

REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 4-5, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Championship policies and procedures. The committee reviewed and approved some of the items listed below as championship policies for the 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and beyond.
 - **a. Double base at first base for the Division I Baseball Championship.** The committee discussed feedback from the American Baseball Coaches Association and from various conferences regarding the use of the double first base and voted to approve its use during all rounds of the championship.
 - **b. Clubhouse usage policy during the championship.** The committee agreed to amend the championship policy regarding "Clubhouse Usage" to allow preliminary-round host facilities that have the host team clubhouse area <u>and</u> a secondary internal space for the visiting team to keep all "clubhouse" spaces open pregame, in-game and postgame during the championship. In this scenario, this change will allow the host institution access to its clubhouse.
 - **c. 10-run rule during the Division I Baseball Championship.** The committee discussed the possibility of enacting a 10-run rule during all rounds of the championship but took no action at this time.
 - **d. Permanent restroom requirement for fans to host preliminary-round competition.** The committee determined that host sites for the preliminary rounds of the championship will now be required to have permanent restrooms for fans to be considered to host.
 - **e. Post ejection media availability.** The committee agreed to modify the current championship policy that prohibits a head coach or other participant who is ejected from attending the postgame press conference to allow the individual to attend the postgame press conference.
 - **f. Dugout limits.** The committee voted to increase the dugout limit during the Division I Baseball Championship to 45 individuals per team. The previous limit was 40 individuals. Each institution will be responsible for determining which appropriately credentialed individuals will be included in their 45-person limit. There will <u>not</u> be any corresponding adjustment to the 35-person official travel party limit.
 - The committee agreed to revisit the appropriate dugout limit maximum following the completion of the 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship in order to review how the overall new roster limits may impact the new dugout limit (45).
 - **g. Scouting and pitch charting seats**. The committee discussed but took no action regarding an adjustment to the scouting and pitch charting seats requirement during all rounds of the championship. Committee members will survey the coaches from their respective conferences to see if participating teams are in fact using the scouting and pitch charting seats during the championship and report back on a future committee conference call.

- h. Championship on-field clarification of unique situations. The committee reviewed the impact of the changes made before the 2023 championship regarding clarification of unique on-field plays/rulings for fans, broadcast, etc., during the championship. While the committee believes the changes have been positive, there is a need to streamline the procedures to provide more timely comments in those type of situations. The committee will revisit during a future committee conference call.
- i. Home team determination during the championship. The committee considered adjusting the home and visitors designation for each game during the championship so that the better seeded team is always the home team. The committee took no action and felt the existing home team determination formula should remain in place.
- **2. Joint meeting of the Division I Baseball and Division I Softball Committees.** The Division I Baseball and Softball Committees participated in a joint meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest involving both sports and championships. The committees noted that they will continue to have additional meetings in the future.
- **3. Division I governance report.** NCAA staff updated the committee on key governance topics being discussed by the membership.
- **4. 2024 Men's College World Series (MCWS) fall partners meeting recap.** NCAA staff updated the committee on key items from the recent partners meeting among NCAA staff, College World of Series Omaha, Inc. staff, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority staff, and the City of Omaha to review the 2024 MCWS and begin preparations for the 2025 MCWS.
- **5. Strategic direction for the 2025 MCWS.** NCAA staff updated the committee on the strategic direction and objectives for the 2025 MCWS.
- **6. 2025 MCWS Schedule.** NCAA staff informed the committee that the game times for the 2025 MCWS should be determined by January 1, 2025.
- 7. Championship financial report. NCAA staff provided the committee with a financial report on the impact of the 2024 NCAA MCWS and looked forward to the 2025 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship and MCWS.
- 8. 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 the Capital Replacement and Reserve Fund (CRR Fund) expenditures; 2024-25 planned uses of Charles Schwab Field Omaha; 2025 MCWS ticket prices/strategies; MCWS team hotels; practice fields; and the opening ceremonies.
- **9. Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee reviewed the home/away/neutral determinations for RPI purposes and discussed the dates through the 2025 season to release the RPI.
- **10.** NCAA Baseball Rules Committee update. NCAA staff and Randy Bruns, secretary-rules editor, provided the committee with a report from the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee meeting.

- **11. Umpire program report**. George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, reported on the Baseball Umpire Program.
 - The committee approved the composition of the baseball umpire subcommittee to include Jay Artigues, chair; Michael Alford; and Greg Seitz for the 2025 baseball season.
- **12.** American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) report. Craig Keilitz, executive director of the ABCA; Jon Litchfield, deputy executive director of the ABCA; and head baseball coaches Rick Heller, University of Iowa; Chris Pollard, Duke University; Kerrick Jackson, University of Missouri, Columbia; and Jim Schlossnagle, University of Texas at Austin, led a discussion with the baseball committee and NCAA staff regarding key issues facing the baseball membership.
- **13. Regional and conference alignments**. The committee reviewed the conference alignments and regional alignments for the 2025 baseball season.
- 14. Committee member responsibilities.
 - **a. Regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee chair and vice chair assignments as well as RAC rosters for the 2025 season.
 - **b.** Checklist for RAC calls. NCAA staff provided a checklist of items for chairs and vice chairs to guide their RAC calls. Additionally, in the early spring staff will provide a packet of information to help national committee members lead those calls.
 - **c. Vice chair**. The committee was reminded that Michael Alford, director of athletics at Florida State University, will serve as the committee vice chair during the 2024-25 academic year.

15. Future meeting dates and sites.

- a. 2025 selection meeting May 23-26, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- b. 2025 MCWS June 13-22/23, 2025, Omaha, Nebraska.
- c. 2025 summer Microsoft Teams meeting August 7, 2025, 1-4 p.m. Eastern time.
- d. 2025 fall Microsoft Teams meeting November 5-7, 2025.

Committee Chair: Jay Artigues, Southeastern Louisiana University. Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances

Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances

Jim Schlossnagle, University of Texas at Austin. Holly Van Vlymen, South Dakota State University.

Kyle Webber, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.

Jane Wagner, Northwestern University.

Division I Baseball Committee	
November 4-5, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Alford, Florida State University.	
Jay Artigues, Southeastern Louisiana University, chair.	
Scott Dolson, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Jon Gilbert, East Carolina University.	
Scott Leykam, University of Portland.	
Jeremy McClain, University of Southern Mississippi.	
Randale L. Richmond, Kent State University.	
Casey Scott, Kansas State University.	
Greg Seitz, Jacksonville State University.	
Scott Stricklin, University of Florida.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Kristi Bredbenner, Wichita State University.	
Tara Brooks, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Randy Bruns, NCAA Baseball Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Jack Diesing Jr., College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Lisa Diesing, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Roger Dixon, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Baseball Umpires.	
Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Joey Gardner, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Rick Heller, University of Iowa	
Natalie Gonzalez Honnen, Clemson University.	
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Heather Hunter, University of California, Davis.	
Kerrick Jackson, University of Missouri, Columbia.	
Katie Karmazin, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Emily Keilman, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	
Emma Lady, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	
Jessica C. Leger, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.	
Jon Litchfield, American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Jesse Martin, Oklahoma State University.	
Kurt McGuffin, University of Tennessee-Martin.	
Lori Perez, California State University, Sacramento.	
Chris Pollard, Duke University.	
Kevin Raymond, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority.	