

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 17, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

- **College World Series format adjustment.** The committee recommended a change to the format of the College World Series (see Action Item 2).

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative item.

- College World Series (CWS) format adjustment.

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve a recommended change to the format of the CWS as follows:

Proposed Format

Friday: Games 1 and 2
Saturday: Games 3 and 4
Sunday: Games 5 and 6
Monday: Games 7 and 8
Tuesday: Games 9 and 10
Wednesday: Games 11 and 12
Thursday: Games 13 and 14 (if necessary)
Friday: Off Day or Rain Makeup Day
Saturday: CWS Finals Game 1
Sunday: CWS Finals Game 2
Monday: CWS Finals Game 3 (if necessary)

Current Format

Saturday: Games 1 and 2
Sunday: Games 3 and 4
Monday: Games 5 and 6
Tuesday: Games 7 and 8
Wednesday: Game 9
Thursday: Game 10
Friday: Games 11 and 12
Saturday: Games 13 and 14 (if necessary)
Sunday: Off Day or Rain Makeup Day
Monday: CWS Finals Game 1
Tuesday: CWS Finals Game 2
Wednesday: CWS Finals Game 3 (if necessary)

- b. Effective date. The earliest this change can take effect would be the 2022 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- c. Rationale. The current format of the CWS is very lengthy and provides for the possibility that zero games could be played during the second weekend (i.e., Saturday and Sunday) of the event. In an attempt to enhance the CWS going forward, the baseball committee and staff felt it was important to explore alternative formats that accomplish two goals: a) eliminate the possibility of a weekend without baseball games; and b) shorten the overall length of the event. The proposed alternative format accomplishes both of these goals.

NCAA staff and the baseball committee engaged many stakeholders (e.g., local organizing committee, broadcast partners, etc.) while considering options for alternative formats. The recommended format was generally supported by all parties.

- d. Estimated budget impact. None.
- e. Student-athlete impact. This proposed change in format should increase the attendance for the student-athletes competing in the CWS Finals, since at least the first two games of the championship series would be conducted on weekend days. A larger fan turnout should result in an enhanced student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Baseball Umpire Program.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, joined the videoconference to provide a report on the Baseball Umpire Program.
2. **Super regional visiting team ticket policies.** The committee reviewed a proposal from the Southeastern Conference (SEC) to adjust the visiting team ticketing policies for the super regional round. The SEC proposal would align the super regional policy with what is done at the CWS.

The committee supported the general concept of the SEC proposal but asked NCAA staff to draft potential language that incorporates the SEC proposal while also providing some protections for the visiting team fans. NCAA staff will share the drafted language for the baseball committee on its next videoconference in August.

3. **Impact of cancellation of the 2020 CWS on season ticket holders.** NCAA staff provided an updated on the status of 2020 CWS season ticket holders requesting refunds as opposed to a rollover to the 2021 CWS.
4. **Election of committee chair.** The committee voted Jeff Altier, director of athletics at Stetson University, to serve as chair of the committee for the 2020-21 academic year. Mr. Altier will replace Joe Karlgaard, director of athletics at Rice University, whose term on the committee ends August 31, 2020.
5. **Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the recommendations of the Division I Championships Finance Review Working Group. The committee was informed that the Division I Baseball Committee will be asked to complete a survey regarding those recommendations by July 10. Joe Karlgaard will work to develop survey responses and share with the full committee for their approval before submitting the official response on behalf of the committee.

6. **COVID-19 status update.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an update on the NCAA's work on COVID-19 related matters and their impact on college baseball and the Division I Baseball Championship.
7. **Division I Committee for Legislative Relief – baseball blanket waiver.** NCAA staff provided the committee with details on the baseball blanket waiver that was granted by the NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief for the 2020-21 academic year only.
8. **Return to Championships Working Group.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an update on the work being done by the NCAA Return to Championships Working Group.
9. **Upcoming conference calls or meetings.**
 - a. Summer videoconference call: Thursday, August 6 from 2-4 p.m. eastern time.
 - b. Annual meeting: November 3-4, 2020. This traditionally in-person meeting will now be conducted via a videoconference.

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 June 17, 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.	
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:	
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
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:
Kim Giles, Championships and Alliances.
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.
Shehryar Humayun, Championships and Alliances.
Josh Logan, Championships and Alliances.
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.

