

# NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 5, 2023

The NCAA Division I Baseball Committee is providing this information to outline key actions taken by the committee during the past year. The committee further encourages conferences and/or coaches to submit meaningful agenda items for the committee's consideration. In addition, if you have any questions regarding this information, please contact a member of the committee or the following NCAA staff members: Anthony Holman – Managing Director, Championships and Alliances; Randy L. Buhr – Director, Championships and Alliances (primary day-to-day contact); Chad Tolliver – Director, Championships and Alliances (game management issues); Jeff Williams – Associate Director, Media Coordination and Statistics (media issues), at 317-917-6222.

### 1. 2022-23 Committee Members.

Jay Artigues, Southeastern Louisiana University

Mike Buddie, U.S. Military Academy

Sherard Clinkscales, Indiana State University

John Cohen (chair), Auburn University

Mark Harlan, University of Utah

Kirby Hocutt, Texas Tech University

Matt Hogue, Coastal Carolina University

William (Bill) McGillis, University of San Diego

Nathan (Nate) Pine, U.S. Air Force Academy

Scott Wetherbee, Eastern Michigan University

### 2. Dates for the 2023 Championship.

Selections: Monday, May 29

Regionals (16 sites): June 2-5

Super Regionals (eight sites): June 9-11 or June 10-12

Men's College World Series (MCWS): June 16-25/26

MCWS Finals (Championship Series): June 24-25/26

3. Selection Procedures. The committee will select at-large teams for the championship based on legislation outlined in NCAA Bylaw 31 (won-lost record; strength of schedule; and eligibility and availability of student-athletes). In addition, the Division I Baseball Committee also uses the Rating Percentage Index (RPI) to evaluate teams. Regular season conference standings and/or conference postseason competition shall also be considered by the committee.

#### a. Selection of Teams.

- 1) Determine the automatic qualifying teams (30) and select the remaining at-large teams (34).
- 2) Determine the teams that qualify as a No. 1 seed (16 teams). Once the 16 teams have been selected, rank the top 16 (committee vote) to determine the nationally seeded teams (Nos. 1-16).
- 3) Determine regional sites (16).
- 4) Determine the teams that qualify as a No. 2 seed (16 teams).
- 5) Place the remaining teams in two pools of 16 teams each (16 No. 3's and 16 No. 4's).

- 6) Place the teams into the championship bracket according to established criteria (seeds, geographic location, conference affiliation and balance among brackets). There should be consideration given to the 16 No. 1 seeded teams and those teams that are in closest geographic proximity.

#### b. Selection of Host Sites.

##### 1) Regional.

- a) Site must meet a \$50,000 minimum financial guarantee (75% of net receipts).
- b) Quality and availability of the facility.
- c) Revenue potential.
- d) Attendance history and potential.
- e) Geographical location.
- f) Championships operating costs.
- g) Lights are highly recommended.
- h) Previous crowd control and behavior of the prospective host institution.

##### 2) Super Regional.

- a) Site must meet a \$35,000 minimum financial guarantee (75% of net receipts).
- b) Consideration should be given to the higher seed, if a suitable hosting proposal has been received.
- c) If the match-up is between two equally seeded teams, the committee will look at the quality and availability of the facility, revenue potential and other available accommodations to determine the host.
- d) Lights are highly recommended.
- e) Previous crowd control and behavior of the prospective host institution.

### 4. Future Dates.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Selections</u>	<u>Championship</u>
2024	May 27	June 14-23/24
2025	May 26	June 13-22/23
2026	May 25	June 12-21/22

Please note that the championship date formula could be subject to change, which could result in the dates being adjusted.

5. Bi-Annual Meetings. The committee will conduct two meetings in 2023, and these will tentatively be in August and November. During the November meeting, there is good interaction annually between the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) representatives and the Division I Baseball Committee to discuss key issues facing the baseball membership.

**6. 2022 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.**

- a. Attendance. The attendance for the 2022 MCWS was 366,105, averaging 24,407 fans per game during the event. This marked the 26th straight year in which the MCWS has averaged over 20,000 fans per game, and this streak excludes 2020 when the MCWS was cancelled due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.
- b. Television. The 2022 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship selection show aired on ESPN2. Each game of the MCWS was broadcast on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU. For the fifth consecutive year (excluding the cancelled 2020 MCWS), there was also SEC Now coverage with a postgame show for every MCWS game featuring an SEC team, as well as pregame and postgame coverage for the MCWS Finals games. The ACC Network and Longhorn Network also had a presence on-site in 2022, marking the second time three conference networks (also part of the ESPN family) had on-site programming in Omaha. In addition, there was one Super Regional game on ESPN this year that averaged 916,000 viewers and all super regional games averaged 456,000 viewers. Each of the eight Super Regional sites received broadcast coverage as well on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU. Finally, there continued to be expanded Regional coverage for the ninth straight year (excluding the cancelled 2020 championship) via the Squeeze Play program, which provided approximately 60 hours of extensive whip-around coverage with the latest scores, highlights, and commentary of all 64 teams across all 16 sites. Every game of the championship was covered on television (141 total games).
- c. Social Media. NCAA Baseball on social media can currently be found at the following:

Facebook: Facebook.com/NCAABaseball  
Instagram: @NCAABaseball  
Twitter: @NCAABaseball

In addition, the 2022 MCWS generated over 184.3 million social media impressions and 4.6 million engagements from 3,077 posts. There was an investment also made in Instagram Reels for the postseason, and that investment led to a 75 percent increase in video views during the championship.

**7. Other Championship Issues.**

- a. Regionals and MCWS – Home Team Determination. The committee agreed to add an additional guideline to the home team determination policy that awards the home team to the better seeded team prior to going to a coin flip.
- b. All Rounds – Team Personnel Permitted on the Field. The committee agreed to officially allow a designated

bullpen catcher to be permitted in the bullpen during all rounds of the Division I Baseball Championship. If used, a non-rostered bullpen catcher must be included in a team’s 40-person dugout limit.

- c. All Rounds – Full Team Introductions. The committee agreed to clarify the policy such that introductions are conducted only for the first game in which a team competes each round (and MCWS Finals Game One).
- d. Seeding. The committee will seed the top 16 teams again for the 2023 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. This marks the fifth consecutive year of such seeding (excluding the cancelled 2020 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship).
- e. Video Replay Review. There will be video replay review for the fourth year in a row in conjunction with all rounds of the 2023 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (excluding the cancelled 2020 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship).
- f. Bat Testing. There will be bat testing for the sixth year in a row in conjunction with all rounds of the 2023 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (excluding the cancelled 2020 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship).
- g. Official NCAA Championship Baseball. The flat-seamed baseball was used for the seventh time with the 2022 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. The overall results were again positive for college baseball over the course of the entire season, as home runs were up from 0.88 per game in 2021 to 1.03 per game in 2022. Runs scored per game were also up from 5.89 in 2021 to 6.48 in 2022. Batting average was slightly up in 2022, as compared to 2021 (.278 in 2022 vs. .269 in 2021). As for pitching statistics, earned run averages were up from 5.25 in 2021 to 5.73 in 2022. Finally, strikeouts per nine innings also decreased from 8.60 in 2021 to 8.50 in 2022.
- h. RPI Release Dates. The baseball committee agreed that the Division I Baseball RPI should be released daily from Monday through Friday, starting on March 6, 2023. There will not be any RPI updates on Saturday and Sunday.

**8. Other Baseball Issues. There are no other issues to review.**

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