



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II BASEBALL COMMITTEE  
MAY 30, 2024, MEETING AND  
JUNE 27, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Roster submission.** The committee agreed to update its policy on roster submission to allow teams to change their 26-man active roster every game. (see Informational item No. 5.)
2. **Selection criteria.** The committee will move forward with the use of the KPI selection criterion in place of results versus teams above .500. (See Informational Item No. 6.)
3. **Championship selection process.** The committee continues to express concern with several aspects of the selection process, including the announcement of the No. 1 seeds prior to the selection show, the late scheduled start of the show, and conference tournament games starting late in the evening on the day of selections. (See Informational Item No. 7.)
4. **Committee chair.** The committee selected Dustin Fuls, associate athletics director at North Greenville University, as the chair of the committee for the 2024-25 academic year. (See Informational Item No. 11.)

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review of the 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the previous year's report as written.
2. **NCAA Division II Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took over the last year, noting where decisions affect baseball.
3. **Review of regionals.** The committee reviewed the 16 regional sites and eight super-regional sites and agreed that overall, hosts did a good job providing a positive student-athlete experience. Committee members did address feedback for areas of improvement and will work with staff and future hosts to improve.
4. **Championship review.** The committee reviewed all aspects of the championship, as well as evaluations from participating teams and asked staff to work with the host to determine the feasibility of the minor changes to gameday logistics and personnel.

The committee commended Cary and the University of Mount Olive for hosting a great championship and is hoping that the event will be in Cary well into the future.

5. **Roster Submission Policy.** The committee reviewed a proposed change to the active roster submission policy that would allow for changes to the 26-man active roster after every game, as opposed to once before every round (i.e. regional, super-regional and finals). They agreed this would be a welcomed improvement to the championship experience and created parameters around how this would be implemented. Moving forward, each team would submit a bench roster prior to the start of the championship round that establishes their 40-person dugout personnel. Eight of these spots are required to be reserved for team personnel, with the remaining able to be student-athletes that can be part of a 26-man game roster. A deadline for active roster submissions for each game was discussed but will still need to be established. The committee asked that this be implemented for the upcoming championship.
6. **Umpire discussion.** The committee discussed the recommendations, selection process and timeline for the championship and agreed that the umpire crews throughout the tournament performed their duties well. The committee recognized Jon Browar for performing his duties as national coordinator well in his first year of service. The committee looks forward to continuing working with him in the upcoming year.
7. **Rankings and selection criteria.** Committee members reviewed selection criteria and are requesting the use of the KPI criterion in place of results versus teams above .500. This request was submitted separately with other sport requests.

Additionally, the committee discussed the need to ensure a clear understanding of the KPI calculation through the use educational materials to the membership prior to the start of next season.

8. **Championship selection process.** Committee members noted items about the selection process they would like to see changed, particularly regarding the day of selection.
  - a. **Announcement of No. 1 seeds.** The committee strongly believes that announcing the top seeds in each region an hour before the start of the selection show takes away from the overall experience of the show itself. Specifically, if teams are getting together for the selection show, the early announcement detracts from the excitement of watching their name being announced. The committee feels the show serves the membership best by creating excitement for all the teams prior to the start of the tournament.
  - b. **Selection show start time.** The committee noted several comments from the membership regarding the late scheduled start to the selection show, which made it hard for them to keep their team together with family and supporters. The committee understands the reasoning behind pushing this late into the evening but encourages an effort to begin the show at a more reasonable hour.

Similar to previous requests, the committee would like to include as part of the

requirements for games being played on the day of selections, that the final game, including an if-necessary game, must begin no later than noon local time. Pending delays due to weather, this will allow the committee to have all relevant game data prior to finalizing the selection process.

9. **Future championships.** The committee reviewed plans for next season specific to schedule changes that will be implemented as part of the changes that were approved in the most recent triennial budget process.

Super-regional competition will now take place over three days and be played Thursday through Saturday. The championship in Cary will be extended on the frontend of the tournament by one day, with games starting on Friday, as opposed to Saturday, which allows for the championship to continue being concluded on the following Saturday.

10. **Rules.** The committee was joined by members of the NCAA playing rules staff, as well as Patrick McGaha, head baseball coach at Harding University and the Division II coach representative from the Baseball Rules Committee. They presented proposals sent forward as part of the rules change year proposal process for the committee's feedback.

The committee was unanimous in its support for full implementation of the action clock for this upcoming year, noting the delayed implementation that already was in place. Members also agreed that the current rule that allowed for bat testing prior to the start of a series or tournament was sufficient, opposing the proposal making it required each day of competition.

11. **Legislation review.** As requested by the Division II Management Council, the committee provided feedback on the continued implementation of legislation that allows football proposal to be voted on only by member institutions that sponsor football.

Further, the committee discussed a potential legislative proposal that submitted as part of the Coaches Connection program that would increase the limits on athletically related activities in the non-championship segment, as well as increase the allowable maximum number of games. The committee was generally supportive of both but recognized additional support would be needed for these to continue through the legislative process.

12. **Regionalization.** While official feedback was previously provided on the current regionalization and bracketing review that is underway, the committee did review potential scenarios or opportunities for change and is fully supportive of a bracketing model that would allow for cross-regional play in order to eliminate conference matchups. The committee looks forward to participating more in this process as it develops.
13. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship numbers for the 2023-24 academic year and noted where changes may be occurring for the future. Members will revisit

once updated sponsorship numbers are available and propose regional bid allocations to the Championships Committee for the upcoming year.

14. **Regional advisory committees.** The committee reviewed rosters and noted that staff will solicit nominations from conference commissioners for upcoming vacancies.
15. **National committee.** The committee reviewed its roster and noted when new committee members would be joining the committee.

The committee elected Dustin Fuls, associate athletics director at North Greenville University, as the chair of the committee for the 2024-25 academic year.

16. **Manual reviews.** The committee reviewed and asked staff to make necessary updates to all existing manuals.
17. **Committee timeline.** The committee approved the recommended timeline for 2024-25.
18. **2025 annual meeting dates.** The committee's initial annual meeting will take place May 28 in Cary, North Carolina, prior to the championship. A follow-up videoconference will be scheduled after the championship to finalize discussions on items not covered.

*Committee Chair: John Phillips, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida), Sunshine State Conference.*  
*Staff Liaison(s): Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances*

NCAA Division II Baseball Committee May 30, 2024, Meeting and June 27, 2024, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Matthew Akins, Saint Michael's College.	
Nathan Blackwood, Lubbock Christian University.	
Bryce Darnell, Missouri Southern State University.	
Dustin Fuls, North Greenville University.	
John Phillips, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Florida).	
Guy Robertson, Frostburg State University.	
Mark Shook, Kentucky Wesleyan College.	
Desi Storey, Central Washington University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
John Browar, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
Patrick McGaha, Harding University.	
Ronnie Rost, Cary, North Carolina.	

<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Stanley Broaden, Playing Rules and Officiating. Carla Laster, Championships and Alliances. Rachel Seewald, Playing Rules and Officiating.