



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL COMMITTEE  
JUNE 17-18, 2024, ANNUAL MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review of 2023 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the 2023 meeting report as written.
2. **Discuss Division II softball strategic goals.** The committee reviewed the short-term and long-term goals of Division II Softball.
3. **NCAA Playing Rules and barrel compression testing (BCT) review.** Dee Abrahamson provided a bat testing update, noting bat testing data continues to be analyzed to determine the appropriate frequency it should take place during championship competition. Vickie Van Kleeck, NCAA softball secretary-rules editor, also joined the meeting to discuss rules changes approved by the Softball Rules Committee.
4. **Championship manuals and site selection material.** The committee reviewed and discussed necessary changes to the manuals for the 2024-25 academic year including adjustments to the alternate facility policy, the coinflip policy and roster submission policy. The committee will continue to review the manuals this summer and provide necessary updates to staff by August 2.
5. **Roster Submission Policy.** The committee reviewed a proposed change to the active roster submission policy that would allow for changes to the 20-person active roster after every game, as opposed to once before every round (i.e. regional, super-regional and finals). They agreed this would be a welcomed improvement to the championship experience and created parameters around how this would be implemented. Moving forward, each team would submit a dugout roster prior to the start of the championship round that establishes their 30-person dugout. Six of these spots are required to be reserved for team personnel, with the remaining able to be student-athletes that can be part of a 20-person game roster. A deadline for active roster submissions for each game was discussed but will still need to be established. The committee asked that this be implemented for the upcoming championship.
6. **Review of committee timeline.** The committee discussed the timeline and made necessary updates for the 2025 season.

7. **Umpires.** Steve McCown, Sally Walker and Austi Mezzacasa provided an overview of the umpires selected for the 2024 Division II Softball Championship, recent rules changes and key learnings from this year's championship. The committee was also provided with an overview of video replay that was used for the Division II Softball Championship. The committee noted that the availability of video replay continues to resolve potential conflicts and de-escalated situations with coaches and fans.
8. **Review of 2024 championship.** The committee reviewed participant survey results and championship recap document and discussed improvements that could be made to future championships. In order to continue to improve the overall championship experience and provide more transparency, the committee will begin tracking recurring issues at host sites and share potential areas of improvement with hosts after the conclusion of the championship to provide the opportunity to rectify noted issues.
9. **Selections review.** Kevin Pauga joined the committee to discuss the KPI metric which was used on an experimental basis for the 2023-24 season. The committee supported using KPI as a sport-specific criterion for the 2024-27 tri-annual cycle in addition to Division II results vs. teams with a winning record and in-region Rating Percentage Index (RPI).
10. **Preview 2025 championship finals site.** Committee members discussed the 2025 Division II Softball final site and members of the Chattanooga local organizing committee joined the meeting to share venue updates and future plans for the championship.
11. **2025 championship format.** The committee approved the regional and super regional brackets for the 2025 Division II Softball Championship in addition to a draft schedule for the 2025 championship adjusting the championship series game times to 6 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Eastern time. In moving game later in the day, there is a potential for greater fan attendance by avoiding the workday.
12. **2027 and 2028 bid review.** The committee reviewed bids submitted for the 2027 and 2028 championships and submitted a recommendation for potential hosts. The committee continues to express interest in a long-term site for the championship
13. **NFCA report.** Brian Stanley from the NFCA and Les Stuedeman, head coach at University of Alabama in Huntsville, provided feedback from coaches regarding the 2023-24 season and championship. They noted challenges noted by the membership regarding Division II Softball's involvement with DII Festival but were optimistic many of the challenges would be resolved with Division II Softball being removed from Festival moving forward.

The committee shared their plans to provide hosts tangible feedback regarding their staff, venue and overall championship experience to ensure hosts are being held accountable and providing the best championship experience possible for participating teams.

- 14. Division II governance update.** The committee was provided an update on the 2023-24 Division II priorities and Division II 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives that culminated with the 2024 Division II Baseball Championship finals.
- 15. Regionalization map and sponsorship list.** The committee reviewed the regionalization map and sponsorship list and noted potential changes for 2024-25. Staff noted both the regionalization map and sponsorship list will be updated in August.
- 16. 2025 annual meeting dates.** The committee will hold its next annual meeting June 16-17 in Indianapolis.
- 17. Chair election.** Melissa Frost was elected to serve as chair and Neil Morgan as vice chair for the 2024-25 academic year.
- 18. Softball and Baseball Joint Discussion.** The Division II Baseball Championship manager participated in the meeting to provide updates on ongoing discussions in baseball that could also be relevant to softball. These topics included the use of video review during regionals and super regionals, KPI, long-term host proposals, and roster policies. The committee also emphasized the importance of collaboration between baseball and softball, particularly in the context of preliminary round hosting. This coordination will be crucial as softball's date formula will shift back a week starting in the 2025-26 season, leading to an overlap with Division II Baseball.
- 19. NCAA Division II Football-Only Vote Feedback.** The Division II Softball committee provided feedback regarding NCAA Division II Bylaw 9.3.10.2 (voting on football issues), which precludes an institution or conference that does not sponsor football from voting on issues affecting only football as requested by Division II Management Council.

*Committee Chair:* Val Silvestrini, Florida Institute of Technology, Sunshine State Conference

*Staff Liaison(s):* Alyssa Rice, Championships and Alliances  
Julia Longo, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division II Softball Committee June 17-18, 2024, Annual Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jason Anderson, Southern Arkansas University.	
Susan Cassidy-Lyke, Molloy University.	
Dixie Cirillo, Colorado School of Mines.	
Missy Frost, University of Indianapolis.	
Neil Morgan, Biola University.	
Andrea Miller Grady, Slippery Rock University.	
Kendall Rainey, The University of Virginia's College at Wise.	

Val Silvestrini, Florida Institute of Technology.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Dee Abrahamson, NCAA Equipment Consultant.
Cassidy Brinkley, Chattanooga Sports.
Mike Davenport, University of North Georgia.
Brant Donlon, Chattanooga Sports.
Greta Hayes, Director of Recreation.
Steve McCown, National Coordinator of Officials.
Austin Mezzacasa, NCAA Regional Advisor.
Kevin Pauga, Michigan State University.
Emily Russell, Lee University.
Brian Stanley, NFCA.
Les Stuedeman, University of Alabama in Huntsville.
Vickie Van Kleeck, NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor.
Sally Walker, NCAA Regional Advisor.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Julia Longo.
Alyssa Rice.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Eric Breece.
Ryan Jones and Maritza Jones.

