

**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II BASEBALL COMMITTEE
MAY 26, 2019, MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Championship date formula.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adjust the championship date formula to read as stated below. Changed are in bold and italics:

The finals begin the first Saturday after Memorial Day. Regionals are the Thursday through Saturday, two weeks before the finals, and super-regionals are the Friday and Saturday the before the finals.

- (2) Effective date. 2020 championship.
- (3) Rationale. After further review, the current date formula does not have the intended effect of moving the championship back one week in all years, due to how the calendar falls, and revert back to the previous dates. The first year that this would occur would be in the 2020-2021 academic year (2021 championship). Given the additional week of post-season competition, this results in regional competition taking place in the week that should be reserved for conference tournaments- this moves conference tournaments back, meaning baseball and softball would then be on the same schedule. After discussions with the committee and conference office staff, this overlap would be detrimental to being able to administer conference tournaments, as well as condense the baseball regular season. This update, while only changing the current dates every six years, allows the championship dates to remain consistent.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review of the 2018 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 last year.
3. **Review of regionals.**
 - a. Host/facility requirements. The committee discussed facilities used for regional competition and agreed that all were suitable locations, and that the host staffs performed well. The committee also noted the exceptions that needed to be made to the facility light requirements in the East region, and will look to update these bid specifications for future years.
 - b. Regional brackets. The committee reviewed each of the regional brackets from the championship and agreed that adjustments should be made to the three-team brackets, to alleviate the guarantee of the high seed having to play two games in a day. Moving forward, there will be two games played on the first day of competition. Depending on the outcome of these games, there will be one, possibly two games on the second day. This change will also mean it is possible for a team to be eliminated on the first day of competition. The committee agreed that this scenario is preferred to having a team play two games back-to-back.
 - c. Regional evaluations. The committee reviewed evaluations from the regional and super-regional tournaments and made note of things to work on for the future. They agreed to make adjustments to administrative policies around home team dugout designations and game order in order to alleviate these concerns as well as increase logistical efficiency for competing teams and hosts.
4. **Championship review.** The committee reviewed all aspects of the championship, as well as evaluations from participants. The committee commended the Town of Cary and the University of Mount Olive for hosting a great championship and is pleased that the event will be in Cary for the foreseeable future. The committee will continue to work with the host to find ways to improve each year, including how to best market/promote the championship to the local community. The committee asked staff to work with the host, and necessary NCAA staff, to determine the feasibility of the ideas that were shared.

Due to tournament adjustments having to be made in recent years, the committee discussed at length the best way to handle possible game day and time adjustments and how to communicate these to participating teams throughout the week in an expedient and efficient manner.

5. **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 commended Scott Taylor for performing his duties well, particularly with the change in format requiring a significant increase in umpires for the tournament. They recommended that Scott be renewed to fulfill this role for 2020.

6. Championship selections process.

- Selection criteria. The committee reviewed the selection criteria and agreed that it provided the proper information needed to rank and select teams. With the ability to adjust the selection criteria coming soon, the committee reviewed other criteria, including the RPI and Performance Indicator, to see if these criteria could assist them in making decisions.

7. 2019 preview.

- a. Regionals. The committee reviewed the bid specifications and administrative policies of the championship in regard to regional play and made the following adjustment:
- The committee agreed to a change in the lighting requirements was needed due to the small number of institutions that have lights at their facilities, and the inability to find suitable alternatives off-campus. Moving forward, having lights will be preferred, but not required, in order to host a regional. For those regionals that must play three games in a day (four-team regional locations), game times will be set early enough in the day to ensure adequate daylight is available.
 - In a three-team regional, two games will be played on the first day of competition, as opposed to one. The committee strongly believes that this change will ensure that the advantages of being a high seed remain intact, as opposed to requiring the high seed to play two games on day-two, regardless of the outcome of their first game.
 - In the four-team regional, the committee agreed that the loser's bracket game should be the first game of the day on day-two, to provide those teams in the winner's bracket the advantage of more rest. The third game of the day will take place immediately following that winner's bracket game.
 - The committee agreed that those institutions and facilities that have the capability to use video replay, and have done so throughout the regular season, should have the ability to utilize it during post-season competition.

Staff will make the necessary changes to manuals, brackets and bid specifications to reflect these schedule changes.

- b. Cary. The committee confirmed its commitment to returning to Cary, North Carolina, and is enthusiastic about the host's ability to provide a great championship experience for the participating student-athletes. The committee will continue to work with the host and staff to creative ways to market the championship to the local community.
- 8. Rules.** The committee recognized this is not rule change, but interpretations and/or adjustments may be made. They will continue to monitor the baseball rules committee's recommendations. The committee discussed the topics gaining the most attention within the

sport, including video replay and pace of play. The committee believes that these issues, while warranted, do not have a major impact on Division II baseball. The committee noted if any recommended changes have financial implications, at least one year should be provided to make sure funds are available for the change.

9. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the updated sponsorship numbers for the 2019-2020 academic year and made adjustments to the regional bid allocations that are provide during the selection process. This change is being proposed along with other championships that provide bid allocations using access ratio.
10. **Regional advisory committees.** The committee reviewed rosters and noted that staff will solicit nominations from conference commissioners for upcoming vacancies. The committee noted increased participation in those regions that have had issues in the past. The committee and staff will work to make sure participation continues to be maximized.
11. **National committee.** The committee reviewed its roster and noted the upcoming vacancy for which a replacement has been named. The committee thanked Tommy Sadler for his service, particularly in this past year as chair of the committee.
12. **Confirmation of committee chair.** The committee unanimously selected Todd Reeser, athletics director at Columbus State University, as the chair of the committee for the upcoming year.
13. **Manual reviews.** The committee reviewed and asked staff to make necessary updates to all existing manuals.
14. **Committee timeline.** The committee approved the recommended timeline for 2019-20.
15. **2020 annual meeting dates.** The annual meeting will take place May 27-28 in Cary, North Carolina, prior to the championship. A follow-up call will be scheduled after the championship to finalize agenda item discussions.

Committee Chair: Tommy Sadler, Union University.

Staff Liaison: Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Baseball Committee May 26, 2019, Meeting August 1, 2019, Teleconference	
Attendees:	
Steve Browning, Southern Arkansas University.	
Chris Hanks, Colorado Mesa University.	
Casey Lafferty, East Coast Conference.	
Sean Loyd, West Virginia State University.	
Dan McDermott, Academy of Art University.	
Angela Pohl, Saginaw Valley State University.	

Todd Reeser, Columbus State University.
Tommy Sadler, Union University.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.