



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 11, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**Action Item:** The NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee will consider automatic qualification approval.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

- a. Recommendation. That the following 16 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2021 NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship:

American Athletic Conference, America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; ASUN Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; and Southern Conference.

- b. Effective date. 2021 championship.
- c. Rationale. All the conferences have met requirements to receive automatic qualification.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Approval of 2019 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year's annual meeting.

## **2. 2021 championship preview – finals.**

- a. ESPN game times. Several staff members from ESPN joined the call to discuss the possibility of having the semifinal and final games on linear television moving forward and to provide feedback to help improve the television viewing experience for the fans. ESPN assured the committee they are committed to putting the semifinal and final games on linear television if they have the time slots available. The committee reaffirmed its desire to have the games on linear television regardless of time slot (barring early morning) and will continue to work with ESPN to find ways to enhance the viewing experience for fans, such as working with officials to better communicate fouls.
- b. Banquet. The committee was reminded that there will not be banquets for any NCAA championship in 2020-21 due to financial constraints from COVID-19.
- c. Video exchange timeline/policy. The committee will continue to use the same timeline and system for video exchange as the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association to ensure coaches can follow the same protocols for the championship as they do during the regular season.
- d. Operations. The committee is confident that Towson University will provide a great championship experience for all participants and fans in 2021. The committee members did note they would like to confirm Towson's graduation dates and timeline to ensure there are no issues to be addressed with practice and competition.

## **3. Selection weekend.**

- a. Selection criteria. The committee reviewed the established selection criteria and did not recommend any changes.
- b. RPI. No changes were recommended to the RPI system.
- c. Selection show time. The committee would like to explore the possibility of televising the selection show on ESPN similar to the NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse selection show and staff will continue to work with ESPN to determine if this is possible. If the selection show must remain on ncaa.com, the committee would like to keep the time at 8 p.m. Eastern moving forward.

## **4. Strategic planning and future initiatives.**

- a. Sponsorship and conference affiliation. The committee reviewed upcoming changes to conference alignment and sport sponsorship for 2020-21 and noted that the Mid-American Conference did receive AQ approval from the Division I Competition Oversight

Committee during the COC's May teleconference. This will increase the number of automatic qualifiers to 16 and increase the bracket to 29 teams. Additionally, due to the Mid-American Conference receiving its AQ and teams moving into the conference, several other conferences have now dropped to five teams and have begun their two-year grace period. The committee will continue to monitor the number of teams in each conference and remind the conferences they must get back to six members by 2023 if they want to keep their AQ status.

- b. Travel party/bench area. The committee reviewed the current travel party and bench area policies and made no changes. As a reminder, the bench area policy allows up to 50 personnel in the bench area and any number of available bench area personnel are allowed to be dressed student-athletes. However, only 32 players will be allowed on the official game roster.
- c. Review strategic plan. The committee reviewed the Division I Women's Lacrosse Strategic Plan and made a no changes. The committee will continue to review the plan annually.

## **5. Officials.**

- Report from national coordinator. National coordinator of officials Laura Hebert joined the meeting to provide a report on the year. Ms. Hebert noted that although she was not able to go through the full process of assigning officials this year due the championships being canceled, she did work to expand the observations program and will look to do so again next year. Additionally, Ms. Hebert also noted she is working to build relationships with all women's lacrosse assignors and hopefully expand the pool of officials for the future.

- 6. Playing rules update.** Jay Fitzwater, coordinator of playing rules, joined the meeting to discuss the potential rules changes and points of emphasis for the next rules change year in 2021-22.
- 7. Regional advisory committee replacements.** The committee noted the changes to the RAC for the 2020-21 season. NCAA staff will contact the appropriate conferences this fall for replacements. The committee was also pleased to learn that Christy Leach has been approved to extend her committee service for one more year and serve as the chair for 2020-21 since she was not able to lead the committee this past season due to the cancelation of spring championships.
- 8. Committee timeline.** NCAA staff will make appropriate updates to the committee timeline for 2020-21.

- 9. Review bid specifications.** The committee reviewed all bid materials submitted for the 2023-2026 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championships and will look to make final recommendations later in July.
- 10. Championship manual updates.** The committee asked staff to make the necessary changes and general updates to the manuals in preparation for posting for the 2020-21 season.
- 11. Future meeting dates.** The 2021 annual meeting will be held June 9-10 via videoconference.

*Committee Chair: Christy Leach, Stetson University; ASUN Conference*

*Staff Liaison: Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances*

Division I Women's Lacrosse Committee June 11, 2020, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Ryan Cobb, University of California, Berkeley.	
Kerstin Kimel, Duke University.	
Christy Leach, Stetson University.	
Kathryn Mirance, Manhattan College.	
Lynne Robinson, Mount St. Mary's University.	
Michael Scerbo, Duquesne University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Laura Hebert, NCAA Coordinator of Officials.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Liz Homrig, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Jay Fitzwater, Championships and Alliances.	
Linda Godby, Championships and Alliances.	
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances	
Amy Skiles, Championships and Alliances.	