



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 20-21, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- 1. Automatic qualification.** The approval of conference automatic qualification.
- 2. Bench Personnel.** The men's lacrosse committee would like to seek approval to allow each participating institution to bring as many student-athletes as they have on their current roster to the championships and be permitted in the bench area.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Automatic qualification.**

- 1. Recommendation.** That the following 27 conferences be afforded automatic-qualifying status to the 2024 NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship: Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Lacrosse Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern Athletic Association; State University of New York Athletic Conference; United East Conference and USA South Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations for the 2024 championship are as follows: Pool A – 27; Pool B – 1; Pool C – 10.

2. Effective date. September 1, 2023.
3. Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form. (Note: Pool allocations may be adjusted based on 2023-24 sponsorship numbers.)
4. Estimated budget impact. None.
5. Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Bench personnel.**

1. Recommendation. The committee would like to revisit feedback presented to the championship committee back in April and September 2022 and February of 2023. Per those discussions, feedback, meeting report and survey results the men's lacrosse committee would like to seek approval to allow each participating institution to bring as many student-athletes as they have on their current roster to the championships and be permitted in the bench area.
2. Effective date. September 1, 2023.
3. Rationale.
  - a) These student-athletes are a part of the team all season, but when they make the NCAA championship selected student-athletes are regulated to sit in the stands away from their teammates. This is a situation that no coach, administrator or athlete looks forward too. For those teams that make it to the NCAA championship tournament, it immediately turns into one of the lowest moments of the year for the coaching staff, administrators and of course the selected student athletes and parents. They should all be celebrating and preparing for their next opponent, when the focus then turns to 'how am I going to tell these kids they are sitting in the stands'?
  - b) Coaches are charged by their presidents and directors of athletics to maintain higher roster sizes than in the past due to the high education financial climate. The ability to ensure a full championship experience will only contribute the overall experience of the student athletes. This will in turn provide a higher rate of retention of those student-athletes.

- c) The men's lacrosse committee agreed with allowing the women's lacrosse institutions to match the bench limit of 50 to match the men's lacrosse bench limit as it provided the women's programs full access for their athletes. This is something we are all striving for. However, the committee feels that decision does not accurately and equitably reflect the current roster landscape of the men's lacrosse teams. The substitution patterns, positions, equipment, field dimensions, and the playing rules are all completely different, unlike soccer, basketball, hockey, tennis and volleyball that lacrosse is possibly being grouped in with.
- 4. Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5. Student-athlete impact. This would provide a positive experience for all competing student-athletes.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2022 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2022 annual meeting report as submitted.
2. **2023 championship review.** The committee reviewed the 2023 championship, pointing out the successes and some of the challenges during the event. The committee commended the Drexel University and Philadelphia Eagles staffs for their outstanding work at the championship site.
  - a. **Surveys.** The committee reviewed the survey results and discussed them throughout the various sections of the agenda. The number one topic in the survey results was around student-athletes in the bench area rather being placed in the stands.
  - b. **Bench personnel.** The committee discussed bench personnel size and strongly recommends that teams be allowed to bring as many student-athletes as they have on their current roster to the championship and be permitted in the bench area. This would allow for a better overall student-athlete experience for all institutions that participate in the championship. These coaches are charged by their presidents and directors of athletics to maintain high roster sizes and this policy would assist with the retention of student-athletes. These student-athletes are a part of the team all season but when they make the NCAA championship these student-athletes are regulated to sit in the stands away from their teammates.
  - c. **Selection show.** The committee discussed the quality of the selection show. The

committee would like for staff to collaborate with our streaming company on initiatives on enhancing the selection show.

- d. Format.** The committee discussed the back-to-back game format for the second/third rounds and quarterfinal/semifinal rounds. The committee and staff continue to receive feedback through surveys and conversations with our participating institutions. Many of the institutions are seeing through their sport tracking devices significant drops in bursts, speed and energy on the second day of the back-to-back games. The committee plans to put a proposal together for the next budget cycle to have a day of rest between the second/third rounds and quarterfinal/semifinal rounds.
- 3. 2024 championship planning in Philadelphia, PA.** The committee began to plan for the 2024 championship in Philadelphia, PA. Game times will be at 1 and 4 p.m. or noon and 3 p.m., with Division III playing in the first contest followed by the Division II championship.
- 4. Sport sponsorship for 2023-24.** The committee reviewed and discussed new sport sponsoring members and their placement in their respective regions. The committee also discussed action passed in September 2022 regarding approved regional alignment changes. North Atlantic Conference moves from Region I to Region II; Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference and North Coast Athletic Conference moves from Region IV to Region V and Southern Athletic Association moves from Region V to Region IV.
- 5. Committee and regional advisory committee (RAC) rosters.** The committee reviewed the national and regional advisory committee rosters and noted upcoming vacancies on the regional advisory committees. There will be one new member on the national committee for the upcoming year.
- 6. Selection criteria and regional rankings.** The committee discussed the current selection criteria and noting adjustments should be made. The committee discussed the potential movement to pairwise in the future and the committee looks forward to seeing the data from previous championships to see how selections would have taken place.
- 7. 2024 annual meeting.** The committee agreed to meet in-person in Indianapolis on June 17-18, 2024.
- 8. Joint meeting.** The committee participated in a joint session via videoconference with the Divisions I and II Men's Lacrosse Committees. The committees discussed this year's championship and early discussions for the 2024 championship. The committees discussed not having a banquet going forward and using the allocated budget for student-athlete gifts. Tom Abbott, the national coordinator of officials provided the committees with a review of the

officials from this year's championships and initiatives being used to train new officials to be a part of future championships. The secretary rules editor, Willie Scroggs provided an update from the men's lacrosse rules committee meeting and outlined all the rule changes for the 2023-24 season.

*Committee Chair:* Scott McVean, Rochester Institute of Technology, Liberty League  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Committee June 20-21, 2023, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Celine Cunningham, Bates College.	
Scott McVean, Rochester Institute of Technology.	
Pete Rosaschi, Franciscan University of Steubenville.	
Dave Zazzaro, Rhodes College.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Dave Carty, Moravian University.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:</b>	
Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Mitchell Bailey, Championships and Alliances.	