



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II BASEBALL COMMITTEE
MAY 28, 2025, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of the 2024 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 last year, noting where decisions affect baseball. Additional time was spent on these topics during NPI discussions later in the meeting.
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. The committee recognized issues with satisfactory bids in certain regions due to lack of proper facilities on campus and were committed to working with staff and the membership to provide awareness and education to teams on the bidding process in an attempt to alleviate this issue in the future.

The committee also discussed providing additional language on team advancement protocol for weather-related issues, citing language used by softball as a guide to what can be provided in manuals and communication with hosts and site representatives. Staff will ensure these updates are made and communicated properly in future years.

4. **Championship review.** The committee reviewed all aspects of the championship and was pleased overall with how things went. Evaluations and feedback from participating teams provided insight on potential improvements in the future, and the committee asked staff to work with host to find feasible solutions.

The committee did discuss the new format, with a best-of-three series, and was pleased overall with the ability to determine the champion in this way. Members did note challenges with teams having to play two days in a row, with multiple games each day. While this was mainly due to weather, playing all potential if-necessary games, as well as having a team with a Sunday-play exception, were factors in game congestion. Potential solutions for completing the championship when these factors align in the future were discussed. Staff will work internally and with the host, and if needed, with the committee, to propose additional format improvements.

The committee commended Cary and the University of Mount Olive for hosting a great championship and again recognized their commitment to ensuring a positive student-athlete experience into the future with the long-term agreement.

5. **Roster submission policy.** The committee reviewed the change to the roster submission process and agreed this was an improvement that was well received and created additional opportunity for student-athletes to compete in the championship. Members noted, based on feedback from competing coaches and through the coaches connection program, that this may change the focus in future budget years to increase the travel party size, so these additional opportunities are supported financially.
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 in his second year of service. The committee looks forward to continuing working with him in the upcoming year.
7. **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.** As mentioned in previous years, 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 close to this position are gathering 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. The committee suggested sharing graphics on automatic qualifiers instead, with promotion of when teams can see where they will be playing in a regional.
 - b. **Selection show start time.** The committee noted several comments from the membership regarding the late scheduled start to the selection show. The committee understands the reason behind pushing this late into the evening but encourages an effort to begin the show at a more reasonable time. Members continue to support setting a deadline for when games can start on the day of selections so that all games are finished at a reasonable time for the committee to properly evaluate rankings. If this is not an acceptable approach, the committee would potentially look at having the selection show on Monday, as is done for softball.
8. **NCAA Power Index (NPI) overview.** Tim Danehy, the creator of the Pairwise metric that eventually evolved into the NPI, joined the videoconference to explain the metric to the committee and provide examples of how it could be used to inform how best to conduct championship selections.

The NPI, which has been used in Division I and Division III men's ice hockey for several years and which Division III adopted this year for all team sport committees to use, is a system of statistical data that objectively applies the selection criteria to the data based on a sport

committee's established weighted criteria. The NPI is a combination of winning percentage; strength of schedule; home-away multiplier; quality win bonus; and overtime results (when relevant). The metric can be adjusted by what are referred to as "dials," or specific components of the metric that each sport committee has the authority to set, thus placing any desired subjectivity within the criteria themselves that are then applied objectively.

The committee also reviewed sport-specific information comparing the teams selected by the sport committee to two versions of NPI (using the default dials and the Division III respective sport dials) dating to the 2021-22 academic year. The committee's feedback was shared with the Division II Championships Committee during the June 25-26, 2025 meeting.

9. **Rules.** While not a rules change year for baseball, the committee did discuss changes that were implemented this year, particularly those made at the Division I level, including the mandatory use of a double first base in the postseason and additional foreign substance check protocols.

The committee noted a small number of preliminary-round hosts that used a double first base for this year's Division II championship but agreed that it would not be mandated for Division II at this time. The committee cited the lack of broad use at Division II institutions and potential budget impact for those that may be in a position to host.

The committee believes the current rules governing foreign substances checks are sufficient at this time and will not be implementing the additional protocols in the postseason.

The committee also discussed potential use of a 10-run rule in the postseason but decided against its use, citing instances from this year, and in the past, where deficits were overcome and games remained competitive even when a run difference of 10 or more runs existed late in a game.

10. **Sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship numbers for the 2024-25 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.
11. **Regional advisory committees.** The committee reviewed rosters and noted that staff will solicit nominations from conference commissioners for upcoming vacancies.
12. **National committee.** The committee reviewed its roster and noted when new members would be joining the committee.

The committee re-elected Dustin Fuls, associate athletics director at North Greenville University, as the chair for the 2025-26 academic 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 2025-26.
15. **2026 annual meeting dates.** The committee's initial annual meeting will take place May 27 in Cary, North Carolina, prior to the championship. Follow-up will occur during and after the championship to finalize discussions on items not covered due to the championship finals just getting underway.

Committee Chair: Justin Fuls, North Greenville University, Conference Carolinas.

Staff Liaison(s): Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Baseball Committee May 28, 2025, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Matthew Akins, Saint Michael's College.	
Nathan Blackwood, Lubbock Christian University.	
Bryce Darnell, Missouri Southern State University.	
Dustin Fuls, North Greenville University.	
Jessica Harbison Weaver, Pacific West Conference.	
Erik Maas, Auburn University Montgomery.	
Al Ready, University of Indianapolis.	
Guy Robertson, Frostburg State University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
John Browar, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
Tim Danehy, NCAA Power Index.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Eric Breece, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Micaela Kapsalis, Championships and Alliances.	