ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2017 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2017 annual meeting report as written.

2. **Division II Championships Committee updates.** Staff provided updates on Championships Committee actions over the previous year. The regionalization working group is discussing a concept to reseed at the super regional round but knows no action could be taken immediately since it has a budgetary impact. The committee believes requiring web streaming in preliminary rounds starting in 2019-20 is a good enhancement for the division.

   The committee asked about the feasibility of allowing new committee members to attend the annual meeting each year (in person or via teleconference), so they are more prepared when their terms start in the fall. Staff will follow up internally.

3. **Division II governance and academic and membership affairs update.** Chelsea Crawford from the academic and membership affairs staff reviewed the rollout of DII University, a coaches educational tool launched in the spring. She provided instructions for how to log in to the system and said the initial rollout has been a success with over 2,000 users already registered. She noted a legislative proposal that would potentially eliminate the coaches test and replace it with requirements to complete certain modules within DII University.

   Ryan Jones and Maritza Jones from the governance staff joined the meeting to provide updates including reviewing the executive summary of the 2018 Division II Membership Census and providing online resources about tools to tell the DII story.

   The committee noted concerns about the 2020 championship date formula. The next spring championships festival occurs in 2020 and the date formula reduces the number of competition days by 11 that year. Coaches are concerned the reduction in available days will force teams to play more mid-week doubleheaders, which leads to more missed class time. Staff recommended that the committee continue to work with the coaches association to recommend solutions.
The committee also asked Mr. Jones to work with Turner to implement an interactive bracket on NCAA.com during the postseason. Other sports and divisions have interactive brackets for all rounds of a tournament, and the committee feels the NCAA is not providing the needed level of service to the membership with no real-time score updates for softball during regionals and super regionals.

4. **NFCA convention report.** Brian Stanley from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association provided an update for the committee. Members discussed the top priority for coaches, which is season length in festival years. The committee reviewed a draft of a coaches association memo outlining the number of competition days lost in the 2020 festival year in comparison to the days lost in the 2016 festival year. Overall, the data show that teams played the same number of games (but in fewer days) in festival vs. non-festival years, which led to more missed class time and travel in the festival year. The committee acknowledged that membership support for the festival is still high, so members encouraged the coaches to seek student-athlete feedback on the festival. Staff will continue to work with the committee and the NFCA to explore options for addressing the loss of the week in festival years.

5. **Championship manuals and site selection materials review.** The committee reviewed the 2018 manuals and made necessary updates for the 2019 championship. The committee noted the difficulty with having so many manuals associated with the championship and asked staff to explore the feasibility of combining some of the manuals.

6. **Committee timeline review.** The committee discussed the timeline and made necessary updates for the 2019 season.

7. **Review of NCAA playing rules and barrel compression testing (BCT).** Dee Abrahamson provided a bat testing update for the committee. She noted that the regular-season bat testing initiatives are seeing successes. She also noted that she will share a new bat testing training video with the NCAA in advance of the 2019 season to help educate and train site representatives and committee members.

   Ms. Abrahamson noted that the softball rules committee is discussing whether bat testing should be mandatory in the regular season. If the rules committee agrees to require new procedures, she expects any change would have a delayed implementation date to give the membership time to make the financial commitment.

8. **Umpires.** The committee discussed the postseason umpire selection process and how to ensure the best available umpires are officiating games. The committee was pleased with the performance of the new national coordinator and his staff.

9. **Rankings process review.** The committee felt the rankings process ran smoothly. Members reiterated the importance of regional advisory committees following the selection criteria and the national committee being consistent in their methodology each week.
10. **Selections review.** The committee reviewed the 2018 selection criteria and noted the change in criteria (removing in-region, nonconference won-lost record and replacing it with Division II results versus teams with a winning record) for the 2018-21 cycle.

11. **Regional and super regional review.** The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from regionals and super regionals. Overall, participants enjoyed their experiences in those rounds. The committee clarified that press conferences are not required in preliminary rounds, but if a host is conducting them, then it is mandatory for the head coaches at the site to participate.

The committee discussed an issue with available hotel options at one site and expressed concerns with the distance from the venue. Members asked staff to further clarify the policy of the Nos. 1 and 2 seeds hosting when hotels are more than 30 miles from a site. The committee agreed that hotels more than 30 miles from a site, especially with weather delays in softball, lead to a poor student-athlete experience. In the past, the committee has used discretion about distance of hotels from the site but in this case the hotels were farther away than what was indicated on the bid.

The committee reviewed the policy for adjusting game times in preliminary rounds due to inclement weather. The committee agreed that game times should only be modified by the NCAA and NCAA site representative, in consultation with the games committee. Head coaches no longer need to agree on a game time for the game to be played at a certain time.

12. **2018 championship review and 2019 championship preview.** The committee praised the staff from the city of Salem and Mountain East Conference for their roles in hosting a successful championship. The committee specifically appreciated the work of the city of Salem grounds crew with the amount of inclement weather they dealt with.

Committee members approved the regional, super regional and finals site brackets for 2019. The 2019 championship will be hosted by Metro State University in Denver. Members noted logistical items for staff to address with the 2019 championship host.

13. **Sponsorship list review.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship list and noted future changes in some conference alignments.

14. **Committee chair appointment.** The committee voted to appoint Brandon Davis, associate director of athletics for communications and fan development at San Francisco State University, as chair of the committee. Mr. Davis has served on the committee for three years and will provide great leadership and guidance for the committee.

15. **2019 annual meeting dates.** The committee will hold its next annual meeting June 18-19 in Indianapolis.

NCAA/07_06_2018/MPS:jmk
**Committee Chair:** Jen Starek, University of New Haven  
**Staff Liaison:** Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kristy Bayer, Arkansas Tech University.</td>
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<td>Daven Bond, Colorado Christian University.</td>
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<td>Brandon Davis, San Francisco State University.</td>
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<td>Rob Fournier, Wayne State University (Michigan).</td>
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<td>Patrick Peasant, Miles College.</td>
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<td>Jen Starek, University of New Haven.</td>
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<td>Stacey Vallee, Francis Marion University.</td>
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<td>John Wilson Jr., Virginia State University.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Absentees:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dee Abrahamson, NCAA barrel compression testing liaison. <em>(via teleconference)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Bryce, Wayne State University (Michigan). <em>(via teleconference)</em></td>
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<td>Carey Harveycutter, City of Salem.</td>
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<td>John Shaner, City of Salem.</td>
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<td>Brian Stanley, NFCA. <em>(via teleconference)</em></td>
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<th>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<th>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Crawford, Academic and Membership Affairs.</td>
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<td>Maritza Jones, Governance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Jones, Governance.</td>
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