

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 8, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 31 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2020 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Action Item 2).
2. **November committee meeting agenda.** The committee noted several topics and issues to discuss further at its November 2019 in-person meeting in Indianapolis (see Informational Items 8-a and 10-b).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic qualification.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following 31 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2020 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, Colonial Athletic Association, Conference USA, Horizon League, The Ivy League, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Mountain West Conference, Northeast Conference, Ohio Valley Conference, Pac-12 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.

- b. Effective date. 2020 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- c. Rationale. All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.
- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Baseball Umpire Program.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, joined the call to report on the Baseball Umpire Program from the previous year and preview the season ahead. The committee was supportive of keeping the minimum number of Division I games an umpire be required to work in order to be nominated to officiate in the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship at 25.
2. **ESPN.** Kristen Jacob Smith, NCAA; Morgan Ainslie, ESPN; Dan Margulis, ESPN; and Matt Sandulli, ESPN provided a report from ESPN reviewing the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship/Men's College World Series (CWS).
3. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee report.** The committee was provided a report on the recent actions taken during the Baseball Rules Committee's July 2019 annual meeting. The actions are subject to the approval of the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).
4. **NCAA research summary.** Randy L. Buhr provided a summary of the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and 2019 CWS survey results from student-athletes, coaches, athletics administrators, tournament directors, committee members, officials and NCAA site representatives.
5. **NCAA Men's College World Series attendance data.** Shehryar Humayun provided an attendance report from the 2019 CWS, noting that the total attendance of 332,054 was positive, particularly considering that neither of the "if necessary" games were needed prior to the CWS Finals. This equated to a per game average of 22,137.
6. **Review of 2019 championship selections.**
 - **Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and analysis of selections.** The committee reviewed the RPI formula and data that shows the results of the championship as they relate to tournament seeding (i.e., national and regional seeds).
7. **Review of 2019 season final baseball statistical trends.** J.D. Hamilton reported on statistical trends for the 2019 season.
8. **NCAA staff analysis of the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and agenda items for the November 2019 baseball committee annual meeting.** Chad Tolliver provided the committee with several issues from the 2019 championship for the committee to determine whether to discuss in further detail at the November meeting or take no action.
 - a. **Policy items for discussion at the November committee meeting.**
 - Stadium access for professional scouts prior to gates opening.

- Clarification of digital signage policy during the championship.
- Revisit the availability of the competition venue for visiting team practice two days prior to competition at the regionals and/or super regionals.
- Determine hitting times for participating teams between Games #5 and #6 of the regional round, if batting practice is scheduled to take place on the field.
- Permitting visiting teams to bring their own tent/covering for their bullpen during regionals and/or super regionals.
- Potential ticketing policies during the preliminary rounds requiring the host to hold a small block of tickets for the NCAA and general public.
- Requiring that host institutions have ticket prices for students that are consistent for all participating teams.
- Explore the use of the TrackMan analytical data collection system at the College World Series.
- Consider adjustments to the infield/outfield warm-up in the pregame schedule at the College World Series.

b. No action.

- The committee considered allowing the use of the TrackMan analytical data collection system during the preliminary rounds of the Division I Baseball Championship. However, the committee remains concerned that all participating teams would not have full access to the data collected and decided no action was necessary for the 2020 championship.

9. 2020 conference alignments. The committee reviewed the tentative conference composition and alignments for the 2020 season.

10. Other business.

- a. August 2020 conference call.** The committee will convene via teleconference on August 6 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.

b. November meeting agenda items.

- Championship policy review.
- Unofficial vice chair determination.

Committee Chair: Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Southeastern Conference
Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Baseball Committee August 8, 2019, Teleconference
Attendees:
Jeff Altier, Stetson University.
Mike Bobinski, Purdue University.
Desiree Reed-Francois, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
Joe Karlgaard, Rice University.
Ray Tanner, University of South Carolina, Columbia.
Marianne Vydra, Oregon State University.
Absentees:
Dave Blank, Elon University.
Chris Del Conte, University of Texas.
Benjamin Shove, Northeast Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Morgan Ainslie, ESPN.
John Cohen, Mississippi State University.
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.
Dan Margulis, ESPN.
Bob Moosbrugger, Bowling Green State University.
Matt Sandulli, ESPN.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.
Shehryar Humayun, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.