



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL COMMITTEE  
JULY 25-26, 2023, ANNUAL MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification. (See Action Item 2-a.)
2. **Format change.** The committee is seeking approval of a championship format change. (See Action Item 2-b.)

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 39 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2024 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship:

Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Rivers Conference; American Southwest Conference; Atlantic East Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents' Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; United East; USA South Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 39; Pool B – 2; Pool C – 19.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2023.

(3) Rationale. All eligible conferences have been recommended.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Regional bracket format.**

(1) Recommendation. Add one day of competition to the regional format.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2024 (for the 2025 Division III Baseball Championship).

(3) Rationale. The committee discussed variables surrounding the request to add a day to the regional format along with adjusting the number of games to be played on day 2. The current game schedule goes as follows: two games day 1, three games day 2, and two (one game “if-necessary”) games day 3. With the proposal, the game schedule would be: two games day 1, two games day 2, two games day 3 and one “if-necessary” game on day 4. The focus of the committee regarding this request is to alleviate the stresses accrued by the participating institutions as well as the stress put onto the hosting institutions.

- With the current format, hosting institutions without lights are required to start “game 3” at 8:30 a.m. to have a chance at getting all three scheduled games played in a reasonable time. Often times, the game schedule gets delayed for various reasons (primarily weather conditions and natural pace of play).
- For the institutions playing in “game 3,” a start time of 8:30 a.m. often calls for a wake-up call around 5:30 – 6 a.m. to start preparation for the game. Waking up at these times decreases the feeling of a true championship experience.
- The committee believes that more institutions will be interested in hosting opportunities by adjusting the schedule to the 2, 2, 2, 1 format. This would give the tournament/ hosting institution more flexibility regarding game times, weather delays, and/or slow-paced games, among other variables.
- By adjusting the game times, the committee believes this would encourage new hosting institutions to submit bids.
- The committee identified Thursday as the ideal starting date for competition.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. With the addition of one day to the regional tournaments, (X amount) is anticipated to cover the lodging, travel, and other expenses.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The committee believes adjusting the game schedule will provide the participating institutions with a greater experience by allowing those impacted to feel as though the weekend is a more meaningful event than a regular-season weekend series and giving the student athletes time to enjoy the area in which they are selected to play.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of the 2022 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual committee meeting report as submitted.
2. **Committee chair.** The committee re-appointed Frank Pericolosi, head baseball coach at Pomona-Pitzer, as the chair beginning September 1, 2023. This will be Mr. Pericolosi's second year as committee chair.
3. **2023 championship review.** The Baseball Committee reviewed the 2023 championship and addressed the following items:
  - a. **Game times.** The committee adjusted the game times of the 4-game days at the finals site (Friday, Saturday and possibly Monday) due to the later games consistently having to be pushed back. The game times will now be 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m. and 8 p.m.
  - b. **Opening ceremony.** The committee was pleased with the itinerary for opening ceremony and commended the Cedar Rapids Kernels for their excellent work in serving a very large group effectively and efficiently.
  - c. **Practice.** The committee agreed to move practices up 30 minutes to provide teams with more time to work through the rotation. The committee also recognized positive feedback regarding offering an off-site BP option on gameday and reaffirmed a commitment to make that available to teams as much as possible throughout the tournament.
  - d. **Future site.** The committee was pleased to have the 2024 host involved with this year's championship so they can be adequately prepared to host next year's championship.
4. **2023 regional and super regional review.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluation for sites and umpires.
  - a. **Bids.** The committee expressed concern over the low number of bids submitted for the 2023 championship and the challenges it presents when bracketing and the negative

- impact on student-athlete experience. The committee agreed to have individual committee members assist with the bid process in their respective region.
- b. **Site reps.** The committee agreed to implement a site rep training call prior to the regional round to ensure consistent application of policies and operation of all preliminary-round sites.
  - c. **Interactive bracket.** The committee would like to work with [ncaa.com](http://ncaa.com) to develop a more interactive bracket for live tracking of regional rounds.
5. **Championship selections and bracketing.** The committee discussed selection criteria, bracketing principles, hosting guidelines, conference tournament game times, and committee and staff preparation work leading up to selections.
  6. **Division III governance update.** NCAA staff Bill Regan provided divisional governance updates to the committee.
  7. **Championships Committee update.** NCAA staff liaison J.P. Williams joined the committee to discuss topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes and the positive outcomes and the impacts they will have on the membership.
  8. **Bench size.** The committee discussed the intention to increase bench size from 33 (35 with two medical) to 35 (37 with two medical) to allow additional student-athletes in the bench area at the next available opportunity. The committee will allow student-athletes outside of the squad size to be in uniform and participate in warm-up activities.
  9. **Squad size.** At the next available opportunity, the committee will consider recommending a squad size increase from 25 to 27 to provide more student-athletes a chance to compete. This would likely be considered in correlation with the divisional travel party increase discussion.
  10. **Championship umpires review.** Don Umland, the Division III coordinator of umpires, provided his annual report to the committee via teleconference. The committee agreed that Mr. Umland was proficient at organizing the preliminary-round and championship finals umpiring assignments.
  11. **Manual reviews.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make recommended edits for the pre-championship, host operations, committee operations and site representative manuals.
  12. **2023-24 timeline.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee and sport committee timeline and staff will make the recommended updates for final committee approval.

**13. 2024 annual meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 25-26, 2024, in Indianapolis.

**14. Umpire fees.** The committee is discussing the potential need to increase umpire fees and adding fees for new positions. The committee will be drafting a proposal for the Division III Championships Committee to review before the February meeting.

*Committee Chair:* Frank Pericolosi, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.

*Staff Liaison(s):* Jackie Kawamoto, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Baseball Committee July 25-26, 2023, Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Nick Bursik, University of Wisconsin-Superior.	
Rick Carver, Franciscan University of Steubenville.	
Scott Dietz, Babson College.	
Bill Gorman, Wentworth Institute of Technology.	
Frank Pericolosi, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.	
Ira Thor, New Jersey City University.	
Jan Weisberg, Birmingham-Southern College.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Richard Kaiser, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Don Umland, National Coordinator of Officials.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Jackie Kawamoto, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Bill Regan, Division III Governance.	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	