



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 19-20, 2017, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

a. Automatic qualification.

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 40 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2018 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; President's Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; and Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 40; Pool B – 2; Pool C – 16.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences have been recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Committee chair.

- (1) Recommendation. That Paul Murphy, associate director of athletics and head baseball coach at Gwynedd Mercy University, serve as chair of the NCAA Division III Baseball Committee.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. Mr. Murphy is a former baseball student-athlete and has been a member of the committee for two years. He is respected by committee members and is an effective leader.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Rest day at the championship site.

- (1) Recommendation. That a rest day be applied to the final series at the championship site when both pool winners are undefeated.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. When “if-necessary” pool play games are not needed following pool play due to undefeated pool winners, the committee would like to incorporate a day of rest for student-athletes, particularly pitchers. Following three continuous days of competition at the final site, roster sizes result in coaches returning pitchers to the championship series starting lineup with two or three days of rest, as opposed to the four to six days of rest during the regular season they are accustomed to.

It is noted that the format of the championship series with a day of rest would be rest day on Monday, Game 1 on Tuesday, and Games 2 and 3 on Wednesday. When inclement weather is forecasted, participants would play a minimum of one game on Monday, as currently scheduled, in lieu of the day off.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. No additional cost associated with a day of rest, as the championship is currently budgeted through Wednesday.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes, particularly pitchers, competing in the Championship Series would gain an additional day of rest.

d. Squad size increase.

- (1) Recommendation. That championship squad size increase from 25 to 27.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2017.
- (3) Rationale. With the recent travel party increase from 27 to 30, the committee would like to allocate the increase to allow two additional student-athletes the opportunity to participate. In participant surveys over the last three years, feedback from participants consistently requests additional student-athletes be allowed participate in the championship. This will also better align championship and regular season rosters, which NCAA research confirms an average roster size of 35 student-athletes per institution.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The estimated budget impact affiliated with adding two student-athletes is 112 additional medallions at \$11 each for a total cost of \$1,232. The cost would be absorbed by game expenses.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This will allow additional student-athletes the opportunity participate in the championship.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **Review of the 2016 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual committee meeting report as submitted.
2. **2017 championship.** The committee reviewed the championship via teleconference with co-hosts and LOC.
 - a. Opening ceremony. The opening ceremony reception was held on the game field the evening before the first day of competition. The attendance increase was slightly higher than the previous year.
 - b. Facilities. The committee was satisfied with the game field, indoor practice facility and outdoor practice facility and thanked the grounds crew for their commitment and sense of urgency during the championship. The Lawrence University baseball field was used as a second practice field and would have been used as a secondary game field in the event of inclement weather. The committee requested the Lawrence baseball field to be mowed so it is ready for use when needed.
 - c. Laundry. The hosts provided laundry service via the use of student workers. This process was the smoothest it has ever been.

- d. Special Olympics. Special Olympics athletes participated in pre-game player introductions. The host continues to look for creative ways to incorporate the local chapter of Special Olympics.
 - e. Social media. The committee would like to see an increased presence at the championship through social media in the future.
- 3. 2017 regionals.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluation for sites and umpires. The committee discussed issues regarding transportation with the travel department.
- a. Bat Testing. The committee discussed the potential for bat testing at the 2018 regional and final sites. During each of the past two years, an illegal bat was found in use at the regional tournaments. NCAA staff and the committee will research additional information regarding bat testing and the cost to execute such a program.
 - b. Awards. The committee agreed to hand out the mini regional championship trophies at the regional sites to capture the celebratory team moment. Currently, the awards are handed out when the teams are eliminated from the national championship.
- 4. 2018 regional bids.** The committee will continue to solicit regional bids until all regions are completed. The committee noted that regional hosts are difficult to find given the challenges of hosting a five- or six-day event, often over graduation weekend, but believe the reintroduction of host per diem will help the efforts. To date, no bids have been awarded.
- The committee agreed to ask prospective hosts about any field restrictions as well as an alternate field if weather makes it necessary to change venues.
- 5. Championship selections and bracketing policies.** The committee discussed bracketing principles, hosting guidelines, conference tournament game times, and committee and staff preparation work leading up to selections. The committee said this year's selection process was the best yet and should be the standard moving forward.
- 6. Division III financial review.** NCAA staff joined the committee to discuss topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes and the positive outcomes and the impacts they will have on the membership.
- 7. Rankings.** The committee discussed rankings at length, the final ranking process, and results versus ranked opponents. The committee continues to want to see the SOS split into non-conference SOS and conference SOS. The committee also noted their continued support of results vs. ranked opponents. The committee would like to use the weighted system as basketball does for home wins versus road wins.

8. **Championship umpiring.** The Division III coordinator of umpires provided his annual report to the committee via teleconference. The committee agreed that Mr. Umland was proficient at organizing the regional and championship umpiring assignments and opted to renew the annual contract. The committee will implement a timeline and procedures for selecting umpires, assistant crew chiefs and crew chiefs that will be shared with and utilized by Mr. Umland.
9. **American Baseball Coaches Association Convention Recap.** The committee chair provided a summary of the discussion among the coaches during the ABCA convention. The 2018 ABCA convention will be held in Indianapolis on January 4-7.
10. **Manual reviews.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the recommended edits for the pre-championship, host operations, committee operations and site representative manuals.
11. **2018 annual meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 18-20 in Indianapolis.
12. **Committee 2017-18 timeline.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee and sport committee timeline and staff will make the recommended updates for final committee approval.

Committee Chair: Jim Peeples, Piedmont College, USA South Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison: J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

Division III Baseball Committee June 19-20, 2017, Annual Meeting
Attendees:
Jason Doviak, Alfred State University; Empire 8.
James Grandey, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Bill Kurich, Webster University, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Mike Lindberg, Wells College, North Eastern Athletic Conference.
Paul Murphy, Gwynedd Mercy University; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
Jim Peeples, Piedmont College; USA South Athletic Conference.
Daniel Ramsay, Whitworth University; Northwest Conference.
Aaron Rushing, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Christyn Abaray; Lawrence University; Teleconference.
Jami Rogers; Lawrence University; Teleconference.
Matt Ten Haken; Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau; Teleconference.
Kennan Timm; University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; Teleconference.
Don Umland, NCAA Division III coordinator of umpires; Teleconference.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Nick Strah, championships and alliances.
J.P. Williams, championships and alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, playing rules.
Louise McCleary, governance.
Jeff Myers, academic & membership affairs.
Juanita Sheely, travel and insurance.