

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 18-20, 2018, 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 2019 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship:

American Rivers Conference; 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; 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, 2018
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences have been recommended.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **Review of the 2017 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual committee meeting report as submitted.
2. **Committee chair.** The committee recommended current committee member, Paul Murphy, associate director of athletics and head baseball coach at Gwynedd Mercy University, serve second term as chair of the committee.
3. **2018 championship.** The committee reviewed the championship.
 - a. Games. Games were played on time over six days with no weather delays.
 - b. Opening ceremonies. The opening ceremonies reception was held on the game field the evening prior to the first day of competition. Attendance increase was insignificantly higher than the previous year.
 - c. 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 Legion Field was used as the main practice facility and Lawrence University baseball field was used as a second practice field and was designated as a secondary game field in the case of inclement weather. The committee requested the Lawrence University baseball field to be mowed so it is ready for use when needed.
 - d. Laundry. The hosts provided laundry service via the use of student workers.
 - e. Special Olympics. Special Olympians were used during pre-game player introductions and were guests to throw out the first pitch of games on day one. The host continues to look for creative ways to incorporate the Special Olympics group.
 - f. Social media. The committee would like to see an increased presence at the championship through social media.
4. **2018 regionals.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluation for sites and umpires. The committee would like to note that the transportation issues from 2017 were improved.
 - a. Bat Testing. The committee discussed and wants to implement bat testing at the 2019 regional and final sites. In 2016 and 2017, an illegal bat was found in use at the regional tournaments. NCAA staff and the committee will research additional information

regarding bat testing. Cost is the primary obstacle as the committee looks at avenues to subsidize as much as possible.

- b. **Awards.** The committee has decided that the mini regional championship trophies will be handed out at the regional sites. Currently, the awards are handed out when the teams get eliminated from the national championship. It was noted that it should be a celebratory award and handed out when the teams earn the award.
5. **2019 Super Regionals.** The committee discussed the implementation of the new format of a super regional round approved in 2016 but was tabled due to championship site scheduling conflicts. The championship format will add a round of super regional competition in 2019. With 16 nonpredetermined, on-campus regional sites compared to eight predetermined sites in the current model, the format will create shorter regional tournaments, allow teams to travel shorter distances to a competition site, and alleviate missed class time or conflicts with final exams. From a hosting perspective, preliminary rounds occur at a busy time, often conflicting with graduation, and hosts will be better equipped to manage issues (e.g., hotel availability, weather delays) with shorter tournaments and fewer teams. The championship selection date will remain the same and the championship will conclude one week later (eight days after Memorial Day).
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **Playing and Practice Season.** The committee discussed a proposal for a change to the existing NCAA Division III Baseball and Softball traditional play date calendars due to weather. The committee then met with the DIII softball committee to discuss that national selection call for baseball and softball would move to the third Sunday in May, thus allowing the first two full weeks in May for the regular season games, while the third weekend in May could be used for conference championship tournaments or regular season games. Presently, the softball season ends one week before the baseball season, however, the baseball committee recommended the baseball and softball seasons mirror one another. Like baseball, most northern climate softball institutions struggle to complete the 40-game schedule with many games played in sub-freezing temperatures early in the season. When games are postponed, conferences are left to play a large proportion of the conference schedule in a condensed period of time, generally during the latter part of the season. The timing creates conflicts with final exams and graduations.
9. **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.

- 10. 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 umpire, assistant crew chiefs and crew chiefs that will be shared with and utilized by Mr. Umland.
- 11. American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Convention Recap.** The committee chair provided a summary of the discussion among the coaches during the ABCA convention. The 2019 ABCA convention will be held in Dallas, TX on January 3-6.
- 12. Manual reviews.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make the recommended edits for the pre-championship, host operations, committee operations and site representative manuals.
- 13. 2019 annual meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 17-19 in Indianapolis.
- 14. Committee 2018-19 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: Paul Murphy, Gwynedd Mercy University; Colonial States Athletic Conference

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

Division III Baseball Committee June 18-20, 2018, Annual Meeting	
Attendees:	
Bret Butler; University of Pittsburgh, Bradford; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Ray Hedrick; Randolph-Macon College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Luke Johnson, North Park University; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.	
Mike Lindberg, Wells College, North Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Jon Martin; Bates College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Paul Murphy, Gwynedd Mercy University; Colonial States Athletic Conference.	
Frank Pericolosi, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Aaron Rushing, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
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.