

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 9, 2018, TELECONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 31 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Action Item 2).
2. **November committee meeting agenda.** The committee noted several topics and issues to discuss further at its November 2018 in-person meeting in Indianapolis (see Informational Items 8-a and 10-d).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following 31 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

America East Conference, American Athletic Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference, Atlantic Coast Conference, Atlantic Sun Conference, Big 12 Conference, Big East Conference, Big South Conference, Big Ten Conference, Big West Conference, Colonial Athletic Association, Conference USA, Horizon League, The Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Pac-12 Conference, Patriot League, Southeastern Conference, Southern Conference, Southland Conference, Southwestern Athletic Conference, Summit League, Sun Belt Conference, West Coast Conference and the Western Athletic Conference.

- b. Effective date. 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Baseball Umpire Program.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, joined the call to report on the Baseball Umpire Program from the previous year and preview the season ahead. The committee reviewed the recommendations from Mr. Drouches and agreed to discuss those with a budgetary impact at the committee's annual meeting in November:
2. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee report.** Ben Brownlee, NCAA Baseball Rules Committee staff liaison, joined the call to update the committee on the recent actions taken during the rules committee's July 2018 annual meeting. The actions are subject to the approval of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).
3. **ESPN.** Kristen Jacob Smith, NCAA; Dan Margulis, ESPN; and Morgan Ainslie, ESPN provided a report from ESPN reviewing the 2018 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship/Men's College World Series (CWS).
4. **NCAA research summary.** Randy L. Buhr provided a summary of the 2018 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and 2018 CWS survey results from student-athletes, coaches, athletics administrators, tournament directors, committee members, officials and NCAA site representatives.
5. **NCAA Men's College World Series attendance data.** J.D. Hamilton provided an attendance report from the 2018 CWS, noting that the total attendance of 333,482 was positive, particularly considering the number of inclement weather issues during the 2018 CWS.
6. **Review of 2018 championship selections.**
 - **Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and analysis of selections.** The committee reviewed the RPI formula and data that shows the results of the championship as they relate to tournament seeding (i.e., national and regional seeds).
7. **Review of 2018 season final baseball statistical trends.** Mr. Hamilton reported on statistical trends for the 2018 season.
8. **NCAA staff analysis of the 2018 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and agenda items for the November 2018 baseball committee annual meeting.** Chad Tolliver provided the committee with several issues from the 2018 championship for the committee to determine whether to discuss in further detail at the November meeting or take no action.
 - a. **Policy items for discussion at the November committee meeting.**
 - Availability of competition venue for visiting team practice two days prior to competition at super regionals.

- Clarification of language regarding the covering/removal of cameras and data collection equipment for analytical data systems during the Division I Baseball Championship.
- Minimum time between games at the CWS.
- CWS finals practice, and clarification of open vs. closed practice.

b. No action.

- Adjustment of home team determination at a super regional matchup between teams that are equally seeded (e.g., both teams being #2 regional seeds).
- Limit the use of host institution logos on the back of the pitching mound during the preliminary rounds.

9. 2018 conference alignments. The committee reviewed the tentative conference composition and alignments for the 2019 season.

10. Other business.

a. Unofficial starting lineups. The committee approved a policy change that would require participating teams to submit their unofficial starting lineups to the media 90 minutes before the start of the designated game time for all games of the Division I Baseball Championship. This change is an adjustment from the 60-minute requirement that currently exists.

b. California Baptist University and University of North Alabama inclusion in RPI. California Baptist and North Alabama are in the process of reclassifying to Division I. Both will be playing a full Division I schedule in 2019; thus, the committee recommends that both schools be counted as Division I for purposes of calculation of the RPI in 2019.

c. August 2019 conference call. The committee will convene via teleconference on August 8 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.

d. November meeting agenda items.

- Championship policy review.
- National umpire coordinator recommendations.
- Umpire subcommittee and role of the committee at the umpire selection meeting.

- In-game ESPN interviews with student-athletes during the championship.
- Possible instant replay expansion to the regional round at some point in the future.

Committee Chair: Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Southeastern Conference
Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
 Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Baseball Committee August 9, 2018, Teleconference	
Attendees:	
Dave Blank, Elon University.	
Mike Bobinski, Purdue University.	
Mike Buddie, Furman University.	
Chris Del Conte, University of Texas.	
Joe Karlgaard, Rice University.	
Steve Robertello, California State University, Fresno.	
Benjamin Shove, Northeast Conference.	
Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco.	
Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia	
Absentees:	
Whit Babcock, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Morgan Ainslie, ESPN.	
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
Dan Margulis, ESPN.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.	
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.	