



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III BASEBALL COMMITTEE
JUNE 25-26, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Automatic qualification.** The committee requests approval for all eligible conferences to receive automatic qualification.
2. **Format change.** The committee is seeking approval of a championship format change.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Automatic qualification.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the following 40 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2025 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; Collegiate Conference of the South; Conference of New England; 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: Automatic Qualifiers – 40; At-large – 24.

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. All eligible conferences have been recommended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of the 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual committee meeting report as submitted.
2. **Committee chair.** The committee elected to appoint Bill Gorman, associate athletics director, as the chair beginning September 1, 2024. This will be Mr. Gorman's first year as committee chair.
3. **2024 championship review.** The Baseball Committee reviewed the 2024 championship and addressed the following items:
 - a. **Opening ceremony.** The committee was frustrated with the opening ceremony specifically the failure to serve a very large group effectively and efficiently. When food supplies ran out, many waited for additional food to arrive. It was confirmed some fans of the teams were issued refunds.
 - b. **Future sites.** The committee was informed that the 2027 & 2028 bid cycle will take place over the summer so they can review the bid information.
4. **NCAA Power Index (NPI).** The committee utilized data from the past three seasons, 2022-2024, to determine the appropriate balance NPI selection criteria. The committee worked to ensure that a high winning percentage was balanced with an appropriate strength of schedule resulting in a 25/75 ratio of weight, among other criteria.
5. **2024 regional and super regional review.** The committee discussed preliminary-round information.
 - a. **Bids.** The committee expressed concern over the low number of bids submitted for the 2027 and 2028 championship and the negative impact on student-athlete experience..

- 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 to develop a more interactive bracket for live tracking of regional rounds, which would be consistent for what is done for Division III softball.
- d. **Additional day to Regional-round.** With 64 teams in the bracket, 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. 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.
 - 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, 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. local 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 game 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.

6. **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.
7. **Division III governance update.** NCAA staff Bill Regan provided divisional governance updates to the committee.
8. **Championships Committee update.** NCAA staff discussed topics related to the division, including information regarding budget changes and the positive outcomes and the impacts they will have on the membership including increased bracket size from 60 to 64, increased per diem and potentially protecting top seeding national teams.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **Playing Rules and Officiating.** The committee videoconference with the DIII baseball rules committee members and NCAA staff liaison to discuss items including pitch clock and bat testing frequency. The committee determined if pitch clocks were not mandatory on campuses, they would not be required to host regional and super regional rounds of the baseball championship.
13. **Manual reviews.** The committee directed NCAA staff to make recommended edits for the pre-championship, host operations, committee operations and site representative manuals.
14. **2024-25 timeline.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee and sport committee timeline and staff will make the recommended updates for final committee approval.
15. **2025 annual meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 24-25, 2025, in Indianapolis.

16. 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): J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.

Division III Baseball Committee June 25-26, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Dave Beccaria, Haverford College.	
Rick Carver, Franciscan University of Steubenville.	
Ben Coopridner, Grinnell College.	
Scott Dietz, Babson College.	
Jimmy Habecker, Keuka College.	
Bill Gorman, Wentworth Institute of Technology.	
Richard Kaiser, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Frank Pericolosi, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges.	
Ira Thor, New Jersey City University.	
Jan Weisberg, Birmingham-Southern College.	
Absentees:	
None	
Guests in Attendance:	
Keri Alexander Luchowski, North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Dani Johnson, North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Mark Lembke, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.	
Don Umland, National Coordinator of Officials.	
Jessie Woods, Colby College.	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships and Alliances.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Playing Rules and Officiating.	
Bill Regan, Division III Governance.	
Rachale Seewald, Playing Rules and Officiating.	