REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2016, MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. Baseball legislative proposals. The committee supports two proposals currently in the legislative process regarding financial aid limits in baseball (see Informational Item No. 2).

2. Championship selection policies and principles. The committee approved two adjustments to the championship selection policies and principles document for the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Nonlegislative Item Nos. 2-a and 2-b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Team selection principles.

      (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends an editorial revision to the team selection principles that states: “1) Select the best available teams to fill the at-large berths, with significant consideration given to those teams with a .500 or better conference record.”

      (2) Effective date. 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship selection meeting.

      (3) Rationale. The committee believes that a minimum .500 record in conference play is an important benchmark for teams being considered for at-large selection into the championship.

      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
b. Selection meeting – safety net consideration.

(1) Recommendation. The committee recommends amending the safety net considerations in the selection principles document to read: “No. 1 seeds from the same conference are separated so they will not meet in the super regionals (unless there are nine or more teams from a single conference receiving a No. 1 seed).”

(2) Effective date. 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship selection meeting.

(3) Rationale. If there are nine or more teams from the same conference that receive a No. 1 seed, there would have to be at least some of these institutions from the same conference that would need to be paired to possibly match-up in the super regionals since there are 16 No. 1 seeds. This would allow the committee to keep flights at a minimum, while protecting the integrity of seeding the top seeds and their super regional matchups. Please note that such a scenario presented above would most likely only rarely, if ever, transpire. The safety net considerations in the selection principles document does not currently address this unique scenario that could possibly occur.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. 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, Vanderbilt University; Dan McDonnell, University of Louisville; John Savage, University of California, Los Angeles; and Jim Schlossnagle, Texas Christian University, led a discussion with the baseball committee and NCAA staff regarding key issues facing the baseball membership, including scholarship limits (25 percent minimum aid and a maximum of 27 counters), an additional assistant coach, fall games against outside competition, and pace of play.

a. Legislative Proposal 2016-78 – Minimum 25 Percent Financial Aid for Baseball Student-Athletes. The committee supports a legislative proposal sponsored by the Pacific-12 Conference that would eliminate a minimum financial aid commitment of 25 percent for baseball student-athletes that receive athletics aid.

b. Legislative Proposal 2016-78 – Maximum 27 Baseball Student-Athletes on Athletics Aid. The committee supports a legislative proposal sponsored by the Pacific-12 Conference that
would remove the current limits on the number of baseball student-athletes that can receive athletics aid in any given academic year to 27.

3. NCAA Baseball Rules Committee update. NCAA staff provided the coaches and baseball committee with a report from the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee meeting. The ABCA coaches and the committee both expressed a strong concern with the possible increase in bat tampering that may be occurring.

The group reviewed a letter from the Southeastern Conference (SEC) requesting that bat testing take place during all rounds of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. The baseball committee is in favor of expanding to expand bat testing to both the regional and super regional rounds of the championship, starting with the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. NCAA staff will work on any issues with acquiring the proper testing equipment and also work to develop bat testing protocols at regional and super regional rounds. If these issues can be resolved, then the goal will be to expand the bat testing program by the 2017 championship.

The SEC also requested that the NCAA expand its list of plays eligible for instant replay to mirror what Major League Baseball (MLB) allows. The group noted that the Baseball Rules Committee considered this during its July 2016 meeting but ultimately only added to the type of reviewable plays rather than adopting all the same reviewable plays as MLB.

4. Championship financial report. NCAA staff provided the committee with the final financial report for the 2016 NCAA Men’s College World Series (CWS) and the entire 2016 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 October 2016.

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, 2016-17 non-CWS use of TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, new clear bag policy, 2017 CWS ticket prices/strategies, CWS format review, continuation of beer/wine pilot program, team hotels, and CWS opening ceremonies/team dinner plans.

7. Rating Percentage Index (RPI). The committee reviewed the home/away/neutral determinations for RPI purposes and discussed potential dates through the 2017 season to release the RPI. The committee decided to move the first public release of the RPI up to early March 2017.
8. **Championship policies and procedures.**

a. Preliminary-round policies.

   (1) **Home/visiting team dugout.** The committee voted to allow the host institution to remain in its preferred dugout throughout the round, regardless of being designated as the home or visiting team for that particular game.

   During games that don’t include the host institution, the participating teams will occupy the predetermined “home team” or “visiting team” dugout based on their home/visitor designation for that game.

   (2) **Visiting team(s) practice prior to scheduled practice day.** The committee discussed whether to develop a policy for a visiting team(s) wanting to practice at the host site prior to the official practice day. The committee took no action and decided to handle all such situations on a case-by-case basis.

   (3) **Determining a team to advance if a round cannot be completed.** The committee took no action on this item. It is highly unlikely that a round of the championship could not be completed. In the unlikely event this were to occur, the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee will determine which team(s) will advance to the next round.

b. All-rounds (preliminary rounds and College World Series) policies.

   (1) **Start time deadline – all rounds.** The committee approved an editorial revision to change the start time deadline from a “general rule” to a “general guideline.” The committee believes that making it a general guideline, as opposed to a general rule, would provide more flexibility to handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.

   (2) **Inclement weather – rescheduling of games – all rounds.** The approved an editorial revision to change the inclement weather rescheduling of games policy from a “general rule” to a “general guideline.” The committee believes that making it a general guideline, as opposed to a general rule, would provide more flexibility to handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.

   (3) **Coin flip policy – equally seeded teams.** The committee voted to clarify the coin flip policy regarding when equally seeded teams are involved to read as follows: “If teams of equal seed are involved in a home team determination coin toss, one team will be designated as “heads;” the other team will be designated as “tails” and the coin will be flipped by the NCAA representative. Head and tails designation will be determined by alphabetical order of the name of the institution (i.e., first alphabetically being heads second alphabetically being tails).”
(4) **Artificial noisemakers.** The committee reviewed the artificial noisemaker policy and took no action. The committee asked that NCAA site representatives and host institution game management staff work to enforce these policies at all sites.

c. **College World Series policies.**

(1) **Start time deadline.** The committee added a provision to the start time deadline at the College World Series that states: “As a general guideline, a potential CWS championship clinching game (i.e., CWS Finals Game 2 or 3) shall not start later than 9 p.m. (local time).”

(2) **CWS team meal plan.** The committee noted that CWS of Omaha, Inc. staff is working to restructure the team meal plan at the College World Series to allow more flexibility during weather delay situations. The committee supports this plan.

(3) **TD Ameritrade Park Omaha grass height.** The committee noted that a few coaches participating in the 2016 CWS claimed that the grass was too high. The committee took no action but asked NCAA staff to monitor to see if additional concerns are raised at the 2017 CWS.

9. **Highlights of Ticket Opportunities Assessment Services Report from FutureTix, Inc.** NCAA staff provided a summary of the extensive report from Future Tix, Inc., noting that NCAA staff and FutureTix, Inc. representatives will visit Omaha in November 2016 to discuss the findings in more detail.

10. **2016 CWS Season Ticket Holder Fan Forum notes.** NCAA staff provided feedback from the CWS Season Ticket Holder Fan Forum from the 2016 CWS. The committee agreed that the fan forum is a great way to connect and obtain feedback from longtime season-ticket holders and that it should continue.

11. **NCAA research summary.** NCAA staff reviewed findings from the 2016 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

12. **Guidelines for establishing the team bracket.**

   - **Committee recusal policy.** The committee reviewed the selection policies and procedures and talked at length regarding the committee member recusal policy during the bracketing process. The committee charged staff to review internally and attempt to adjust the bracketing principles to allow more flexibility so that committee members with teams in the bracket can be in the room more often during the bracketing portion of the selection process.

13. **Committee attendance at regional and super regional sites.** The group agreed that committee members should continue to be encouraged to attend a regional and/or super
regional site, but it will not be required. Members noted that it would be ideal for a committee member to be in attendance at any new regional and/or super regional site.

14. ESPN proposed game times. NCAA staff shared the tentative game times for the 2017 CWS. The schedule should be finalized by January 1, 2017.

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.

The committee expressed some concern regarding ESPN’s initial use of the K-Zone during the 2016 CWS.

15. Umpire program report. George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, reported on the Baseball Umpire Program. This report included a review of some best practices that conferences should consider implementing before the 2018 season that were included as part of the October 2016 report to the Division I Competition Oversight Committee.

16. Regional and conference alignments. The committee reviewed the conference alignments and proposed regional alignments for the 2017 baseball season.

17. Division I Baseball Committee future appointments. The committee noted that starting with the 2017-18 cycle, the composition for the Division I Baseball Committee will be based on a five-region model, instead of the current eight regions. There will be one representative from each of the five regions, and then five at-large committee members. This should enhance the candidate pool and provide greater flexibility in the nomination and selection process. This change also provides consistency among the 10-member team sport committees.

18. Committee member responsibilities.

a. Umpire committee assignments. Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco (chair); Dave Blank, Elon University; and Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia will serve on the umpire committee for the 2017 baseball season.

b. Regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments. NCAA staff provided the committee with RAC rosters for the 2017 season. The committee expressed the importance of RAC members participating on all the RAC calls.

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 Mr. Tanner, to serve as the vice chair for the 2016-17 academic year.

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

20. Dates and sites of future meetings.

   a. 2017 selection meeting – May 26-29 in Indianapolis. NCAA staff will plan to implement a mock selection training session with the new committee members a few hours prior to the start of the actual selection meeting on May 26, 2017.

   b. 2016 summer teleconference – the committee voted to shorten this call to a maximum of two hours on August 1, 2017.

   c. 2017 fall meeting – November 7-9 in Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco, West Coast Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ron Prettyman, Championships and Alliances
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances
**Division I Baseball Committee**  
**November 1-2, 2016, 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.
- Chris Del Conte; Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference.
- Larry Lyons, Illinois State University; Missouri Valley Conference.
- Bill McGillis, University of Southern Mississippi; Conference USA.
- Steve Robertello, California State University, Fresno; Mountain West Conference.
- Ben Shove, Northeast Conference; Northeast Conference.
- Scott Sidwell, University of San Francisco; West Coast Conference, chair.
- 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. (via teleconference).
- George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires (via teleconference).
- Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Gary Gates, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Herb Hames, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Katie Karmazin, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).
- Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.
- Dan McDonnell, University of Louisville; American Baseball Coaches Association.
- Joe Menaugh, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
- Kevin Raymond, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).
- John Savage, University of California, Los Angeles; American Baseball Coaches Association.
- Jim Schlossnagle, Texas Christian University, American Baseball Coaches Association.
- Nate Stahlecker, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).

### NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
- Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
- J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.
- Matt Maginnis, Championships and Alliances.
- Ron Prettyman, Championships and Alliances (via teleconference).
- Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
- Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
- Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Stephen Clar, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Greg Johnson, Communications.
Josh Logan, Championships and Alliances.
Keith Martin, Championships and Alliances.
John Pfeffenberger, Administrative Services.
Stephanie Swiger, Enforcement.
David Worlock, Championships and Alliances.