REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 9-10, 2015, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. Championship Policy Update. The committee adjusted several operational policies for both the preliminary rounds and the College World Series.

2. 2016 College World Series Ticket Prices. The committee approved the 2016 College World Series proposed ticket prices that were proposed by College World Series of Omaha, Inc.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   • None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   • None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review agenda and meeting schedule. The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.

2. American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) report. Craig Keilitz, executive director of the ABCA, and head baseball coaches Tim Corbin from Vanderbilt University, Josh Holliday from Oklahoma State University, Rich Maloney from Ball State University and Dan McDonnell from the University of Louisville led a discussion with the baseball committee and NCAA staff regarding key issues facing the baseball membership, including quiet-period legislative proposals, scholarship limits (25 percent minimum aid and a maximum of 27 counters), an additional assistant coach, fall games against outside competition, impact of the championship game ball change, pace of play, College World Series (CWS) hotels and various championship policies.

3. NCAA Baseball Rules Committee status update. NCAA staff provided the coaches and baseball committee with a report from the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee meeting, noting
that the potential experimental rule allowing a 20-second pitch clock with runners on base had been withdrawn.

4. **Championship financial report.** NCAA staff provided the committee with the final financial report for the 2015 NCAA Men’s College World Series and the entire 2015 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

5. **CWS partners meeting report.** The committee reviewed the NCAA staff report from the CWS partners meeting in Omaha in September.

6. **College World Series of Omaha, Inc./Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority report.** Representatives from College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (CWS of Omaha, Inc.) and the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA) joined the meeting both in person and via teleconference to update items including the Capital Replacement and Reserve Fund (CRR Fund), parking Lot B use, use of the CenturyLink Center apron, USA Olympic swim trial conflicts, CWS of Omaha, Inc. governance structure, tickets, team hotels and CWS opening ceremonies/team dinner plans.

- **2016 CWS ticket prices.** The committee voted to approve the 2016 CWS ticket pricing structure as submitted by CWS of Omaha.

7. **NCAA research summary.** NCAA staff reviewed findings from the 2015 CWS.

8. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee reviewed the home/away/neutral determinations for RPI purposes and discussed potential dates through the 2016 season to release the RPI.

9. **Championship policies and procedures.**

   a. **Preliminary-round policies.**

      (1) Super regional home team determination for Game Three. The committee voted to adjust the home team determination policy for the third game of super regionals to allow the better-seeded team to automatically be the home team for a third game if it is necessary. The new language will read: “The better-seeded team will be the home team in Game Three, if necessary. If both teams are equally seeded, a coin flip will determine the home team in Game Three, if necessary.”

      (2) Preliminary-round command center. The committee supported NCAA staff developing a centralized command center to more efficiently and effectively monitor preliminary-round sites (for at least the regional round) and handle any issues that arise.

      (3) Super regional clubhouse usage policy. The committee supported NCAA staff using its discretion to potentially allow some flexibility to the clubhouse usage policy at super
regional sites that have two quality and relatively equal clubhouses at their baseball facility.

(4) Late game times due to weather. The committee discussed the issue of preliminary-round game times that are delayed until late at night due to weather issues earlier in the day and handling requests to start such a game the next day. The committee noted the uniqueness of each potential scenario and did not feel it was in the best interests of the championship to create a specific policy addressing the matter. The committee tasked the NCAA staff to weigh all the possible factors and use their best possible judgment in any such situation. The existing guideline that no game should start later than 11 p.m. local time will remain.

b. College World Series policies.

(1) Spikes during pregame batting practice. The committee agreed to continue not allowing student-athletes or coaches to wear spikes during the pre-CWS practice day. However, the committee does feel that spikes should be allowed for pregame batting practice on game days.

(2) Off-site batting practice. The committee approved the following policies for the CWS:

a. Scheduling. With the increase in the number of teams wanting to take pregame batting practice off-site at Creighton University, the committee voted to add a policy stating that if both teams wish to take pregame batting practice at Creighton, the home team would automatically be scheduled to hit two hours and 30 minutes before the scheduled game time. The visiting team would then hit one hour and 50 minutes before its scheduled game time.

b. Notification. If a team decides to hit batting practice off-site, team officials must notify NCAA staff (i.e., Chad Tolliver) that players will not be hitting at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha at least three hours before the time of their scheduled batting practice time.

c. Adjustments. If batting practice is taking place on the field (the first game of the day) and either team decides to hit off-site, the other team should be afforded the opportunity to move its batting practice time to the scheduled time vacated by the first team.

(3) Intimidation during infield/outfield warm-ups. The committee discussed concerns noted during the 2015 CWS when one team stood on the foul line in the outfield and watched the opposing team take infield/outfield warm-ups in what could be considered a somewhat intimidating fashion. The committee felt that the issue would best be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and that no specific policies were required.
10. **Seeding of top eight national seeds vs. top 16 seeds.** Staff provided the committee information on how the championship would be affected if the committee were to seed the top 16 teams from one through 16 as opposed to just seeding the top eight national seeds. The committee discussed the issue but determined there was no need to change the current structure.

11. **Pre-CWS practice day schedule.** The committee reviewed and approved the proposed adjusted schedule for the pre-CWS practice day. The adjustments allow additional time for media responsibilities, which should prevent those responsibilities from conflicting with the scheduled practice times.

12. **ESPN proposed game times.** NCAA staff shared the proposed game times for the 2016 CWS, noting that the start times that were adjusted to avoid programming conflicts with both the Euro Cup and Major League Baseball were less than ideal. The committee is concerned with the impact some of these tight turnarounds and late game times will have on attendance.

13. **Umpire program report.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, reported on the Umpire Improvement Program.

14. **Instant-replay analysis.** The committee reviewed a request from the Southeastern Conference to expand instant-replay use to the regional round of the Division I Baseball Championship. The committee asked that the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) provide membership feedback on expanding replay to the regional round. Additionally, NCAA staff will continue to explore the logistics and expense projections for such an expansion. Instant replay will not be expanded for the 2016 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

15. **Regional and conference alignments.** The committee reviewed the conference alignments and proposed regional alignments for the 2016 baseball season.

16. **Committee member responsibilities.**
   
   a. **Umpire subcommittee assignments.** Joel Erdmann, University of South Alabama; Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco; and Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia, will serve on the umpire subcommittee for the 2016 baseball season.
   
   b. **Regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments.** NCAA staff provided the committee with RAC rosters for the 2016 season. Once all the vacant baseball committee assignments have been filled, NCAA staff will determine the chair and vice chair for each region and share those appointments with the committee.
   
   c. **Checklist for RAC calls.** NCAA staff provided a checklist of items for chairs and vice chairs to use to guide their RAC calls. Additionally, in the early spring staff will provide a packet of information to help national committee members lead those calls.
d. **Vice chair.** The committee selected Patrick Chun, Florida Atlantic University, to serve as the vice chair for the 2015-16 academic year.

17. **Strategic plan update.** Staff provided the committee with an update on the CWS strategic plan.

18. **Dates and sites of future meetings.**


   b. 2016 summer teleconference – July 26 (1-5 p.m. Eastern time).

   c. 2016 fall meeting – November 1-3 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair:* Joel Erdmann, University of South Alabama; Sun Belt Conference

*Staff Liaisons:* Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances

Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances
### Division I Baseball Committee

#### November 9-10, 2015, Meeting

**Attendees:**

- Kevin Anderson, University of Maryland, College Park; Big Ten Conference
- Patrick Chun, Florida Atlantic University; Conference USA
- Chris Del Conte; Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference
- Joel Erdmann, University of South Alabama; Sun Belt Conference, chair
- Robert Goodman; Colonial Athletic Association
- Ron Prettyman, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference
- Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco; West Coast Conference
- Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Southeastern Conference

**Absentees:**

None

**Guests in Attendance:**

- Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt University; American Baseball Coaches Association
- Jack Diesing, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Roger Dixon, Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority
- George Drouches, National Coordinator of Baseball Umpires
- Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Herb Hames, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Katie Hoehne, Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority
- Josh Holliday, Oklahoma State University; American Baseball Coaches Association
- Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association
- Rich Maloney, Ball State University; American Baseball Coaches Association
- Dan McDonnell, University of Louisville; American Baseball Coaches Association
- Joe Menaugh, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Dan Morrissey, College World Series of Omaha, Inc
- Kathryn Morrissey, College World Series of Omaha, Inc
- Kevin Raymond, Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**

- Randy L. Buhr
- J.D. Hamilton
- Gina Knutson
- Chad Tolliver
- Jeff Williams

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**

- Ben Brownlee
- Nate Flannery
- Scott Fosler
- Greg Johnson
- Julie Kimmons
- Josh Logan
- Matt Maher
- John Pfeffenberger
- Stephanie Swiger