

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee is recommending 31 conferences for automatic qualification into the 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Action Item No. 2).
2. **Super regional visiting team ticket policies.** The committee is recommending a change to the super regional visiting team ticket policy (see Informational Item No. 4).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Automatic Qualification for 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.**

- 1) **Recommendation.** That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following 31 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2021 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.

- 2) **Effective date.** 2021 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- 3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years. The Summit League only had five eligible teams due to Purdue University – Fort Wayne moving to the Horizon League. However, the committee believes they should be granted automatic qualification due to the two-year grace period.
- 4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
- 5) **Student-athlete impact.** None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee report.** Randy Bruns, secretary-rules editor, and Ben Brownlee, NCAA staff, provided the committee with an update on the work of the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee.
2. **2021 CWS objectives.** Anthony Holman, managing director of championships and alliances, provided the committee with updated objectives for the 2021 College World Series and beyond.
3. **NCAA Baseball Umpire Program report.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, joined the videoconference to provide a report on the Baseball Umpire Program.
4. **Super regional visiting team ticket policies.** The committee voted to recommend a change in the visiting team ticketing policy for the super regional round of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship to read as follows:

“At super regional competition, 600 tickets must be held for the visiting team. 400 of these tickets must be located in an area between first and third bases. The remaining 200 tickets should be located in contiguous block(s) of reserved seating section(s) of the stadium. Visiting team fans should not be provided with any restricted-view seating.”

The previous policy required all 600 visiting team tickets for super regionals be located between first and third base.
5. **Review of 2020 season final baseball statistical trends.** J.D. Hamilton reported on statistical trends for the 2020 season. As the season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the season, the statistical trends only covered the games that were played in 2020.
6. **2021 conference alignments.** NCAA staff provided the committee with a tentative draft of the regional and conference alignments for the 2021 season.
7. **Global baseball issues.** Although there are not any plans to add oversight committees to the Division I governance structure, Mr. Holman noted that the Division I Baseball Committee could review other global issues affecting the sport that go beyond the administration of the championship. Any feedback would still need to be submitted through the proper channels as part of the governance structure. The committee noted its support to provide more of an advocacy role in the future for college baseball.
8. **COVID-19 status update – stakeholder engagement.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an update on the NCAA’s work on COVID-19 related matters and their impact on the sport of college baseball and the Division I Baseball Championship.

9. Other business.

- NCAA staff thanked the outgoing committee members for all their time and efforts over the years to the sport of college baseball and the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.

10. Upcoming conference calls or meetings.

- October 27-28, 2020 – CWS partners meeting (tentatively in Omaha, Nebraska – NCAA staff only)
- November 3-5, 2020 – This traditionally in-person annual meeting will now be conducted via videoconference. The committee reviewed the draft itinerary and did not suggest any changes.
- May 28-31, 2021, selection meeting. (NCAA national office – Indianapolis)
- August 5, 2021, committee videoconference (2-4 p.m. Eastern time).

Committee Chair: Joe Karlgaard, Rice University, Conference-USA
Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Baseball Committee August 6, 2020, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jeff Altier, Stetson University.
Dave Blank, Elon University.
John Cohen, Mississippi State University.
Jim Cole, Mercer University.
Joe Karlgaard, Rice University, chair.
Bob Moosbrugger, Bowling Green State University.
Desiree Reed-Francois, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
Benjamin Shove, Northeast Conference.
Marianne Vydra, Oregon State University.
Absentees:
Kirby Hocutt, Texas Tech University.
Guests in Attendance:

Randy Bruns, NCAA baseball secretary-rules editor.
Mike Buddie, United States Military Academy.
George Drouches, NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires.
Matthew Hogue, Coastal Carolina University.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Kim Giles, Championships and Alliances.
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.
Josh Logan, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.