



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification for 2026 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.** The NCAA Division I Baseball Oversight Committee approved the following 29 conferences to receive automatic bids for their conference champion into the 2026 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship:

America East Conference, American 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, 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. **Championship policies and procedures – preliminary rounds and the NCAA Men's College World Series (MCWS).** The Baseball Oversight Committee reviewed and updated championship policies for the 2026 baseball championship and beyond.
 - a. **Regional turnaround time between games.** The committee approved a minimum overnight turnaround time of at least 12 hours before the first pitch of the next game for teams participating in regional competition on consecutive days when a contest concludes after 1 a.m. (local time).
 - b. **Referral from the Division I Cabinet – squad-size and roster limits.** The committee increased the designated championship squad size from 27 to 34 to align with the roster limit in Division I Bylaw 17.2 (roster limit). The official travel party will remain at 35 and the bench size limit will remain at 45.
 - c. **Umpire microphone for video replay reviews.** The committee approved requiring an umpire microphone to be used in-stadium with video replay reviews at regional and super regional host sites beginning in 2026. This would be an institutional expense that would not be reimbursed by the NCAA.
 - d. **Bid specification minimums for cameras and bandwidth.** The committee discussed potentially implementing bandwidth requirements of a minimum of 150 Mbps for host institutions to have in place to assist with video review for regionals and super regionals and will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

- e. **Announcement of regional game times.** The committee encouraged staff to work with broadcast partners to align the announcement of regional game times with the announcement of teams participating in the championship.
 - f. **Committee seats in Omaha.** The committee received an update regarding enhanced enforcement of access to designated committee seats at the (MCWS), as well as implementing additional signage and credentials to clearly define access to the area.
3. **NCAA Division I Baseball Rules Subcommittee Update.**
- a. **Baseball Rules Subcommittee composition.** The Baseball Oversight Committee amended the composition of the Baseball Rules Subcommittee to seven voting members and requiring a representative from each of the four autonomy conferences.
 - b. **Rules subcommittee appointments.** The Baseball Oversight Committee appointed three individuals to the rules subcommittee. Additionally, one voting member of the oversight committee and one student-athlete voting member of the oversight committee were appointed to the rules subcommittee as nonvoting members. Notifications to the appointees will follow the established process, and the rules subcommittee roster will be updated in accordance with the start date for service.
 - c. **Review of rules subcommittee reports.** The Baseball Oversight Committee received an update from the recent October 6 and November 3 rules subcommittee meetings and approved the following experimental rules the subcommittee recommended for conference play only during the 2026:
 - a. Use of bat sensor technology for in-game data collection.
 - b. Use of in-game data/technology in the dugout during a game.
 - c. Use of in-game data/technology in the dugout during a game, including preloaded or non-live recorded video.
4. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI) and additional metrics.** The Baseball Oversight Committee was informed that the first date for the public release of the RPI data for the 2026 season will be Monday, March 2, 2026 (through games of Sunday, March 1, 2026). The oversight committee also received an update from staff of 6-4-3 Charts on the Diamond Sports Ranking (DSR) system. The committee approved the use of the DSR system as an additional resource during the selection meeting for the 2026 Division I Baseball Championship.
5. **Umpire program report.** Jeff Gosney, national coordinator of baseball umpires, reported on the Baseball Umpire Program (BUP) and discussed the following topics.

- a. **Status report.** The Baseball Oversight Committee received a status report on the production of various items for the 2026 season.
 - b. **Recommendations.** The oversight committee reviewed recommendations from the national coordinator of baseball umpires for the 2026 baseball championship and approved the following items (pending budget approval for the first two items):
 - (1) Increase the number of umpires assigned to the MCWS from eight to 10. This will provide greater flexibility with crew assignments for games and staffing video review.
 - (2) Use an active umpire(s) to staff video review during regional and super regional competitions.
 - (3) Use of live static video feed in the replay room/command center for all rounds of the 2026 Division I Baseball Championship and explore the possibility of the experimental use of audio in the replay room at the MCWS.
 - (4) Releasing the names of umpires staffing video review during regionals and super regionals at the prechampionship administrative meeting with the coaches. During the MCWS, this information will be shared by NCAA staff members with each head coach.
 - (5) The oversight committee confirmed the current umpire selection philosophy to release the names of umpires selected for regionals and the MCWS. New for 2026: Names for super regional umpires will be released after the conclusion of regionals. Additionally, the committee agreed to allow umpires with extensive experience in video review at the professional level to work video review at the collegiate level without meeting the number of years of service requirement that would make them eligible for the NCAA championship as an on-field umpire.
 - (6) Incorporating data analytics in the evaluation of umpires in the postseason (e.g., TrackMan) for the umpire selection process.
- Finally, the oversight committee reviewed but did not act on a request to add a fifth umpire to super regional crews.
- c. **Conference coordinators and BUP initiatives.** The committee discussed conference baseball umpire coordinators and BUP initiatives.
 - d. **Communication plans.** The committee reviewed communication plans for the 2026 season between conference baseball umpire coordinators, the baseball umpire advisors and the national coordinator of baseball umpires.

- e. **Umpire subcommittee assignments.** NCAA staff assigned Michael Alford (chair), Scott Leykam and Greg Seitz to the umpire subcommittee.
 - f. **NCAA Baseball Umpire Advisor job posting.** The oversight committee reviewed and discussed a recent NCAA Baseball Umpire Advisor job posting. The goal is for this person to serve as a baseball umpire advisor starting in January 2026.
 - g. **Umpire watch list.** The oversight committee reviewed plans to obtain names from the conference baseball umpire coordinators for the umpire watch list for the 2026 season and discussed the additional background check requirement.
- 6. **Ten-run rule during the Division I Baseball Championship.** The oversight committee discussed a request to consider implementing the 10-run rule during all rounds of the baseball championship but did not act on the topic and requested additional information from broadcast partners.
 - 7. **College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (CWS of Omaha, Inc.)/Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) report.** Representatives from CWS of Omaha, Inc. and MECA joined the meeting to review various topics, including any possible 2026 activation plans for the CHI Health Center Omaha apron; 2025-26 planned uses of Charles Schwab Field Omaha; 2026 MCWS ticket timeline and pricing; MCWS team hotels; MCWS practice fields; MCWS opening ceremonies; and the Capital Replacement and Reserve Fund. The notable expenditures for 2026 include the replacement of the right field videoboard, the addition of a new left field videoboard and ribbon boards around the stadium and an upgrade of tower and LED lighting.
 - 8. **Championship financial report.** NCAA staff provided the oversight committee with a financial report on the impact of the 2025 NCAA MCWS and look forward to the baseball championship and MCWS.
 - 9. **2025 MCWS fall partners meeting recap.** The oversight committee received an update on key items from the recent partners meeting that included NCAA staff, CWS of Omaha, Inc. staff, MECA staff and the City of Omaha to review the 2025 MCWS and begin preparations for the 2026 MCWS.
 - 10. **Strategic direction for the 2026 MCWS.** The oversight committee received an update on the strategic direction and objectives for the 2026 MCWS.
 - 11. **2026 MCWS schedule.** Game times and broadcast networks for the 2026 MCWS should be determined by January 10, 2026.

12. **Voting process of selecting and seeding.** The oversight committee reviewed and approved an updated voting process for selecting and seeding 50 percent of the championship bracket. The voting process that will be used in baseball is also currently used by other sport committees, including men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball.
13. **Division I decision-making structure.** The committee received an update on changes to the Division I decision-making structure, including the legislative process.
14. **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) report.** Craig Keilitz, executive director of the ABCA, provided an update to the oversight committee, noting the upcoming ABCA convention will take place January 8-11, 2026. Mr. Keilitz also discussed the legislative priorities within the coaching community.
15. **Conference and regional alignments.** The oversight committee reviewed the conference and regional alignments for the 2026 baseball season and available resources.
16. **Committee member responsibilities.** The oversight committee reviewed regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments, resources the RAC chair and vice chair can use in calls and inclusion of the conference baseball administrator in RAC calls.
17. **Future meetings.**
 - a. Monday, December 8, 2 - 3 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
 - b. Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 2 - 3 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

Committee Chair: Michael Alford, Florida State University; Atlantic Coast Conference.

*Staff Liaisons: DJ Brown, Division I Governance and Member Services
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division I Baseball Oversight Committee November 5-7, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Alford, Florida State University; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Randy Bruns, baseball secretary-rules editor.	
Scott Dolson, Indiana University, Bloomington; Big Ten Conference.	
Jon Gilbert, East Carolina University; American Conference.	
Jeff Gosney, national coordinator of baseball umpires.	
Tim Johnson, Oral Roberts University.	
Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Scott Leykam, University of Portland.	
Johnny Leutzow, Santa Clara University.	
Jeremy McClain, The University of Southern Mississippi; Sun Belt Conference.	
Alex Piquero, University of Miami (Florida).	
Randale L. Richmond, Kent State University.	
DeAmez Ross, University of Central Florida.	
Luke Russo, Farleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Casey Scott, Kansas State University; Big 12 Conference.	
Greg Seitz, Jacksonville State University; Conference USA.	
Scott Stricklin, University of Florida; Southeastern Conference.	
Troy Sudbrook, University of Toledo.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Rick Ahlf, 6-4-3 Charts.	
Forrest Allen, 6-4-3 Charts.	
Jack DeLongchamps, 6-4-3 Charts.	
Jack Diesing Jr., College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Katie Karmazin, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Emily Keilman, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	
Emma Lady, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	
Kyle Webber, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Derek Weldon, 6-4-3 Charts.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
DJ Brown, Randy L. Buhr, Anthony Holman and Chad Tolliver.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Jenn Fraser, Brandy Hataway, Blake Jacklin, Catherine Lant, Jeff O'Barr, Jay Jay Rackley, Jennifer Rodgers, Kristen Jacob (KJ) Smith and Jeff Williams.	