



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2017, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Selection policies, procedures and guidelines.** The committee reviewed and approved additions to the selection policies, procedures and guidelines to address the committee now seeding the top 16 teams in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Informational Item No. 9).
- 2. Sunday competition – accommodations at the Men’s College World Series (CWS).** The committee discussed scenarios should an institution that is precluded from competing on Sunday for religious reasons advance to the CWS and have its Saturday game rained out. NCAA staff will continue evaluating various options to determine one that is most equitable for all eight participating teams in that situation (see Informational Item No. 17a).

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 Dan McDonnell, University of Louisville; Rich Maloney, Ball State University; and Jim Schlossnagle, Texas Christian University, led a discussion with the baseball committee and NCAA staff regarding key issues facing the baseball membership, including pace of play, fall games against outside opponents, recruiting calendar, addition of another assistant coach and continuing to require a year in residence for transfer student-athletes before becoming eligible.

The group also discussed proposals in the current legislative cycle relevant to baseball, including one from the Big South Conference that would allow four contests (games and scrimmages) against outside competition during the nonchampionship segment (the spring championship segment would retain the 56-contest maximum). The committee noted its support for the proposal.

- 3. NCAA Baseball Rules Committee update.** NCAA staff provided the coaches and baseball committee with a report from the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee meeting.

4. **Championship financial report.** NCAA staff provided the committee with the final financial report for the 2017 NCAA CWS and the entire 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
5. **CWS Partners meeting report.** The committee reviewed the NCAA staff executive summary from the CWS Partners meeting in Omaha on September 20, 2017.
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 review various topics, including the Capital Replacement and Reserve Fund (CRR Fund); parking Lot B use; activation plans for the CenturyLink Center apron; 2017-18 non-CWS use of TD Ameritrade Park Omaha; feasibility study to turn a portion of the space behind the right field bullpen into a possible hospitality area; 2018 CWS ticket prices/strategies; CWS season-ticket holder fan forum; continuation of beer/wine pilot program; team hotels; 10 millionth fan recognition; CWS team survey results; youth clinic planning and CWS opening celebration plans.
 - The committee voted to reduce the CWS team ticket allotment by 100 tickets per game per team for CWS Games 5-10.
7. **Research summaries.** The committee reviewed the feedback summary from Performance Research regarding the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
8. **Championship policies and procedures.**
 - a. Practice uniform – jersey numbers. The committee voted to require that the uniform numbers on jerseys/shirts worn during pregame batting practice and/or infield warmups be at least six inches in height and be located on the back of the jersey/shirt.
 - b. Dugout determination – competitive advantage. The committee clarified that for situations in which a baseball stadium may have portions that don't comply with the NCAA Baseball Playing Rules (e.g., bullpen) and create a competitive advantage for a team in one dugout over the other that the host institution would not be allowed to remain in its preferred dugout if it is designated the visiting team.

If the facility complies with the playing rules, the host institution would be allowed to use its preferred dugout regardless of whether it is designated the home or visiting team.
 - c. Analytical/data collection cameras. The committee approved a policy that prohibits the use of analytical or data collection camera systems during the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. Host institutions with these type of analytical/data collection systems must remove them before the start of practice on the day prior to the beginning of competition. If such a system is permanently affixed to the facility, it must be properly covered before the start of practice.

- d. Tickets – visiting team ticket locations. The committee approved an editorial revision to the team ticket location language in an attempt to clear up confusion regarding the location. The existing policy states that visiting team tickets must be in a “prime” location (between first and third bases). The approved revision removes the word “prime” and requires that the visiting team tickets be located between first and third bases.
- e. Permissible individuals in dugout. The committee adjusted the policy regarding who can be included among the 35 individuals allowed in the dugout during the championship by removing the requirement that “Other non-uniformed personnel (up to the maximum limit of 35 individuals) in the dugout should be performing official team functions they have performed during the season.”

Personnel in the dugout may now consist of four official coaches in uniform (head coach, two assistant coaches and volunteer coach), 27 eligible student-athletes in uniform and four additional individuals as determined by the institution.

- f. Home team determination – CWS Finals. The committee adjusted the home team determination policy for the CWS Finals so that the better-seeded team will be the home team in CWS Finals Games 1 and 3. The lesser-seeded team will be the home team in CWS Finals Game 2.

If both teams advancing to the CWS Finals are equally seeded (e.g., both were No. 2 regional seeds) then a coin flip will determine the home team for CWS Finals Game 1, with the loser of the coin flip being the home team in CWS Finals Game 2. An additional coin flip will take place to determine the home team for CWS Finals Game 3.

- g. Postgame press conference – order after an elimination game. The committee approved a policy that would allow the NCAA site representative and the host institution media coordinator to adjust the postgame press conference order (i.e., the winning team first, followed by the losing team) after an elimination game.

The normal press conference interview order is that the losing team goes first followed by the winning team.

- h. CWS awards ceremony. The committee adjusted the CWS awards ceremony so that the national runner-up only be provided with the team runner-up trophy during the official awards ceremony. The individual trophies and awards will no longer be provided as a part of the awards ceremony. They will be provided to the team administrator prior to the team’s departure.
- i. Committee member expectations if their team is participating in the CWS. The committee agreed that if a committee member’s institution is participating in the CWS, he or she will not be expected to perform committee duties while the team is still participating. Committee

members whose teams are playing in a particular game shall not be allowed in the committee seats behind home plate. During games not involving the committee member's team, the committee member will be allowed in the committee seats behind home plate but shall recuse him or herself from any committee decisions until after his or her team has been eliminated.

- 9. Selection policies, procedures and guidelines.** The committee reviewed and approved the additions to the selection policies, procedures and guidelines to address the committee now seeding the top 16 teams in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

The bracket will be developed such that if all 16 seeded teams (No. 1 seeds) were to advance from the regional to the super regional round, the matchups would be 1 vs. 16, 2 vs. 15, 3 vs. 14, 4 vs. 13, 5 vs. 12, 6 vs. 11, 7 vs. 10, and 8 vs. 9. The committee will not alter the bracket or seeds due to a state or institutional decision to restrict travel to another state or locale.

This change to seed the top 16 teams in rank order will eliminate the previous safety-net consideration for bracketing that stated No. 1 seeds from the same conference are separated so they will not meet in the super regional (unless there are nine or more No. 1 seeds from the same conference). As an example, beginning with the 2018 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, if two teams from the same conference are seeded such that they would meet in the super regional round should they advance from their respective regional (e.g., 1 vs. 16), then these two conference opponents would face each other in the 2018 super regionals.

- 10. Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee reviewed the home/away/neutral determinations for RPI purposes and discussed potential dates through the 2018 season to release the RPI. The committee decided to move the first public release of the RPI to March 5, 2018.

- 11. 2017 CWS Season Ticket Holder Fan Forum notes.** NCAA staff provided feedback from the CWS Season Ticket Holder Fan Forum from the 2017 CWS. The committee agreed that the fan forum will be discontinued for the 2018 CWS and replaced with a season ticket holder concierge desk that will be open 30 minutes before each game until the end of the third inning. The fan forum could possibly be brought back in the future for every other year or once every three years.

- 12. ESPN proposed game times.** ESPN personnel have not shared with NCAA staff the tentative game times for the 2018 CWS. The schedule should be finalized by January 1, 2018.

The committee also supported shortening the time between innings during all rounds of the championship to quicken the pace of play. This would be subject to the approval of ESPN representatives.

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

- a. The committee approved the following adjustments to the umpires' selection criteria as follows:

- 1) Eliminate the three-year wait requirement between CWS appearances;
 - 2) Provide the national coordinator of umpires the autonomy to make the final umpire recommendations;
 - 3) A committee member will be present at the umpire selection meeting (at least for the May 2018 selection meeting).
- b. The committee approved the composition of the umpire subcommittee to include Ray Tanner (chair), Dave Blank and Mike Buddie for the 2017-18 baseball season. In addition, Mr. Buddie will plan on attending the umpire selection meeting in May 2018.
 - c. The committee also approved two proposed memorandums that will be sent to the conferences during November 2017.

14. Regional and conference alignments. The committee reviewed the conference alignments and proposed regional alignments for the 2018 baseball season.

15. Committee member responsibilities.

- a. Regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments. The committee noted that starting with the 2017-18 cycle, the composition for the Division I Baseball Committee and Regional Advisory Committees will be based on a five-region model instead of the previous eight regions. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee assignments based on these new regions.
- b. Checklist for RAC calls. NCAA staff provided a checklist of items for chairs and vice chairs 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.
- c. Vice chair. The committee selected Joe Karlgaard, Rice University, to serve as the vice chair for the 2017-18 academic year.

16. Strategic plan update. Staff informed the committee that a draft of a new strategic plan for the CWS will be shared with the committee for review and input in the coming months.

17. Other business.

- a. Sunday competition – accommodations at the College World Series. The committee discussed scenarios should an institution that is precluded from competing on Sunday for religious reasons advance to the CWS and have its Saturday game rained out. NCAA staff will continue evaluating various options to determine one that is most equitable for all eight participating teams in that situation.

NCAA staff will provide the baseball committee with several options during an early spring teleconference for the committee to determine its preference. The committee will provide a recommendation for the Division I Competition Oversight Committee to consider during its April 2018 teleconference. If approved, this information will be added to the applicable CWS manuals.

- b. Pace of play. The committee noted the need to continue monitoring progress regarding pace of play.
- c. Committee mentor program. The committee agreed to explore possibly creating a mentor program to help new members acclimate to their roles.
- d. CWS format. The committee discussed the current CWS format and whether other format options should be considered.

18. Future meeting dates and sites.

- a. 2018 selection meeting – May 25-28 in Indianapolis.
- b. 2018 College World Series – June 16-26/27.
- c. 2018 summer teleconference – August 9 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.
- d. 2018 fall meeting – November 6-8 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Southeastern Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Ron Prettyman, Championships and Alliances
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

Division I Baseball Committee November 7-8, 2017, Meeting
Attendees:
Kevin Anderson, University of Maryland, College Park; Big Ten Conference.
Whit Babcock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Dave Blank, Elon University; Colonial Athletic Association.
Mike Buddie, Furman University; Southern Conference.
Joe Karlgaard, Rice University, Conference USA
Ben Shove, Northeast Conference; Northeast Conference.
Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco; West Coast Conference.
Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Southeastern Conference.
Steve Robertello, California State University, Fresno; Mountain West Conference (via teleconference).
Absentees:
Chris Del Conte; Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.
Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).
Herb Hames, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Katie Karmazin, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).
Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.
Emily Keilman, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).
Rich Maloney, Ball State University; American Baseball Coaches Association.
Dan McDonnell, University of Louisville; American Baseball Coaches Association.
Dan Morrissey, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).
Kathryn Morrissey, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Jim Schlossnagle, Texas Christian University, American Baseball Coaches Association.
Nate Stahlecker, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Stanley Broaden, Championships and Alliances.
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.
Ron Prettyman, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Cecilia Click, Championships and Alliances.

Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Greg Johnson, Communications.
Josh Logan, Championships and Alliances.
John Pfeffenberger, Administrative Services.
Bryce Pruitt, Enforcement.
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.