REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE
JUNE 8 & 10, 2026, ANNUAL MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative items.**

   - **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

   a. **Automatic qualification.**

      1. Recommendation. That the following 26 conferences be afforded automatic-qualifying status to the 2027 NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship: Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; Coastal Lacrosse Conference, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Conference of New England; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Men's Lacrosse Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic 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; and USA South Athletic Conference.

         The anticipated pool allocations for the 2027 championship are as follows: Pool A – 26 and 14 at-large.

      2. Effective date. September 1, 2026.

      3. Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements.

      4. Estimated budget impact. None.

      5. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

3. **2025 annual meeting report**. The committee approved the 2025 annual meeting report as submitted.

4. **2026 championship review**. The committee reviewed the 2026 championship, pointing out the successes and the challenges during the event. The committee commended the University of Virginia staff for their great work at the championship site.

    a. **Surveys.** The committee reviewed the survey results and discussed them throughout the various sections of the agenda. The committee noted that less institutions continue to submit post event survey data.

    b. **Bench personnel.** The committee discussed bench personnel size and were thankful for the implementation of the entire eligible rostered student-athletes being permitted in the bench area. The committee discussed and would support the championships committee to change the squad size policy to allow all eligible rostered student-athletes to participate in the game and no longer have a squad size. The committee did mention that division III men's lacrosse is still the only contact sport of our 92 championships that plays back-to-back games and is not in the best interest of our student-athletes from a health and safety perspective.

    c. **Selection show.** The committee discussed the quality of the selection show. With the implementation of the NPI the selection show has changed to a reveal as all participating teams know who is in the field based on either NPI rank for at-large teams or automatic qualification. The committee would like staff to collaborate with our streaming company on initiatives enhancing the selection show in the future.

    d. **Format.** The committee discussed the back-to-back game format for the second/third rounds and quarterfinal/semifinal rounds. The committee mentioned if the squad size was eliminated and allowing all eligible rostered student-athletes to participate in the game will elevate some of the health and safety concerns. The committee and staff will continue to work on this for the health and safety of our student-athletes. The committee will change the first-round date of Wednesday to Tuesday if that institutional winner advances to a Friday/Saturday host site instead of the Saturday/Sunday pod due to a Sunday no play institution in that pod.

5. **2027 championship planning.** The committee began to plan for the 2027 championship in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Division II national championship game will be the first contest followed by the Division III championship. Staff will be taking a site visit to Lincoln Financial Field in October.

6. **NPI.** The committee reviewed the NPI data from the previous two years and currently has not identified any changes to the dials. The committee recommended to increase the retained wins from 7 to 8.5 wins for the 2027-28 academic year. While recognizing that most teams will include more than 8.5 wins in their tournament resume, the committee established 8.5 as the optimal number for evaluation purposes. This approach balances the guiding philosophy that wins should not negatively impact a team's NPI, while also ensuring a sufficient sample size to

assess performance. The committee noted that Division III men's lacrosse programs are required to play a minimum of 10 contests but cannot exceed 17 contests during the regular season. The committee recommended that the NPI data be released earlier and more often. Additionally, they have identified some other enhancements that should be made, including easier identification makers for selected teams and then also additional data points to assist in understanding the NPI and assistance in schedule making for teams.

7. **Rules.** The committee met with the men's lacrosse rules committee liaison to discuss the proposed rule changes made during the men's lacrosse rules committee annual meeting. The committee was comfortable with all of the proposed rule changes.

8. **Future championship sites.** The committee reviewed the future championship sites for 2027 and 2028 championships. The committee looks forward to returning to Philadelphia in 2027 followed by Foxborough in 2028.

9. **Sport sponsorship for 2026-27.** The committee reviewed and discussed new sport sponsoring members as well as new conference membership and their placement in their respective regions.

10. **Committee chair.** The committee voted unanimously that Jim Lyons, Director of Athletics at Russell Sage College, will serve as the chair for 2026-27.

11. **Committee and regional advisory committee (RAC) rosters.** The committee discussed the elimination of the regional advisory committee. There will be two new members on the national committee for the upcoming year.

12. **2027 annual meeting.** The committee agreed to meet virtually on June 14-15, 2027.

Committee Chair: *Dave Carty, Moravian University, Landmark Conference*
Staff Liaison(s): *Will Hopkins, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Committee June 8 & 10, 2026, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Dave Carty, Moravian University.
Matt Colombini, Clark University (Massachusetts).
Jim Lyons, Russell Sage College.
Doug Misarti, Kenyon College.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.

NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Will Hopkins.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Dante Jones.