VPA officials consulted with the Activity Standards Committee of the VPA on the morning of Thursday, March 25, 2021 asking committee members to weigh in on the Division 1 Girls Hockey tournament championship situation. The discussion centered around whether or not Essex should be crowned the state champion or whether there should be co-state champions. Moving the game back was not an option, especially with potential ongoing COVID concerns.

Consistent with VPA protocols, as set forth at the beginning of the tournament, Essex is crowned state champion and Colchester/Burlington is crowned runner up. Colchester/Burlington school officials determined it was unsafe for their team to play the regularly scheduled championship game. As has been the case in at least a half dozen instances during winter sports playoffs, the team that could play the regularly scheduled game moved on. The team that could not withdrew from the tournament. All schools knew this was the process at the beginning of the tournament. The committee felt it would be unfair and inconsistent to other teams who had to withdraw from the tournament to rule any other way.