



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 10, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Automatic qualification for 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.**

- 1) Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the following 30 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2024 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, 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. 2024 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- 3) Rationale. All 30 of the eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification.
- 4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- 5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Baseball Umpire Program Updates.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, provided the committee a review of the 2023 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. A preview for planning for the 2023-24 academic year is underway and the umpire clinic will be held online for the 2023-24 academic year.
2. **ESPN Updates.** Dan Margulis and Scott Gustafson provided the committee with a review of ratings for the 2023 championship. Viewership for preliminary rounds was up 37% from 2022. Men's College World Series (MCWS) ratings were up 75% from the last two years.
3. **MLB updates.** The MLB draft will continue to be held around the all-star game in July at least through 2026.

4. **RPI discussion.** The committee wants to continue discussions related to the RPI during the November 2023 meeting.
5. **2024 MCWS research summaries.** NCAA staff and CWS of Omaha, Inc. staff reviewed findings from the 2023 MCWS surveys.
 - a. NCAA staff will work with College World Series of Omaha, Inc. to provide options for the committee's review during the November 2023 meeting related to the possibility of assigning teams to a hotel based on their seed.
 - b. Embassy Suites will host two (2) teams and the Even Hotel will no longer be used as a team hotel for the 2024 MCWS.
 - c. College World Series of Omaha, Inc. will work with the Omaha Police department to see if it is possible to secure police escorts postgame for participating teams.
 - d. NCAA staff and College World Series of Omaha, Inc. will work on developing a proposal for enhancing the student-athlete experience for committee approval at the November 2023 meeting.
6. **Rules updates.** Ben Brownlee and Randy Bruns updated the committee on rules changes and interpretations for the 2023-24 season. The committee will consider during the November 2023 meeting whether to increase the frequency of bat testing at the MCWS moving forward.
7. **Trackman.** The committee agreed to review during the November 2023 meeting whether to allow the use of Trackman at all regional and super regional sites, providing data is providing by the host to all participating teams.
8. **Walk-up music.** The committee agreed to consider in the November 2023 meeting whether to permit walk-up music at all regional and super regional sites to enhance the student-athlete experience.
9. **Team camera placement.** During it's fall 2023 meeting the committee will review and update language regarding team camera placement at preliminary-round sites.
10. **Future meeting dates and sites.**
 - a. MCWS Partner Videoconference – October 25, 2023, 10 a.m. to noon Eastern time.
 - b. 2023 fall meeting – November 1-3, 2023. (The committee noted its preference to conduct this meeting in person rather than via videoconference.)
 - c. 2024 selection meeting – May 24-27, 2024 (NCAA national office).

Committee Chair: John Cohen, Auburn University.
Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances

Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

Division I Baseball Committee August 10, 2023, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jay Artigues, Southeastern Louisiana University.
Mike Buddie, United States Military Academy.
Sherard Clinkscales, Indiana State University.
John Cohen, Auburn University.
Mark Harlan, University of Utah.
Matt Hogue, Coastal Carolina University.
Bill McGillis, University of San Diego.
Nathan Pine, United States Air Force Academy.
Scott Wetherbee, Eastern Michigan University.
Absentees:
Kirby Hocutt, Texas Tech University.
Guests in Attendance:
Randy Bruns, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Liz Clifford, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.
Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Katie Karmazin, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.
Dan Margulis, ESPN.
Scott Gustafson, ESPN.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.
Jay Jay Rackley, Championships and Alliances.
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.