Becca Medel.	