



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 8, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE

**KEY ITEMS.**

- **Selections – minimum vote percentage to put into field.** The committee recommends that the voting threshold during selections to get into the field to 66 percent of eligible votes (previously 70 percent). This voting percentage would be changed in the selection criteria (where applicable).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Selections – minimum vote percentage to put into the field.**

- (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends that the voting threshold during selections to get into the field to 66 percent of eligible votes (previously 70 percent). This voting percentage would be changed in the selection criteria (where applicable).
- (2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. Currently, when a member of the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee has their institution under consideration for selection into the championship, that institution must get seven of nine votes to reach the current 70 percent threshold for being selected to the championship. However, an institution not directly represented on the baseball committee needs seven of 10 votes. The directly represented teams must get the same number of votes (i.e., seven) as a non-represented team, with one less voter.

Adjusting to a 66 percent threshold, will allow teams to get in with six of nine votes, which is a fairer process.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Automatic qualification for 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following 29 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2025 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, Coastal Athletic Association, Conference USA, Horizon League, The Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley 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.

- (2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. All 29 of the eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Minimum Financial Guarantee for Regionals and Super Regionals.**

- (1) Recommendation. Increase the minimum financial guarantees for hosting regionals or super regionals of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship as follows:
  - (a) Regionals – Increase the minimum financial guarantee to the NCAA in order to host a regional from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
  - (b) Super Regionals – Increase the minimum financial guarantee to the NCAA in order to host a super regional (both a two-day and three-day format) from \$35,000 to \$50,000.
- (2) Effective date. 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- (3) Rationale. The regional and super regional minimum financial guarantee to host has not been adjusted since at least 2012. Please note that most regional and super regional hosts already meet these recommended updated financial guarantees. There has been a range of two to seven hosts each year that would not have met these recommended updated financial guarantees.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Based on a financial review by the NCAA financial planning and analysis staff using five-year averages from 2018-2024 (there was no championship in 2020 due to COVID-19 and there were no minimum financial guarantees in 2021 coming out of COVID-19), the additional guarantees paid to the NCAA from the regionals and/or super regionals in each year would have ranged from approximately \$34,000 to \$131,000 for the entire championship.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

**1. Right-size umpire compensation for the Division I Baseball Championship.**

Based on current market value, Division I baseball umpire compensation needs to be right-sized to current market value.

Current Market Study (Autonomy Four Conferences):

Conference Tournament Pay Structure (Average rate) (all paid by conference offices)					
Game Fee (per game)	Travel	Lodging	Per Diem	Notes	
\$900	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$100 per day	3 - 4% escalator every year	
NCAA Division I Baseball Championship Pay Structure (all paid by the NCAA)					
Game Fee (per game)	Travel	Lodging	Per Diem	Notes	
Regionals					
\$405	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	Flat fee paid of \$2,431	
Super Regionals					
\$579	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	Flat fee paid of \$1,737	
Men's College World Series					
\$617	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	\$6,171 flat fee paid. Umpires take two weeks PTO from jobs to be in Omaha to work the MCWS.	

Proposed fee structure for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

Used fee structure for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

Conference Tournament Pay Structure (Average rate) (all paid by conference offices)					
Game Fee (per game)	Travel	Lodging	Per Diem	Notes	
\$900	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$100 per day	3 - 4% escalator every year	
NCAA Division I Baseball Championship Pay Structure (all paid by the NCAA)					
Game Fee (per game)	Travel	Lodging	Per Diem	Notes	
Regionals					
\$583	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	\$3,500 flat fee Crew chief (16) to be paid \$300 fee	
Super Regionals					
\$667	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	\$2,000 flat fee Crew chief (8) to be paid \$300 fee	
Men's College World Series					
\$1,000	Yes	Yes	Yes - \$45 per day	\$10,000 flat fee Crew chief (2) to be paid \$300 fee Umpires take two weeks PTO from jobs to be in Omaha to work the MCWS.	

The committee received direct feedback from umpires working in the 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship regarding the umpire fees being well below standard regular season pay from conferences. The committee identified increased umpire fees during the championship as being a priority.

Umpires take a significant pay cut to work the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and some umpires are now choosing to not accept their game assignment because of compensation. The Committee wants to select the best umpires in college baseball to work this highly visible NCAA championship. The Committee feels strongly if we do not address umpire compensation, it will compromise the integrity of the championship as we would not have our best umpires working the championship. In recent years, our broadcast partners are asking umpires to wear microphones, helmet cameras, chest cameras, while the Committee is asking the umpires to wear in-house microphones, which all adds value to the overall championship experience for the viewers and fans. In addition, we have improved and enhanced our video review through DVSPORT, Inc. and with the evolving technology and broadcasting of Trackman with our broadcasting partners, the umpires are being scrutinized on every single call and should be compensated for the additional asks we request of our umpires. Finally, there has not been a right-sizing of umpiring compensation over the last 15 years and the committee feels strongly it is time to address this issue.

Crew chiefs at each site (regionals, super regionals and the MCWS) do extra work on behalf of all umpires. They should be compensated for their efforts with an additional fee beyond the flat fee they are paid.

2. **NCAA Baseball Umpire Program Updates.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, provided the committee a review of the 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. Planning for the 2024-25 academic year is underway and the umpire clinic will be held online for the 2024-25 academic year.

NCAA staff provided the committee with an update on baseball playing rules and officiating, including the new NCAA Baseball Umpire Prospect Camp which will take place in October, 2024.

3. **ESPN Updates.** ESPN representatives provided the committee with a review of ratings for the 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. Viewership for preliminary rounds through the Men's College World Series (MCWS) were provided, and the MCWS was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most watched ever (only behind the 2023 MCWS).

ESPN noted for the committee of their interest in a 10-run rule being in place for the Division I Baseball Championship.

4. **Regional Advisory Committees (RAC).** The committee asked NCAA staff to work with the national office Information Technology (IT) staff to develop a RAC voting site where voting can be completed online.
5. **Regional Alignment.** The committee reviewed the proposed regional alignment for the 2025 season.
6. **Bat Testing.** The committee reviewed the new rule regarding required bat testing for the 2025 season.

7. **Research summaries.** The committee reviewed the research summaries regarding the 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and the 2024 NCAA Men's College World Series.
8. **November meeting agenda items.**
  - a. Umpire staffing.
  - b. Potential misconduct review.
  - c. Possibility of adopting the 10-run rule for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
  - d. Championship policy topics.
9. **Future meeting dates and sites.**
  - a. MCWS Partners Videoconference – October 10, 2024, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern time.
  - b. Virtual 2024 fall annual meeting – November 4-5, 2024.
  - c. 2024 selection meeting – May 23-26, 2025 (NCAA national office).

*Committee Chair:* Matt Hogue, Coastal Carolina University  
*Staff Liaisons:* Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances  
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances  
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliance

Division I Baseball Committee August 8, 2024, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Michael Alford, Florida State University.	
Jay Artigues, Southeastern Louisiana University.	
Mike Buddie, United States Military Academy.	
Scott Dolson, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Jon Gilbert, East Carolina University.	
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.	
Matt Hogue, Coastal Carolina University.	
Nathan Pine, United States Air Force Academy.	
Casey Scott, Kansas State University.	
Scott Stricklin, University of Florida.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Randy Bruns, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Jack Diesing, Jr., College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Lisa Diesing, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.
Michael Feinberg, ESPN.
Scott Gustafson, ESPN.
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Scott Leykam, University of Portland.
Dan Margulis, ESPN.
Jeremy McClain, University of Southern Mississippi.
Phil Orlins, ESPN.
Randale L. Richmond, Kent State University.
Greg Seitz, Jacksonville State University.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>
Stanley Broaden, Championships and Alliances.
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob (KJ) Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Jon Faust, Championships and Alliances..