



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 16, 2025, ANNUAL MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Bench size limit.**
  - a. Recommendation. Increase the maximum bench size for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship to 65 individuals.
  - b. Effective date. Immediate.
  - c. Rationale. The current bench size is 50; however, after experiencing altercations in the bleachers this year where student-athletes were present, the committee believes there should be an increase in bench size to 65 to prioritize the safety of student-athletes.
  - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
  - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. 2024 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2024 annual meeting report as submitted.
- 2. 2025 championship review.**
  - a. **Selection timeline.** The committee discussed the selection timeline for 2025 and agreed it was sufficient.
  - b. **Selection show.** The committee discussed the selection show in 2025 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 requirements. The committee also discussed the finals site hotel and the negative impact of having all the semifinalists in one hotel.

- d. **Broadcasting/streaming.** The committee discussed the streams for preliminary rounds and emphasized the importance of taking steps to mitigate any issues ahead of time. The committee was pleased with the broadcast talent and stream for the finals site.
- e. **Survey review.** The committee discussed the survey results throughout various sections of the agenda. Committee members also discussed opportunities to engage the membership more effectively in the future.
- f. **Practice times.** The committee discussed the length of practice times and felt the change to 90 minutes for preliminary-round competition and the finals site was a positive change.
- g. **Game times.** The committee reviewed game times for the upcoming year and moved to allow preliminary-round hosts to set their game times. Championship game times will remain consistent with last year.
- h. **Weather concerns.** The 2025 championship encountered high heat and storms throughout the preliminary rounds, which resulted in adjusted game times. The committee emphasized the importance of instructions/best practices for managing heat 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. Signage needs to remain consistent with Division II men's lacrosse to ensure equitable experience.
- k. **Equipment.** The committee discussed effectiveness, quantity and arrival of equipment used at all sites.

### 3. 2025 championship.

- a. **2025 committee timeline.** The committee affirmed the effectiveness of the timeline for 2025 and will continue to use a similar timeline for the 2026 championship.
- b. **Gifts.** The committee was very pleased with the student-athlete gifts.
- c. **Host.** The committee was satisfied with the host staff and their willingness to go above and beyond for the student-athletes.
- d. **Signage.** The committee was pleased with the signage at the finals site and would like to continue building from that structure.

- e. **Combined championship.** The committee was pleased with how the combined championship was conducted. The support from the respective divisions was a highlight. The committee desires more interaction with their Division III counterparts leading up to the championship.
  - f. **Travel.** The committee discussed travel for the teams to Salem, Virginia.
4. **Selection criteria.** The committee discussed the three additional selection criteria that were used this past year and possible changes for the next cycle.
  5. **Bracket size.** The committee discussed the new bracket format and how it benefited the championship.
  6. **Regional alignment.** The committee reviewed alignment of conferences in regions and strategies for allotment of teams in the four regions for future years.
  7. **Automatic qualifiers.** The committee was pleased with the first year of automatic qualifiers. Members noted that if one more conference establishes an automatic qualifier, it would trigger a review of potential bracket expansion.
  8. **Team bench size/travel party/squad size.** The committee recommended an increased bench limit of 65. (See Action Item.)
  9. **NCAA patches.** The committee affirmed a desire for all student-athletes, whether included in the squad size or not, to receive two NCAA patches for preliminary rounds in addition to the championship finals site. Current policy is to only provide patches based on the squad size to eligible student-athletes.
  10. **Misconduct.** The committee reached a decision on a misconduct situation that occurred during the course of the championship and will take steps accordingly.
  11. **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.
  12. **Committee roster.** The committee will retain three members for the 2025-26 academic year. The committee elected Melissa Gyllenborg, head women's lacrosse coach at Maryville University of Saint Louis, to remain chair of the committee for the 2025-26 academic year. Jennifer Pawlowski from Gannon University has been elected to represent the Atlantic Region starting next year.

- 13. Lacrosse manual review.** The committee reviewed the various manuals for women's lacrosse and instructed staff to make the appropriate updates.
- 14. 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.
- 15. Division II Academic and Membership Affairs.** The committee discussed the transfer portal and proposals adopted at the 2025 NCAA Convention.
- 16. Division II Championships Committee.** The committee was briefed on updates from Championships Committee.
- 17. Triennial budget cycle.** The committee discussed opportunities to enhance the championship for student-athletes through the next triennial budget cycle.
- 18. NPI.** The committee is in favor of the metric-based NPI to determine selection of teams for the Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship after the next academic year.
- 19. Division II team travel mileage.** The committee noted the differences in requirements for team travel among the divisions and desires to see Division II move to align with Division III on their team travel parameters.
- 20. Gender equity.** The committee is pleased with the progress that has been made with the men's and women's championships working together to remain equitable. Differences between finals sites were discussed.
- 21. Women's lacrosse championships.** The committee discussed measures to make women's lacrosse championships in all three divisions fair and equitable. The committee continues to support a combined championship and remains open to different possibilities.

*Committee Chair:* Melissa Gyllenborg, Maryville University of Saint Louis.  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Ryan Rea, Championships and Alliances.

NCAA Division II Women's Lacrosse Committee June 16, 2025, Annual Meeting via Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Doug DeBiase, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Dawn Sachs, Mercy University.	

Melissa Gyllenborg, Maryville University of Saint Louis.
Akasha Kasper, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Mara Banfield.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Ryan Rea, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Rachel Denton, Ryan Jones and Karen Kirsch.