



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 5-6, 2019, MEETING

**KEY ITEM.**

- **Video replay review.** The committee recommends that host institutions be responsible for the required video review expenses during the super regional round of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship (see Action Item No. 2).

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **Video replay review – additional expenses for super regional hosts.**

- a. Recommendation. That the Division I Competition Oversight Committee approve the recommendation that host institutions be responsible for the required video review expenses during the super regional round of the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
- b. Effective date. 2020 championship.
- c. Rationale. Video replay review is already in place for the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship as part of the regional round, super-regional round and the College World Series. Centralized video replay review was implemented for the regional round for the first time during the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. Such video review helped ensure that all calls were made accurately, which protected the integrity of the championship.

The actual scope of work to implement this centralized video review system during the preliminary rounds, particularly the amount of systems and personnel the video replay review provider required, ended up being much more extensive than anticipated. To help offset the cost of the centralized video review system super regional sites, like regional sites in 2019, will absorb the related expenses.

- d. Estimated budget impact. Each regional and super regional site will be expected to absorb approximately \$6,900. Regional host sites already started absorbing these expenses with the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. Super regional host sites also should absorb the same expense for this next round of the championship, since the services being provided are the same as for the regional round. This was not the case during the most recent championship. These expenses would include the fee

for services provided to a video replay review provider, as well as the costs of travel for the personnel from the video replay review service provider. Other expenses would include fees, travel, lodging, per diem, and baggage fees for the centralized video replay review officials. As a reminder, if a host site does not have the necessary video cabling from the television truck location to the replay system location, this would also need to be provided at an approximate additional institutional expense of \$2,000.

- e. Student-athlete impact. Video replay review enhances the student-athlete experience by providing umpires an additional tool to make the right calls.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments.
2. **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) report.** Craig Keilitz, executive director of the ABCA, and head baseball coaches Erik Bakich, University of Michigan; Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt University; John McCormack, Florida Atlantic University; and John Savage, University of California, Los Angeles, led a discussion with the baseball committee and NCAA staff regarding key issues facing the baseball membership, including a proposed format change to the Division I Baseball Championship; additional assistant coach; feedback on potential head coach ejection policy; Rating Percentage Index (RPI) calculations vs. NCAA Evaluation Tool (NET) system; and bat testing challenges and concerns before regular-season games. They also provided the NCAA staff with feedback regarding potential pregame timing adjustments and a change to the general format of the College World Series (CWS) that would eliminate the possibility of not playing on the second Saturday.

Baseball committee members noted they generally support the ABCA's proposal to adjust the format of the Division I Baseball Championship by adding a round; however, the committee does not have any interest in adjusting the dates of the College World Series. Based on those parameters, the committee will look to the ABCA for recommendations on how to best fit any possible such format change into the existing schedule. Once this additional feedback is received from the ABCA, the NCAA staff will further research the feasibility of a format change.

3. **NCAA Baseball Rules Committee update.** NCAA staff provided the baseball committee with a report from the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee meeting.

The rules committee recommends that three visible clocks be used in Omaha for the CWS to monitor both the 20-second action clock and the 120 seconds between half innings clock. One clock would be located in the padding of the outfield wall (ideally in right centerfield), and the other two clocks should ideally be located respectively between the first and third base dugouts and home plate. These clocks should not obstruct ESPN camera views, and the clocks need to be operated by the on-field umpires.

4. **Championship financial report.** NCAA staff provided the committee with a financial report on the 2019 NCAA Men's College World Series (CWS) and the entire 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
5. **College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (CWS of Omaha, Inc.)/Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA) report.** Representatives from CWS of Omaha, Inc. and MECA joined the meeting both in person and via teleconference to review various topics, including the Capital Replacement and Reserve Fund (CRR Fund) expenditures; club seat and suite renewal plans for 2020; 2020 CWS ticket prices/strategies; team hotels; and CWS team survey results.
6. **Research summaries.** The committee reviewed the feedback summary from Performance Research regarding the 2019 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship.
7. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee reviewed the home/away/neutral determinations for RPI purposes and discussed potential dates through the 2020 season to release the RPI. The committee decided to move the first public release of the RPI to March 2, 2020.
8. **Championship policies and procedures.**
  - a. Professional scouts – stadium entry. The committee discussed but took no action on whether to adjust the championship policy that denies professional scouts access to the venue/stadium until gates open to the general public.
  - b. Preliminary rounds – electronic/digital corporate signage. The committee voted to add the following language to the manual prohibiting electronic/digital corporate signage at all host sites:

“Electronic/digital corporate signage (e.g., LED boards, ribbon boards, video boards, etc.) is considered to be temporary signage and is not permitted during preliminary-round games.”
  - c. Practice at super regional sites – two days before competition. The committee discussed whether to eliminate the opportunity for a visiting team to request a waiver to practice at the competition venue two days prior to competition due to an early arrival at super regionals. The committee took no action on the matter but instructed staff to consider a waiver request based on “required” early travel vs. “preferred” early travel.
  - d. Regional round – batting practice on the field between Games #5 and #6. The committee voted to add the following policy regarding the batting practice order between Games #5 and #6 in the event there is enough time between games to take batting practice on the field:

“During the regional round, if the scheduled start times for Game #5 and #6 allow enough time between games for on-field pregame batting practice prior to Game #6, the Winner of

Game #4 will take batting practice first. If the Winner of Game #5 wishes to take pregame batting practice (on-field), they will hit after the Winner of Game #4.”

- e. Preliminary rounds – bullpen tents. The committee voted to add the following language to the manual allowing the visiting team to bring their own temporary bullpen tenting during preliminary rounds:  
“Visiting teams are permitted to bring their own temporary non-branded bullpen tenting for use in their bullpen. Any such temporary tenting must not interfere/hang over into the playing field, obstruct the view of the field for fans and must comply with all applicable NCAA Baseball Playing Rules.”
- f. Preliminary rounds – ticketing policies. The committee voted to add new ticketing policies for the preliminary rounds related to general public ticket holds, NCAA ticket holds and student-ticket prices for visiting teams.
  - 1) General public ticket hold. “Host institutions are required to hold a block of 100 tickets to be sold to the general public. Any tickets in this hold that are not sold to the public by 10 a.m. local time on Wednesday may be sold by the host institution as necessary.”
  - 2) NCAA ticket hold. “Host institutions are required to hold a block of 15 tickets for any requests coming directly from the NCAA national office. Any tickets in this hold that are not requested by the NCAA by 10 a.m. local time on Wednesday may be sold by the host institution as necessary.”
  - 3) Student-ticket prices for visiting teams. “Ticket prices for students of the participating teams shall be consistent for students of **all** teams at that particular site.”
- g. College World Series – use of Trackman System. The committee agreed to allow the use of the Trackman System during the College World Series.  
  
“During the CWS, participating teams are not permitted to use their own analytical data collection system. Should TD Ameritrade Park Omaha have an analytical data collection system in place, it may be used during competition and the data collected (if applicable) will be distributed equally to all participating teams.”
- h. College World Series – infield/outfield warmups. The committee agreed to adjust the time allotted for infield/outfield warmups during pregame from 10 minutes to eight minutes per team.

## **9. Broadcast partner discussion**

- a. CWS format proposal. The committee heard concerns regarding the 2019 College World Series and not having any games on the second Saturday of the CWS. Members discussed

multiple options to adjust the CWS game format in Omaha to alleviate this concern. NCAA staff will continue to study and present to the committee for future consideration.

- b. Umpire camera. ESPN will continue to work with the umpires and NCAA umpiring staff to improve the experience for the umpires who wear an umpire cam, as it is a great addition to the broadcast coverage.
- c. Camera locations. ESPN will continue to push to provide additional cameras to continue to enhance the broadcast of the CWS. ESPN will also look to reposition the 360-degree cameras, so they do not block the sightlines of the fans sitting in the club level.

**10. Umpire program report.** George Drouches, national coordinator of umpires, reported on the Baseball Umpire Program.

- The committee approved the composition of the umpire subcommittee to include Joe Karlgaard (chair), Bob Moosbrugger and Benjamin Shove for the 2020 baseball season.

**11. Regional and conference alignments.** The committee reviewed the conference alignments and regional alignments for the 2020 baseball season.

**12. Committee member responsibilities.**

- a. Regional advisory committee (RAC) assignments. The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee chair and vice chair assignments as well as RAC rosters for the 2020 season.
- b. Checklist for RAC calls. NCAA staff provided a checklist of items for chairs and vice chairs to guide their RAC calls. Additionally, in the early spring staff will provide a packet of information to help national committee members lead those calls.
- c. Vice chair. The committee voted to have Jeff Altier, Stetson University, serve as the vice chair for the 2019-20 academic year.

**13. Strategic plan update.** Staff provided the committee with the most updated version of the strategic plan.

**14. Division I Championships Finance review.** Sharon Cessna from the NCAA national office staff joined the committee to discuss the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee financial review of all NCAA Division I and National Collegiate Championships.

**15. Other business.**

- a. 2020-21 budget requests due by November 15. The NCAA staff informed the committee of this upcoming deadline for the 2020-21 year. The committee did not have any additional budgetary requests.
- b. Discussion topics with Major League Baseball. The NCAA staff provided the committee with updates of recent discussions with Major League Baseball.

**16. Future meeting dates and sites.**

- a. 2020 selection meeting – May 22-25 in Indianapolis.
- b. 2020 College World Series – June 13-23/24.
- c. 2020 summer teleconference – August 6, 2020, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time.
- d. 2020 fall meeting – November 3-4 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Joe Karlgaard, Rice University*

*Staff Liaisons: Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances  
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances  
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances*

<b>Division I Baseball Committee November 5-6, 2019, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jeff Altier, Stetson University.	
Dave Blank, Elon University.	
John Cohen, Mississippi State University.	
Jim Cole, Mercer University.	
Kirby Hocutt, Texas Tech University.	
Joe Karlgaard, Rice University, chair.	
Bob Moosbrugger, Bowling Green State University.	
Desiree Reed-Francois, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.	
Benjamin Shove, Northeast Conference.	
Marianne Vydra, Oregon State University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Erik Bakich, University of Michigan; American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt University; American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Jack Diesing, Jr., College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
George Drouches, National Coordinator of Umpires.	
Carol Foreman, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Herb Hames, College World Series of Omaha, Inc. (via teleconference).	
Amy Hornocker, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
Craig Keilitz, American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Emily Keilman, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).	
John McCormack, Florida Atlantic University; American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Kathryn Morrissey, College World Series of Omaha, Inc.	
John Savage, University of California, Los Angeles; American Baseball Coaches Association.	
Tyler Shaw, Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (via teleconference).	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Randy L. Buhr, Championships and Alliances.	
J.D. Hamilton, Championships and Alliances.	
Anthony Holman, Championships and Alliances.	
Kristen Jacob Smith, Championships and Alliances.	
Chad Tolliver, Championships and Alliances.	
Jeff Williams, Championships and Alliances.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Ben Brownlee, Championships and Alliances.	
Sharon Cessna, Championships and Alliances.	
Josh Logan, Championships and Alliances.	
Jeff O'Barr, Administrative Services.	