



2016-17 BASEBALL MANUAL



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IMPORTANT DATES

2016-17

NOVEMBER 1	RELEASE of preseason NAIA All-America Team
NOVEMBER 8	RELEASE of preseason NAIA national rating
JANUARY 5	NAIA-BCA Annual Business Meeting at the ABCA Convention – Anaheim, Calif.
JANUARY 6	PRESENTATION of 2016 Rawlings-NAIA National Coach of the Year at the Rawlings/NAIA Hall of Fame & Awards Luncheon
FEBRUARY 1	DEADLINE for Department of Championship Events to receive affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament plans from conference/A.I.I. commissioners
MARCH 20	FIRST Monday for raters to submit affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group ratings
MARCH 21	FIRST national rating (released weekly on Tuesdays)
MARCH 21	FIRST release of NAIA Player and Pitcher of the Week award winners
APRIL 1	DEADLINE for prospective National Championship Opening Round Hosts to submit bids Department of Sports Information to send forms for all-conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group teams to affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group commissioners
APRIL 15	DEADLINE for nominations for Buffalo Funds/NAIA 5-Star Champions of Character Team Award RECEIPT DEADLINE for submitting DAKTRONICS-NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination forms to the NAIA national office
MAY 1	RELEASE of the nine NAIA National Championship Opening Round hosts/sites
MAY 10	RECEIPT DEADLINE for conference/A.I.I. commissioners to submit All-Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Group teams to the NAIA national office DEADLINE for completion of Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Group tournaments
MAY 11	FINAL rating; RELEASE of the nine NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round Brackets
MAY 15-18	NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round Tournament Dates
MAY 26-JUNE 2	61st ANNUAL AVISTA-NAIA BASEBALL WORLD SERIES (final site) – Lewiston, Idaho
MAY 31	RELEASE of DAKTRONICS-NAIA Scholar-Athletes
JUNE 5	RELEASE of All-America teams (including Rawlings-NAIA Gold Glove team) and RAWLINGS-NAIA National Player of the Year
JUNE 7	RELEASE of 2017 NAIA Baseball Postseason Rating
JUNE 30	RECEIPT DEADLINE for NAIA Scholar-Team nominations
JULY 15	RECEIPT DEADLINE for NAIA National Office to receive Hall of Fame nomination forms
AUGUST 15	RELEASE of NAIA Scholar Teams (all sports).

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

2017		2020	
May 10	Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Conference Group Tournament Deadline	May 6	Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Conference Group Tournament Deadline
May 15-18	NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament (9 sites)	May 11-14	NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament (9 sites)
May 26-June 2	NAIA World Series – Lewiston, Idaho	May 22-29	NAIA World Series – TBA
2018		2021	
May 9	Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Conference Group Tournament Deadline	May 12	Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Conference Group Tournament Deadline
May 14-17	NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament (9 sites)	May 17-20	NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament (9 sites)
May 25-June 1	NAIA World Series – Lewiston, Idaho	May 28-June 4	NAIA World Series – TBA
2019			
May 8	Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Conference Group Tournament Deadline		
May 13-16	NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament (9 sites)		
May 24-31	NAIA World Series – TBA		

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. PLAYING RULES

NAIA Baseball will use NCAA Baseball Rules with approved NAIA modifications (Appendix F). These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular season and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA. To order an NCAA Rulebook (or download a PDF copy) go to www.ncaapublications.com. Rules defined as experimental by the official NCAA Rules and Regulations Handbook are prohibited from use in national tournament play.

B. GAME UMPIRES

Umpires for affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament games shall be assigned by the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group commissioner. Compensation is the responsibility of the host institution or affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group.

C. SEASON RECORDS

Win-loss records for all member institutions participating in baseball shall include ONLY those games played against a varsity program from an accredited, upper-level, degree-granting institution, and SHALL NOT include games against junior colleges, clubs, foreign (Canada excluded) or military teams.

D. OFFICIAL BALL

The official baseball for all NAIA national championship (Opening Round and World Series) competition is the Rawlings FSR100-NAIA. Rawlings will provide the balls for national championship competition. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of the Rawlings FSR100-NAIA baseball for regular-season and affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament play.

E. SUBSTANCE ABUSE/TOBACCO POLICY

During the regular-season, all tobacco products are prohibited, including cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco. The NCAA zero tolerance policy (page 48) will be applied for all NAIA games. The NAIA ejection/suspension policy will also be applied for athletes/coaches/personnel who are ejected for violating the tobacco rule.

CONDUCT IN COMPETITION

A. EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) as an additional consequence related to ejections in conjunction with competition.

Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Suspensions may be appealed starting with the Conference/Association of Independent Institutions. An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate through the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest. The student-athlete/coach will be normally removed from the venue during a suspension. However, the game manager will use their best discretion on what is appropriate to risk management procedures regarding their venue.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game official ejecting a student-athlete or coach and the athletic director of the ejected student-athlete or coach. The form must be submitted to the NAIA within 48 hours after the completion of the contest.

Ejection Report Form: <http://www.naiaforms.com/?action=form¶meters=5>

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

A. OFFICIAL PARTY

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 31, with no more than 25 players listed on the Official Postseason Roster. The total party of 31 does not include up to two athletic trainers. Only members of the official party will be permitted in the team area, which includes the dugout, bench or bullpens.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via the SIDHelp admin website (www.naiasports.org/admin) and sent to the NAIA national office. If you do not have a login account, please go to the link and sign up. You must have an account in order to fill out the roster forms as the forms will no longer be available through coaches' manuals. Once you login, please follow these instructions:

1. Under "Forms and Rosters" click on the link "Official Postseason Rosters"
2. Fill out the roster form

Postseason rosters (and ejection disclosures) will be processed electronically and the administrator completing the roster will sign electronically. Postseason rosters no longer need to be sent to the NAIA National Office. Do not send postseason rosters via email or fax to the national office.

If you have trouble with the online roster form, please contact Chad Waller (cwaller@naia.org) of the NAIA Sports Information Department. For any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the NAIA Sport Manager.

The list of up to 25 eligible players (Official Postseason Roster and Entry Form) must be submitted at the time of the institution's selection into NAIA postseason play. Only players on the official playoff/postseason roster may be in uniform. If a team is discovered using a player not on the tournament playoff roster at any time during the postseason tournament, that team is immediately disqualified from further postseason play that year. From the point of first infraction by a team using a player not on the playoff roster, all subsequent games shall be forfeited by the offending team.

A copy of this roster/entry form MUST be hand-carried to the site of the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group national qualifying tournaments and national tournaments (Opening Round or World Series) and be presented to the respective Championship Site Supervisor prior to that institution's participation in the tournament. Once the Championship (Opening Round or World Series) begins, no player may play who is not on the official roster.

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament and the NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round, as well as between the NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round and the NAIA World Series by any eligible player whose name is included on the NAIA Official Eligibility Form for the current season. Again, the coach will need to hand-carry a copy of the eligibility form to each tournament if a roster change is necessary.

B. EXPENSES

Participating teams are responsible for expenses en route to, during and from all postseason events.

C. PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship, including Opening Rounds, must attend all functions including, Parade of Champions, coaches meetings, Opening Round celebrations and Champions of Character nominations. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

D. INSURANCE

Each participating team shall provide its own medical, hospitalization, travel and accident insurance for all members of its official party.

E. COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for his team at all times while at the site of the championship. This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his student-athletes at the championship site, during the championship and at all activities connected with the team's participation. In case of property damage, the offending institution shall be held financially responsible.

F. REPORTING SCORES

Scores from all games of the affiliated conference/A.I.I. tournaments must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard via the DakStats Web-Sync feature within 24 hours of the game.

POSTSEASON PLAY

A. FINAL-GAME PROCEDURES

Procedures governing the final game of each tournament (Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Group, NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament and NAIA World Series) shall be decided by the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball chair (for the conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament), by the designated NAIA site supervisor (for Opening Round tournaments) and by the NAIA Baseball Sport Manager and Tournament Games Committee (for the World Series) prior to the game being played.

1. If a game is interrupted after five innings and cannot be completed before the deadline established for affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group and national tournaments (all rounds), it shall be considered a regulation game.
2. If a rain date has been established for the tournament, then the rain date becomes the official completion date for the tournament.
3. The NAC approved a standardized inclement weather policy (proposed by the NAIA-BCA in 2008 and revised in 2010) for each of the nine NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round sites, and the policy is outlined in the Baseball Opening Round Manual.

B. 10-RUN RULE

Per NCAA rules, there is no 10-run rule in NAIA National Championship Opening Round or World Series play. Conference/A.I.I./Group qualifying tournaments may retain the 10-run rule option if approved by their respective conference/A.I.I./group.

C. SUSPENDED GAME

Any game that is suspended (including tie games) shall be continued from the point of suspension – at a time designated by the Tournament Games Committee. All games shall be nine innings. Conference/A.I.I./Group qualifying tournaments can petition the NAC to play seven-inning games in their conference/A.I.I./group qualifying tournaments.

D. RELATED INFORMATION

1. **Team Warmup** – There shall be a 10 minute warm up for each team between games. A member of the Games Committee will be charged with timing the warmup. Home team will take infield first.
2. **Protests** – Protests will be decided upon by the Games Committee at the point of the protest. All protests must be proposed with the umpire-in-chief in the presence of the Games Committee, the opposing coach and the umpire involved before the next pitch is thrown.
3. **Player/Coach Suspension** – If specific ejection/suspension rules are more stringent than NAIA rules, the institution must also conform to the sport specific rules. See Section X (Conduct in Competition).
4. **Use of Tobacco/Alcohol** – All tobacco products are prohibited, including cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco. The NCAA zero tolerance policy (page 48) will be applied for all NAIA games and the NAIA ejection/suspension policy will also be applied for athletes/coaches/personnel who are ejected for violating the tobacco rule. Enforcement of this rule will lie with the “game umpires” and those people noted in the NAIA Substance Abuse Policy document (see Appendix P). No alcoholic beverages in any form shall be allowed to be sold, dispersed or consumed under any circumstances.
5. **Home Team Determination** – The home team for first-round games in the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group, NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round and NAIA World Series will be determined by a coin flip.
 - a. Teams drawing a bye in the first round of all tournaments will be assigned either home or visitor, based upon their opponent's status in the first-round game.
 - b. For subsequent games, the Games Committee shall designate as home team the institution that has been the home team the fewer number of times. If the two teams are equal in this respect, but unequal in the number of times they were the visitor, then the team that has been the visitor most often will be designated the home team.
 - c. If the two teams are equal in the number of times that they have been home and visitor, the Games Committee will observe the following procedures in the order as listed:
 - 1) The team that was visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were visitors in their preceding game;
 - 2) If the two teams have met previously in the tournament, the visitor in the previous game shall be the home team in the game in question;
 - 3) If the above procedures do not resolve the matter, the home team shall be determined by a coin flip.
6. **Choice of Dugout** – The visiting team in each game of the tournament will be given its choice in determining the dugout (first or third base) it wishes to occupy for that game.
7. **Choice of Uniform** – Coaches of the participating teams involved in the game should decide which color uniforms they will wear. If both coaches cannot agree on uniform color, then the home team will wear light or white and the visiting team will wear dark-color uniforms.

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/A.I.I./UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

The affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball tournaments are planned and administered by the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball committee under the leadership of their respective baseball chair and subject to approval of all standards and conditions as may be prescribed by the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group executive committee/commissioner/president.

Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated Group playoff plans must be submitted to the NAIA National Office by February 1 of each year.

A. DATES AND SITES

Affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament games must be held at an approved home site of one of the participating institutions, unless a request for a neutral site has been made by the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group commissioner(s) and approved by the NAIA Department of Championship Events.

B. TEAM QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION

In order to qualify for a postseason tournament, a team must play a minimum of 16 games between January 1 and the start of the postseason tournament.

Consideration may be given to any one or combination of the following criteria in selecting teams for the postseason tournaments:

1. An approved rating system;
2. Regular-season overall win-loss record;
3. Overall win-loss record against NAIA teams within the conference, and/or
4. Any system approved by the NAIA Department of Championship Events.

C. ADMINISTRATION

All affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournaments must be double-elimination. It is permissible for a tournament to revert to a single-elimination format in those instances where weather-related delays/cancellations or playing conditions necessitate a deviation from the original double-elimination format.

A change in format should receive approval from the:

1. Affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball chair; or
2. Affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group commissioner(s); or
3. Affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group executive committee

The affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball chair should arrange to be present throughout the group national qualifying tournament and serve as tournament site supervisor. The site supervisor should coordinate all activities at the tournament site and work with the host institution athletics director and/or baseball coach in implementing affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group and national policies in the conduct of the tournament games. (See Appendix E for roles of the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball chair.)

It is the financial responsibility of the host institution to provide housing and meals for the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball chair during the national qualifying tournament. Any member of the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group baseball committee (including the chair) must relinquish his tournament responsibilities if his team is competing in the tournament.

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group national qualifying tournaments. Team and individual awards must be ordered from the suppliers noted in this handbook. Conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group tournament awards are the financial responsibility of the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING ROUND

The NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round is planned by the NAIA in conjunction with each Opening Round Host Coordinator and the designated NAIA Site Supervisor. A complete Opening Round Host Manual is available for viewing on the NAIA website.

A. DATES AND SITES

Dates and deadlines for Opening Round play can be found in the Important Dates section of this manual. The deadline for prospective NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament hosts to submit an official bid is April 1. Announcement of the nine National Championship Opening Round hosts will be on May 1.

If a designated Opening Round host institution fails to qualify either automatically or as an at-large selection via the final rating, then it will be given a host berth and designated as an at-large qualifier.

Listed below are other host guidelines:

- In order to be eligible for a guarantee to host an Opening Round tournament, a minimum bid fee of \$10,000 will be paid to the NAIA. Bid fees will be used to pay for travel costs for the neutral-site supervisor and to assist with reimbursement to traveling teams in Opening Round tournaments.
- There is a designated host site for each NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament. A host school qualifying for the tournament will play at home; provided the host school's field meets the facility hosting standards.
- Bids to host an NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament will be open to any NAIA institution, conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group and CVB/Sports Commission.
- Certified umpires will be assigned by the host conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group based on criteria set by the NAC for Opening Round tournaments. Payment of officials and game operations costs will be the responsibility of the host.
- Pairings for Opening Round tournaments will be based upon the following prioritized criteria:
 1. Geographical location of teams
 2. Financial considerations
 3. Final rating/seeding

Every attempt will be made to not pair conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group teams for opening round pairings; however, based upon pairings and selection criteria above, this may be unavoidable.

B. TEAM QUALIFICATION, SELECTION AND SEEDING

The 46-team, 2017 NAIA Baseball National Championship incorporates 45 opening round participants and a World Series host (Lewis-Clark State College). The NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Brackets are five-team, double-elimination format.

The nine opening round winners advance to the NAIA World Series, which is a 10-team, double-elimination format. Complete Opening Round team qualification, at-large selection and seeding information is listed below:

- 31 automatic berths for affiliated conferences/A.I.I./unaffiliated groups
- One host berth (World Series only)
- 14 at-large selections
- The three qualifying groups for 2016-17 are broken down as follows:
 - A.I.I. (1 team) + Cal-Pac (5 teams) + Cascade (3 teams) + Frontier (1 team) = 10 teams (two berths)
 - A.I.I. (1 team) + KCAC (9 teams) = 10 teams (two berths)
 - A.I.I. (12 teams) + Gulf Coast (3 teams) = 15 teams (three berths)
- At-large berths will be adjusted if unaffiliated groups do not have a qualifying tournament and are without a rated team in the final top-25.
- Conferences and A.I.I. will receive one automatic berth per six teams, two berths per ten teams, and three berths per fifteen teams.
- At-large qualifiers and opening round pairings will be determined by the NAIA Baseball Selection Committee as outlined in the document found [HERE](#).
- The championship field will NOT be re-seeded between rounds.

C. CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is misapplication of NAIA policy and procedures regarding tournament selection, an institution may appeal to the NAIA National Office.

Criteria for filing an appeal:

1. A written appeal citing the specific NAIA policies and/or procedures that have been misapplied must be submitted to the NAIA National Office – Department of Championships within 24 hours (or 12 p.m. CT) of the next business day if the end of the 24 hour period falls on a non-business day) from the time the tournament field has been released.
2. Once an appeal has been submitted a response will be provided within 24 hours from receipt of appeal.
3. Appeals must be submitted and signed by the Athletics Director and President of the institution.

NOTE: The NAC sport liaison will be on the selection conference call to listen to the discussion of tournament selection.

The NAC liaison will report any concerns to the NAIA National Office immediately following the conclusion of the conference call. The oversight committee will review ratings to prevent any ratings process violations or unethical use of the ratings process.

D. ADMINISTRATION

The nine site NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round is under the direct supervision of the each designated NAIA Site Supervisor, who in turn works with the Host Site Coordinator in the overall administration of the event.

All Opening Round brackets must be a double-elimination format to determine which team will advance to the World Series. If necessary, the following Inclement Weather Policy will be used at all Opening Round sites:

1. If three days are available, the bracket will be played with a 4-3-1 (2) format.
2. If two days are available, games 1-4 will be played on the first available day and games 5-8 will be played on the second available day. The champion will be the winner of game 8.
3. If one day is available, the bracket will revert to a single-elimination format (games 1, 2, 3 and 5).

If the play is not completed, the following policy will be used at all Opening Round sites:

1. If less than three games are completed, the No. 1 seed will be declared the champion.
2. If only three or four games are completed, the champion will be the highest-seeded undefeated team.
3. If only five, six or seven games are completed, the champion will be the lone undefeated team.
4. If a game 9 is needed but cannot be played, the champion will be the winner of game 8.

EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO COMPLETE THE OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE FIELD. However, no game shall be allowed to start later than 2 p.m. local time on the final day of Opening Round play. In the Opening Round of the national championship, a team may be required to play three games on one day to complete the tournament on the final day. The NAIA Site Supervisor (in consultation with the Games Committee) is the final authority on implementation and administration of the inclement weather policy.

The designated NAIA Site Supervisor must be present throughout the Opening Round and serve as the NAIA representative and Games Committee chair. Each site supervisor coordinates all activities during the Opening Round and works with their respective host site coordinator in implementing national policies in the conduct of the championship. *(See Appendix E, Roles of NAIA Site Supervisor)*

The NAIA National Office will provide National Championship certificates of participation and an individual Champion of Character Award to the Opening Round teams, and the winner of each Opening Round shall receive an award furnished by the host site.

E. TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council and the Council of Presidents have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate traveling teams in Opening Round competition. ONLY those institutions that secure air travel through the NAIA travel desk of Short's Travel shall be eligible for any Opening Round travel reimbursements. Please visit <http://www.shorts.travel.com/NAIAchamps> to upload team rosters and contact information, and then call Short's Travel (844-619-7044) to book your travel arrangements. All coaches will need a username and password which will be provided by the NAIA National Office.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum \$16,000 of their transportation and housing expenses prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round.



AVISTA-NAIA WORLD SERIES

A. DATES AND SITES

The AVISTA-NAIA World Series will be played at Harris Field in Lewiston, Idaho. The NAIA Department of Championship negotiates and determines the site of each of its national championships.

B. QUALIFICATION, SEEDING OF TEAMS AND TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The AVISTA-NAIA World Series is a 10-team, double-elimination format played in seven or eight days featuring nine Opening Round winners and the host (Lewis-Clark State College). The 46-team national championship is seeded by the NAIA National Raters (final rating AFTER affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group qualifying tournaments).

The host team will be placed in the bracket according to their seed. The bracket will NOT be re-seeded after the Opening Round. The AVISTA-NAIA World Series bracket will be finalized at the conclusion of all nine Opening Round Tournaments.

C. GAME TIMES

The host organization, the NAIA Department of Championships and the NAIA-BCA officers jointly determine game times for all games. An institution will not play more than one game a day unless weather becomes a factor in completing the championship on the scheduled completion date. There will be a minimum of three hours between published game times.

D. ADMINISTRATION

The National Championship is planned and implemented by the NAIA Department of Championships under the guidelines and standards established by the NAIA-Baseball Coaches Association (NAIA-BCA) and approved by the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

Administration of the championship is under the direct supervision of a four-member Games Committee, which is composed of the officers of the NAIA-BCA. In addition, two coaches are selected via the "Volunteer Coach Enhancement Program" to assist the Games Committee in the administration of the World Series.

Any member(s) of the Games Committee must relinquish their position on the committee if they have a team competing in the World Series. The NAIA Baseball Sport Manager will appoint an alternate(s) in these situations with approval from the NAIA-BCA Executive Committee.

The NAIA Department of Championships contracts eight umpires and a national supervisor of umpires to work at the AVISTA-NAIA World Series. Umpires are evaluated by the Supervisor of Umpires and by the Games Committee.

The NAIA arranges for a fully staffed athletic training room at the National Championship, which is administered by certified trainers and additional medical personnel.

E. TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council and the Council of Presidents have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate traveling teams in Opening Round competition. ONLY those institutions that secure air travel through the NAIA travel desk of Short's Travel shall be eligible for any opening round travel reimbursements. Please visit <http://www.shorts.travel.com/NAIAchamps> to upload team rosters and contact information, and then call Short's Travel (844-619-7044) to book your travel arrangements. All coaches will need a username and password which will be provided by the NAIA National Office.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum \$16,000 of their transportation and housing expenses prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round.

F. HOUSING

All participating teams must stay at the designated hotels. Failure to do so would make a team INELIGIBLE for participation and reimbursement. Reimbursement for lodging begins on the Thursday prior to the start of play and includes the evening of the team's elimination from the tournament.

G. RELATED INFORMATION

Prior to both the Opening Rounds and the AVISTA-NAIA World Series, an information packet will be posted on the NAIA website for all potential qualifying teams to review, including specific instructions regarding transportation, housing, practices and all responsibilities upon qualification.

Team Registration – Upon arrival in Lewiston, teams must check in by 3 p.m. at NAIA Headquarters. NAIA and host site personnel will greet all teams, provide informational packets and be available to answer questions.

Following their last game, team head coaches or authorized representatives are required to check out at their assigned hotel with a Games Committee member and a representative of the hotel staff. This check-out must be done prior to their departure from Lewiston. Any damages to rooms assigned to teams will be recorded, with payment for damage the responsibility of the institution.

Meeting – The first OFFICIAL function which all head coaches MUST ATTEND is the pre-championship meeting, conducted by the Games Committee. This meeting is MANDATORY and will serve as a forum for all participating teams. The meeting will include a briefing by the NAIA Supervisor of Umpires.

Banquet – The opening banquet will be held at the Lewis-Clark State College Activity Center, with time and date to be announced prior to the championship. The Hank Burbridge Champions of Character Player and Team Awards will be presented at the banquet.

Opening Ceremonies – Opening Ceremonies involving all ten teams will be held the first Friday of the World Series prior to the final game of the day. All teams are required to participate in this function. Special instructions relative to this event will be explained at the pre-championship meeting.

Honorary Coaches – An "Honorary Coach" program has been developed with local businesses in Lewiston to serve as local hosts for each of the 10 teams. Honorary coaches sit with their teams at the field and are generally available to assist teams/host teams during their stay in Lewiston. Teams are requested to provide their honorary coach with a team jacket to wear during the tournament. It is also considered appropriate to provide the honorary coach with a gift emblematic of their institution or hometown.

Awards – Team trophies are presented to the champion, runner-up, third-place and fourth-place finishers. Additionally, awards are presented to the AVISTA-NAIA World Series All-Championship Selections (16), Most Valuable Player, Championship Gold Glove Award winner and Charles Berry Hustle Award winner.

Radio, Television and Internet – The broadcast of any postseason contest is governed by NAIA broadcast policies as printed in the NAIA Policy Handbook. This includes audio broadcasts and video broadcasts through conventional outlets and new media avenues. Below are the baseball postseason tournament rights fees:

	Opening Round	World Series
	Radio	
<i>Commercial</i>	\$75 per game	\$200 per game + \$75 per additional station feed
<i>Non-Commercial</i>	\$50 per game	\$150 per game + \$50 per additional station feed
	Web-Blogging	
<i>Commercial</i>	\$150 per day	\$150 per day
<i>Non-Commercial</i>	\$100 per day	\$100 per day
	Video	
<i>Commercial</i>	\$250 per game	\$500 per game live (\$250 tape delay)
<i>Non-Commercial</i>	\$250 per game live	\$250 per game live or tape delay

(Third party carriers other than school/radio station of streaming audio on websites will be accessed the additional station feed charge).



Travel

A. SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship. The Official Travel Bureau of the NAIA is Short's Travel Management. Please visit <http://www.shorts.travel.com/NAIAchamps> to upload team rosters and contact information, and then call Short's Travel (844-619-7044) to book your travel arrangements. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, all schools are expected to use Short's Travel for any air travel.

Short's Travel has contacts with charter air travel as well as charter buses for ground travel.

Short's Travel can also be used for regular-season travel planning.

B. NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

National Car Rental/Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates for the NAIA National Championship. Teams will be able to access these special rates by providing the special NAIA contract ID #XZ05146.

C. MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Matthew Winston at (816) 651-7121 or Matthew@MastersTransportation.com for more information.

NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The [NAIA Policy Handbook](#) can be found at www.naia.org. Please refer directly to the NAIA policy handbook for the following:

Competition:

- A. Declaration of Intent to Participate – Bylaws, Article I, Section L
- B. Frequency of Play and Scheduling – Bylaws, Article I, Section F
- C. Criteria for Countable Contests – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A, Item 12
- D. Reporting Results – National Administrative Council, Article XXV, Section A
- E. Forfeits – National Administrative Council, Article XI
- F. Conduct in Competition Guidelines – National Administrative Council, Article IV
- G. Ejection Policy – Bylaws, Article VI Section 7

Eligibility:

- A. Definitions for Eligibility – Bylaws, Article V, Section B
- B. Eligibility Requirements – Bylaws, Article V, Section C
- C. Transfer Rules – Bylaws, Article V, Sections F-H
- D. Amateur Rules and Reinstatement – Bylaws, Article VII

Recruiting & Financial Aid

- A. Recruitment – Bylaws, Article II, Section D
- B. Campus Visitations and Tryouts of Prospective Students Bylaws, Article II, Section C
- C. Financial Aid Rules – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XI

SUNDAY PLAY POLICY

As a matter of policy, NAIA national qualifying and national championship competition will not be scheduled on Sundays. Please see the NAIA Official Handbook for additional information.

RATINGS MANUAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. **Overall Philosophy:** Sport ratings are the cornerstone for championship selection and seeding (excluding a few sports) and overall NAIA publicity of their sports programs. The ratings process is a complex one and every step of the process is vital to the integrity and accuracy of all ratings. The NAIA National Office appreciates the knowledge and time commitment put forth by all members of the ratings committee, conference oversight committee, national oversight committee and conference commissioners. The entire ratings process is constructed by membership, specifically the National Administrative Council (NAC). If a rater is interested in the process and wishes to make changes, each sport Coaches' Association has the authority to propose changes at their annual sport coaches' business meeting.
- B. **Frequency of Ratings:** The NAIA releases a preseason rating on November 8. NAIA Baseball ratings are conducted on a bi-weekly basis beginning on March 21. The "final" rating (AFTER affiliated conference/group national qualifying tournaments) used for seeding and/or at-large selection will still be referred to as the final rating; and the post-championship rating will be referred to as the postseason rating. The postseason rating will follow the same process (conference/group rating and national recommendation followed by national ballot and national ratings oversight) as all other weekly ratings. The only stipulation in the postseason rating is that the national championship team MUST be the #1-rated team in both their conference/group rating AND the postseason national rating. National raters will be required to rate the national champion #1 on their final ballot/rating.
- C. **Dates of Ratings:** November 8 (preseason), March 21, April 4, 18, May 2, 12 (final – Friday), and June 7 (postseason).
- D. **Total Number of Raters:** The rating committee is comprised of 17 raters. Each rater is expected to submit both the conference/group and national ballots. Each affiliated conference/unaffiliated group and the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.) have one rater.
- E. **Ongoing Bi-Weekly Ratings Deadlines:**

By Monday	Noon (CDT)	Submit conference/group ratings using SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin).
Monday	Noon (CDT)	SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin) site opens for viewing of all conference/group ratings.
Monday	Noon to 2 p.m. (CDT)	Raters, Conference Oversight and National Office can send concerns to National Oversight
Monday	2 to 4 p.m. (CDT)	Conference Oversight (i.e. Commissioner) available for rationale requests from National Oversight
Monday	4:01 p.m. (CDT)	National voting open in SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin).
Tuesday	10 a.m. (CDT)	National ballots due in SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin).
Tuesday	10 a.m. to noon (CDT)	National Oversight reviews grid.
Tuesday	Noon to 2 p.m. (CDT)	Raters available for rationale requests. Raters should have access to their email during this time. If raters are unable to access email, they must notify the national office prior to submitting conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group ratings.
By Tuesday	5 p.m. (CDT)	Release of national rating on-line at www.NAIA.org .

- F. **Weekly Rating Schedule:**

Preseason	Tuesday November 8
#1	Tuesday March 21
#2	Tuesday April 4
#3	Tuesday April 18
#4	Tuesday May 2
Final	Friday May 12
Postseason	Wednesday June 7

- G. A bi-weekly conference and national rating will be conducted beginning with the preseason poll.
- H. The ratings are compiled from the balloting of the 17-member rating committee.
- I. Two conference calls will be conducted during the season to exchange information. The first call will be an informational call for all raters prior to the release of the preseason poll in November. The second conference call will be held prior to the final rating. Specific dates will be communicated to the raters by the National Office staff.
- J. Although this is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended by the Baseball Coaches Association that each week the conference/group baseball rating committees collect competition results for the week and then convene via conference call each Monday for a consensus rating of their respective areas.
- K. There is a mandatory preseason (educational) conference call and webinar. Each rater must have computer access during this call. The national office will facilitate this training session and review SIDHelp during this call and computer access is mandatory. Instructions and the date will be sent to all raters at least one week prior to the call.
- L. If the conference/group rater cannot participate on a scheduled ratings conference call (either during the season or the preseason webinar) they must do one of the following:
 - a. Provide a written conference/group report to the NAIA National Office prior to the conference call or
 - b. Find a replacement from their conference/group oversight committee to represent the group on the call.
 - i. If neither of those two items occurs, then no teams in that specific conference/group are eligible for ratings that week and the rater is penalized for not participating on the conference call.
- M. The weekly ratings national grid (a spreadsheet that shows the top-30 rating and votes from each national rater) will be sent to all national raters after the weekly rating is posted on-line and released to the media. The information included in this grid is confidential and raters must not share this grid with anyone.
 - a. NEW: If the grid is shared via any electronic means by the rater, that rater is removed from their position for the rest of the year.
- N. Coaches are permitted to send information to their respective conference/group rater only. If, as a rater, you are receiving correspondence from coaches outside your conference/group, please contact the NAIA National Office.
- O. If information is inaccurate on any conference/group/national rating, here is the process for any school administrator to take:
 - b. For incorrect information on the conference/group rating (such as win-loss record; scores), contact the respective rater.
 - c. For incorrect information on the national rating, contact both the respective rater and the NAIA National Office.
 - d. For concerns regarding the conference/group rating, contact the respective rater and the conference/group commissioner.
 - e. For concerns regarding the national rating, contact your rater, a National Oversight Committee member and the NAIA National Office.
- P. Any questions regarding information in this manual should be directed to the NAIA National Office.

RATINGS POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- A. **Rating Procedure:** Each rater submits their conference/group rating from which national raters use to compile a Top-30 ballot to produce a Top-25 national rating and a list of other teams receiving votes. Conference/group raters must send their weekly conference/group rating to their commissioner and conference oversight committee for review before submitting it to the NAIA national office (via SID Help). Raters can rate any team (and any number of teams) that merit Top-30 national rating consideration from their respective group in their conference/group rating.
- B. Both the conference/group and national ballots need to be submitted in SIDHelp (<http://www.naiasports.org/admin/>) by their appropriate deadlines.
- C. Each rater submits their conference/group rating, which is then used by all national raters to compile a Top 30 national ballot.
- D. Raters can rate any team on their conference/group ballot and any number of teams that merit top-30 national rating consideration. Teams not listed in a conference/group ballot are ineligible for that rating. Here is recommended ratings criteria, created by the NAC:
 - a. If a sport-specific ratings committee does not have established group and national ratings criteria that has been approved by the NAC, then the NAC recommends that each sport ratings group uses the following (non-weighted) criteria when compiling both conference/group and national ratings:
 - i. Overall win-loss record
 - ii. Head-to-head results (with most recent result taking precedence)
 - iii. Win-loss record vs. common opponents
 - iv. Win-loss record vs. nationally-rated teams
 - v. Strength of schedule (based on the NAC-approved strength of schedule component per sport)
- E. Raters are allowed one tie of only two teams at any position in their conference/group rating.
- F. Raters are not allowed any ties to their conference/group rating in the final rating. You must use the tie-breaking criteria, found in Section J, for the final rating and breaking ties.
- G. When a rater submits a tie in any conference/group rating, the rater is required to submit rationale pertaining to those ties. That rationale will be a programming requirement in SIDHelp.
- H. Conference/group ratings and national ratings received after the deadline will not be included in the officially published Top-25 rating.

- I. In order for any team to be eligible for ratings, all contest results must be reported by that institution to the NAIA Scoreboard (www.naiasports.org/admin/) within 24 hours of completion. Institutions failing to report results *for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks* during the season will not be eligible for ratings for the remainder of the season.
- J. Campaigning for ratings votes for one's own team shall be considered inappropriate and unethical. Campaigning shall be construed as using fax, mail, e-mail or telephone to contact a coach or group of coaches to solicit support for one's team or players. Organized public relations campaigns dedicated to that same end shall also be deemed unethical.
- K. Follow this step-by-step process on a bi-weekly basis (see deadlines in Section A):
 1. **Conference/Group Oversight submission:** Prior to conference/group rating submission deadline, the rater is required to share their conference/group rating with their Conference Oversight Committee for review. This must occur prior to official submission of conference/group rating in SIDHelp.
 2. **Conference/Group rating submission:** Submission of the conference/group rating is done in SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin/).
 - a. Raters are allowed to make an unlimited amount of changes to the conference/group rating in SIDHelp prior to the submission deadline. You can save your work in SIDHelp and come back to make changes prior to the deadline.
 - b. Conference/group ballots received after the deadline will not be included in rating.
 - c. The following information must be included for every team on the conference/group rating:
 - i. Team's overall win/loss/tie record
 - ii. Result of each contest for the rating period – win/loss and the score
 - iii. Site and opponent
 - iv. National rank of opponent (including non-NAIA opponents)
 - v. Opponent affiliation, if not an NAIA member institution (NCAA DI, DII, DIII, NCCAA, Other)
 - vi. Team's national rating in the previous week's national poll.
 3. **Conference/Group Request for Rationale process:** Raters have the opportunity to review all other conference/group ratings and request rationale from that conference/group rater to the National Oversight Committee. If you so choose to raise concerns, you will email each member of the three-person National Oversight Committee (emails are found in the Coaches Manual) and carbon copy (CC) the National Office. The National Office will not facilitate this process, it will be up to the rater bringing a concern to communicate with the National Oversight. Your email must include:
 - (i) Conference/Unaffiliated Group
 - (ii) Specific concern(s)
 - (iii) Proposed changes

Your concern will be processed by the National Oversight Committee and does not guarantee a request for rationale going out to the specific conference oversight involved.
 4. **National Oversight Committee review conference/group rationale requests:** The National Oversight Committee will process any conference/group rationale requests (if applicable). The National Oversight Committee has the authority to take action or not take action on the rationale request. If the National Oversight Committee takes action to request rationale, the Conference Commissioner will serve as the point of contact and receive that rationale request by the National Oversight Committee.
 - a. The penalty structure is as follows if the Commissioner does not provide written rationale when requested by the National Oversight Committee prior to the deadline
 - i. First instance – Written warning (ballot is still included in that week's rating)
 - ii. Second instance – Rater(s) ballot is removed for that week
 5. **Top-30 national rating submission:** Submission of the Top-30 national rating is done in SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin/).
 - (a) Raters must vote in rank order specified by each conference/group rater (i.e. the #2-rated team in a conference/group rating cannot be ranked higher than the #1 team in that same conference/group on any national ballot).
 - (b) No ties are allowed on national ballots.
 - (c) In the event of a tie on the conference/group rating, the national rater has a choice to rate that tied team on the national ballot in the order they deem appropriate. Just as long as those tied teams still follow the overall conference/group order (i.e. Team A and Team B are tied at #2 from a conference rating, the national rater can choose to rate Team B ahead or behind Team A on their national rating, just so long as Teams A and B are listed after the #1 team from that conference).
 - (d) Raters have one chance to save and submit their national rating in SIDHelp. They are not allowed to save their work half-way through submission to come back to it. It is encouraged to write out your Top-30 on paper and then submit in SIDHelp.
 - (e) National ratings received after the deadline will not be included in rating.
 - (f) Prior to tabulating each weekly Top-30 rating by the national office, the highest and lowest ratings (a non-rating is a low rating) for each team (including those receiving votes) will be removed and the rating will be recalculated with a bonus rating point added to each team for every ballot (including discounted ballots) that appear on the weekly tabulation. Non-submitted ballots and/or removed ballots are NOT factored into the above tabulations (i.e. a non-submitted ballot cannot serve as a low rating).

- (g) Teams who receive only one point in the national ballot will not be listed in the "Receiving Votes" category of the press release distributed to the public and posted on NAIA.org.
 - (h) A rating will not be conducted if 50% of the raters do not submit a national ballot. Ratings that fail to reach the 50% participation standard cannot be delayed or postponed.
6. **National Rating Request for Rationale Process:** Raters are expected to be available via email and cell phone during the communicated request for rationale timeline (see deadlines in Section A).
- a. This step of the process will be done either via email or in SIDHelp and is sport specific.
 - b. The National Office will facilitate this step of the process, which includes the National Oversight Committee.
 - c. If a member of National Oversight requests rationale from a rater, that rater is required to provide detailed written explanation for those team(s) in which rationale is requested.
 - d. Any appeals and the final decision to remove a rater are handled by the National Oversight Committee.
 - e. See "National Oversight Committee" section for the entire National Oversight Committee process.
7. Removal of a rater is authorized when any combination of the following four (4) incidents occur three (3) times during a ratings calendar year:
- a. Failure to submit a conference/group OR national ballot.
 - b. Failure to respond to a National Oversight rationale request.
 - c. Failure to represent conference/group on a rating conference call – preseason webinar or regular-season calls.
 - d. Removal of a conference/group or national rating ballot.
8. Standard protocol to follow when a rater/group is penalized and ultimately loses rating privileges:
- a. First Offense: Warning letter (email correspondence) sent to rater after first offense/incident (See section above). Respective Conference/group commissioner and national oversight committee copied on all correspondence.
 - b. Second Offense: Warning letter to rater after second offense/incident and the rater is informed that they will lose their national rating privileges following a third offense/incident. The NAIA National Office contacts conference/group commissioner for procedures in submitting conference/group ratings if the affected group loses their rating privileges.
 - c. Third Offense: Rater is removed and conference/group loses national rating privileges after third documented offense. Respective conference/group commissioners and national oversight committee copied on all correspondence.
 - i. If a conference/group has its rater removed, that conference/group loses its rater voting privileges for the remainder of the current ratings season. However, the conference/group must still submit a conference/group rating so that teams in the conference/group can receive ratings votes from all other national raters.

SELECTION OF RATERS

- A. All raters are selected by their respective conference/group Commissioner. Each Commissioner is required to send both rater and conference/group oversight committee contact information to the NAIA national office via NAIAHelp by Aug. 1 of each year. Each Commissioner establishes appropriate selection criteria and guidelines for their rater.
- B. For the selection of a rater from an Unaffiliated Group, it is the responsibility of all Commissioners within that Group to agree on one rater representing that Group.
- C. It is strongly recommended for the rater to be a current NAIA head coach in that sport.

RATER EXPECTATIONS

- A. The NAIA expects every rater to have an unbiased and objective opinion as to conference/group status. Each rater is expected to rate the Top-30 teams in the nation, regardless of affiliation (conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group).
- B. The NAIA expects every rater to submit requested information by the designated deadlines. Any ratings submitted after the deadline or submission of incomplete ratings will not be counted.
- C. Raters are expected to submit both their conference/group and national ballots, according to the deadlines.
- D. Share your conference/group rating with your Conference Oversight Committee prior to official submission in SIDHelp. Each commissioner assigns the Conference Oversight Committee.
- E. Raters will monitor teams in their weekly conference/group rating to make sure those teams are posting results and updating their win/loss records within 24 hours after each scheduled contest. If the rater finds that a team is NOT reporting scores/updating their record, they must contact the institution (Head Coach and Athletic Director) via email and copy the Conference/Group Commissioner(s) and the NAIA National Office.
- F. Encourage communication amongst coaches within their conference/group. However, it is unacceptable and unethical for coaches to campaign for their school to another conference/group rater.

- G. If a rater is unable to fulfill this commitment, the NAIA National Office must be notified immediately.
- H. In cases such as a long break (more than one week) between the preseason rating and the regular-season #1 rating, all contests during that time frame will be considered. (e.g. in basketball, the preseason rating is Oct. 24 and the regular-season #1 rating is Dec. 5. In that case, all contests from Monday, Oct. 23 through Sunday, Dec. 3 will be used for the regular-season #1 rating).
- I. In order for any team to be eligible for ratings, all results must be reported by that institution to the NAIA Scoreboard (naisports.org/admin/) within 24 hours of completion. Institutions failing to report results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will not be eligible for ratings for the remainder of the season. This policy is a mandate by the NAC and listed in the NAIA official & policy handbook.
- J. Raters and coaches should coordinate with your school administration (such as sports information personnel) to report results using only one of the following methods. Reporting at more than one level can cause previously submitted results to be overwritten.
 - a. School websites that use SIDHelp: Reporting here automatically reports to the conference scoreboard (if the conference uses SID Help) and national scoreboard.
 - b. Conference Websites that use SIDHelp: reporting here automatically reports to the national scoreboard.
 - c. National SID Help website (www.naisports.com/admin/): report here only if neither the school nor the conference uses SID Help.

NATIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- A. The NAIA National office will work with sport coaching officers to recruit and appoint National Oversight Committee members. The National Oversight Committee will consist of three (3) members:
 - a. A member of NAC Selection & Ratings Committee.
 - b. Two coaches from appropriate sport with the following criteria:
 - i. One coach must have prior rating experience and can be an active or former coach still involved in the NAIA.
 - ii. One coach must be a current officer in coaches' association
- B. The NAC Selection & Ratings Committee liaison is an active member of each National Oversight Committee.
- C. Here is recommended criteria for the National Oversight Committee to consider when reviewing rationale:
 - a. Look for inconsistencies on an on-going weekly basis from a specific rater
 - b. Is there a concern about a rater(s) consistently ranking their conference/group higher/lower than the average?
 - c. Does the rater consistently consider the ranking criteria recommended by the NAC and apply that philosophy to their rating?
 - d. Is there a clerical error by the rater where he/she unintentionally placed that team, or didn't rate that team, in error?
 - e. Is there value to request rationale, even when it is considered that the grid throws out the highest and lowest (non-ranking) ballot? It's important to make this differentiation and not get "nit-picky" about an outlier team because that vote is already thrown out in the tabulation of the grid.
- D. National Oversight Committee will review each rating grid prior to releasing the national rating. National Oversight will potentially receive questions from raters, conference oversight and/or National Office in regards to the conference rating. National Oversight will ask Conference Oversight for rationale on a conference rating if deemed necessary by the committee.
- E. Here is the process the National Oversight Committee takes when a request for rationale occurs on a national rating:
 - a. Upon completion of national ballot submission by all raters, the NAIA National Office will begin the process by emailing the national ratings grid.
 - b. At this point, there are two processes, dependent upon the sport. The process will be determined during the preseason webinar. For those sports where we use the traditional email method, use the following steps. If you don't use the "email" method, but instead the automated SIDHelp process, move to 4 (c).
 - i. Each member of the National Oversight Committee e-mails their vote of approval of the grid or votes not to approve. If they do not approve, an email is sent to NAIA National Office listing rater, conference, teams and reasons for needing rationale.
 - ii. If written rationale is requested for the rater, then the rater(s) in question is required to email the entire Oversight Committee, and copy NAIA National Office, with their rationale in explicit detail.
 - iii. The Oversight Committee will then either accept that rationale by majority decision (2-of-3 members need to accept), and if that occurs, the process is complete. If 2-of-3 members reject that rationale, then the rater is asked to provide further clarification.
 - iv. The process continues until either the Committee is satisfied with the rationale, or the ballot is removed (only after 2nd occurrence of rejected rationale).
 - c. For those sports where we use the automated SIDHelp process, use the following steps.
 - i. National Oversight Committee reviews the master grid emailed by the national office.
 - ii. National Oversight Committee will then log into the SIDHelp system (naisports.org/admin/) and select the link to "view who voted for the week".
 - iii. If rationale is needed for a specific rater's ballot, click the "submit rationale request" button located next to their name in the system. This will open a dialog box where you can write the specific items that you need additional information on from the rater.
 - iv. Once your rationale request is submitted, an automatic email will be sent to the email address linked to the rater's SIDHelp account. Additionally, the other oversight members linked to that specific sport will receive an automated email letting them know that rationale has been requested.
 - v. The rater will log into the system and provide their rationale. Once a response is received by the national oversight committee, they will review and vote to accept or deny.

1. Note – a majority vote (2-out-of-3) by the oversight committee to accept will close the rationale dialog.
 - vi. Steps three through five above will be repeated until the rationale process is complete.
- F. If a rater does not provide written rationale prior to the deadline, the penalty system is as follows:
 - a. First instance – written warning (ballot is still included in that week's rating)
 - b. Second instance – rater(s) ballot is removed for that week
 - c. In each of the two instances, the NAIA National Office copies all parties (rater, national oversight, conference/group Commissioners).
- G. No email vote or email communication from a National Oversight Committee member for a two-week period constitutes NAIA National Office contact. National Oversight Committee members are held to the same guidelines as conference/group/national raters in terms of completing their weekly responsibilities.
- H. National Oversight Committee has the authority to remove a rater's ballot if the ballot is deemed to jeopardize the integrity of the rating. Removal of ballot must be approved by at least two National Oversight Committee members. In the event of the removal of a ballot, the rater, Conference/Group Commissioner(s), NAIA National Office and all Oversight Committee members will be notified.

RATINGS GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. Conference/Group Oversight Committee is responsible for monitoring conference/group weekly rating.
- B. Rater-to-Rater grievances are facilitated through the NAIA National Office with National Oversight Committee serving as a resource.
- C. Appeals to be processed through NAC Rules and Ratings Committee.
- D. Here is the process to take for a rater to submit a grievance:
 - a. Email the NAIA National Office your grievance within the constructed timeline
 - b. The NAIA National Office will work with National Oversight to process the grievance

FINAL RATING/SEEDING RATING INFORMATION

- A. The final rating occurs after the completion of the specific sport qualifying conference/group tournaments.
- B. Results of every contest (including affiliated conference/group qualifying tournaments) up to submission of final Conference/group rating are included for the final rating
- C. The final rating is used to determine the national championship tournament at-large qualifying teams in all sports (with the exception of baseball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's soccer which uses a modified RPI rating or selection committee).
- D. The NAC has mandated all sports to follow the established final rating calendar.
- E. Tie-breaking criteria is required to be used for all final ratings and stops at any time the tie(s) is broken. This criteria should be used by all conference/group raters to determine the order to list tied teams in any weekly Conference/group rating. NOTE – Listing of tied teams is NOT alphabetical...the tie-breaking criteria MUST be used to determine order of tied teams in the conference/group rating. The following criteria will be used to break ties in the final rating for all sports:
 - a. Head-to-head result between tied teams. If still tied (one win/one loss) go to second criteria
 - b. Win/Loss percentage vs. common opponents
 - c. Accumulated ratings points in the previous four ratings grids (not including current weekly grid).
 - d. Calculate differential between highest/lowest rating after displacement (removing high/low ratings) for both teams. Team with smaller differential is rated above team with larger differential.
 - e. Vote of National Oversight Committee.
- F. In addition to serving as the selection mechanism for at-large team qualification, the final rating (with the exception of baseball, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's soccer which uses a modified RPI rating or selection committee)) will also serve as the mechanism to seed the national championship tournament field. National championship qualifying teams that are not rated in the final rating will be seeded at the discretion of the Seeding & Bracketing Committee in each sport. Based upon additional seeding/bracketing criteria in each sport, the seeding rating may not always mirror the final rating.

CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER EXPECTATIONS

- A. You must have an account in SIDHelp (www.naiasports.org/admin) since that is the only location for you to view the details and comments of all conference/group ratings (see instructions below on how to access SIDHelp) of all conferences.
- B. Designate a three-person conference/group oversight committee to monitor their weekly ratings. The commissioners must provide names and contact information for their respective conference/group oversight committee members to the national office and submit in NAIAHelp prior to Aug. 1 each year. If a conference/group does not have a designated oversight committee in place, they will not be able to submit conference/group and national top-30 ratings.
- C. Submit your sport rater representative (current head coach) for all sports your conference sponsors. This assignment is done by you in NAIAHelp prior to Aug. 1 each year.
- D. For the selection of a rater from an Unaffiliated Group, it is the responsibility of all Commissioners within that Group to agree on one rater representing that Group.

- E. Remind all of your sport raters about their mandatory attendance at the preseason instructional webinar and the in-season conference calls. Failure to attend these by your rater (or assign a fill-in for that webinar) will result in a strike.
- F. Each Commissioner will get an email (generated automatically from SIDHelp) that is sent two-hours PRIOR to any sport conference/group rating deadline. This action is a friendly reminder to the Commissioner that your conference/group rating has not been submitted and there is two hours remaining to submit.
- G. Each Commissioner has the opportunity to submit your conference/group rating on behalf of your rater. This submission must be done in SIDHelp and prior to the scheduled deadlines.
- H. Your role as the conference/group ratings liaison:
 - a. You are counted upon to serve as the point of contact during the "Conference Oversight process." This process will occur for all sports where a national ranking takes place, excluding Football and Wrestling.
 - b. The NAC Ratings & Postseason Selection Committee rationalized that the National Oversight Committee for each sport should have the authority to question and ask for rationale of conference ratings. In order to ask for rationale of any conference rating, the Commissioner was determined to be the point of contact to provide rationale.
 - c. Timeframe that you are asked to be available via email: Between 2:01 p.m. – 4 p.m. CDT each Monday, National Oversight Committee will request rationale (if applicable) of the Conference Oversight (Commissioner is point of contact). The Commissioner is required to be available during this two-hour window. The Commissioner, if sent an email by the National Oversight Committee, is required to provide some type of rationale response back to National Oversight by 4 p.m. CDT Monday.
- I. It is your choice to access, view and request rationale of any conference/group ratings. Here are instructions on how to access all conference/group ratings:
 - a. Between 12:01 p.m. CST and 2 p.m. CST every Monday that a rating is conducted (starting March 20) – Log in to SIDHelp admin (www.naiasports.org/admin) – many of you need to click there and create a username and password to get started. Once you sign-up, give me 24 hours to provide appropriate access.
 - b. Click on "View conference ratings" under "Conference ratings" headline
 - c. Keep "all conferences" on your first dropdown menu.
 - d. On dropdown menus, choose your sport, date (should default to current week)
 - e. Suggestion is to NOT check the boxes on right side so that you can view all comments from raters and the results

GLOSSARY

- A. Frequently Used Terms
 - a. Conference Oversight Committee = a committee, created by each Conference Commissioner, to review, analyze and approve each conference/group rating prior to official submission in SIDHelp.
 - b. Final Rating = the rating that occurs after all qualifying conference/group tournaments. This rating determines the at-large championship qualifiers and championship seeding for all sports (excluding Soccer & Tennis).
 - c. NAC = National Administrative Council. A membership group comprised of athletic administrators representing all of the conferences. This Council has the authority to oversee all policies and procedures related to ratings.
 - d. National grid = a spreadsheet that shows the national rating and votes from each national rater. This is not to be shared with anyone.
 - e. National Oversight Committee = a committee, comprised of a NAC member, a former rater and current head coach/officer, with a mission to review, analyze and approve each national rating prior to official announcement.
 - f. Postseason Rating = the rating that occurs after the sport National Championship. The national champion team will be the #1-ranked team in the national rating.
 - g. SIDHelp = database where all conference/group and national ratings are submitted. The website is www.naiasports.org/admin.

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

A. REPORTING RESULTS

All contest results must be reported to the NAIA Scoreboard within 24 hours of completion in order to be eligible for team and/or individual weekly ratings and honors. Institutions failing to report statistics and/or results any two consecutive weeks or a total of four weeks during the reporting period will not be eligible for the national statistical reports or ratings for the remainder of the season. Scores must be reported via the DakStats web-sync feature or through the NAIA Scoreboard. To enter through the NAIA Scoreboard, visit www.naiasports.org/admin and log in with your user name and password.

Instructions for Reporting Results in SIDHelp

User should first go to their school website if they use SIDHelp; if not, go to the conference website. If they do not use SIDHelp for their school or conference website, go to the NAIA SIDHelp admin site (www.naiasports.org/admin). All of our SIDHelp websites (school, conference, NAIA) admin sections use the domain name and then add "/admin/" to the end of it. For example, if you are a Mid-Central College Conference school and you login to the MCC conference website, you would go to www.mid-centralconf.org/admin. If you do not follow these instructions, you may potentially have to report to three different SIDHelp websites.

Institutions failing to report results for two consecutive weeks, or four total weeks during the season will be subject to a monetary penalty. The first violation will continue to be a warning. Any second violation (first penalty), will be a \$500 fine. The third violation will be a \$1,000 fine and a loss of postseason awards. The fourth violation will be a \$1,000 fine and will be dealt with at the discretion of membership services. Fines will be due within 30 days of notification.

B. STATISTICS

An in-season, weekly national statistical report is produced utilizing DakStats for baseball. To be eligible for the statistical report, a student-athlete must play in 75-percent of the team's games played. Only statistics from games against varsity teams from upper-level, degree-granting institutions should be submitted. Categories will be determined on a sport-by-sport basis by the NAIA Sports Information Department.

It is strongly recommended that the host institution be responsible for both team's official statistics. The home team must notify the opposing team at least 72 hours prior to contest if official stats will not be provided. The opposing team can file an appeal if they feel an error was made in the official stats up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest. The appeal must be filed with the home team up to 72 hours after the contest and both teams must change the stats.

It is vital that sport records maintain a certain level of integrity and accuracy. The NAIA urges the official statistician for every sport to become familiar and have a working knowledge of the statistical manual. For baseball, please refer to the Baseball page on www.ncaa.org, and click on the statisticians manual link. The book can be downloaded in PDF format and is free.

AWARDS

A. NATIONAL PLAYER/NATIONAL PITCHER OF THE WEEK

An NAIA National Player and Pitcher of the Week will be selected by the NAIA Department of Sports Information. Nominations for national consideration must be made by a conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group information director from players/pitchers of the week in their group. The National Office will NOT accept nominations for national consideration from anyone but a group information director or his/her designated representative. Affiliated conferences/A.I.I./unaffiliated groups may nominate only one athlete per award for national consideration.

B. ALL-AMERICA

NAIA All-America honors in baseball consist of a 17-man first team, a 17-man second team and an honorable mention listing. Honorable mention selections are limited to 34 players and the honorable mention team is not position-specific. The All-America Selection Committee is responsible for administering the selection procedures at the site and prior to the start of the national tournament. Each November, a preseason All-America team will be named that will consist of one 17-player team. The All-America Selection Committee will be responsible for administering the selection process. In 2007, Rawlings also began sponsoring an NAIA Gold Glove team, which consists of nine players from each position. The Rawlings Gold Glove team is selected by the NAIA-BCA All-America Selection Committee.

C. DAKTRONICS-NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria:

- A. Nominee is junior or above in academic standing
- B. Nominee has been in attendance at the nominating institution two full academic years as a non-transfer student or a minimum of one full academic year as a transfer student
- C. Nominee has a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the nomination deadline (for transfer students the GPA is only at current NAIA institution)
- D. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair
- E. Nomination form is complete and submitted through SIDHelp
- F. All of the above information is to be received by April 25, 2017 to be eligible for national press release/website, certificate and honors database. All criteria must be met by this date.

Note: There are no statistical/playing requirements needed to receive this award.

Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will continue to be filled out via the SIDHelp admin website (www.naiasports.org/admin). You must have an account in order to fill out nomination forms as the forms are no longer available through coaches' manuals. SIDHelp is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. If you do not have an account, please sign up and create your own. Your access will be granted (usually) within 24 hours.

Nominations will be processed entirely electronically. In order to complete a nomination, the student-athlete must have approved and signed a release of their cumulative grade point average for nominating purposes. If you or your sports information office does not have a signed release form from the nominated student-athlete on file, a blank document (PDF) will be available for download. This release form does not need to be turned into the NAIA National Office. You are asked to retain it for your institutional records. The administrator nominating the student-athlete will sign electronically.

LATE nominations will be accepted through June 30 of each year, but will not be listed on the website, honors database or receive a certificate.

Nominations must be considered electronically for consideration. Paper copies are not to be sent to the NAIA National Office via email, postal mail or fax.

D. SCHOLAR TEAM

In recognition of academic achievement, the NAIA names a Scholar Team for all sports in which Scholar-Athletes are recognized. Based on a 3.0 season GPA on a 4.0 scale, all members of the team who appear on the eligibility certificate will be included in the GPA compilation.

Download the NAIA Scholar Team Award Form at: http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205502236

E. RAWLINGS-NAIA COACH AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Each affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group will select a Coach of the Year for their group. The National Coach of the Year will be chosen by the NAIA-BCA Past Presidents Committee and current NAIA-BCA officers from a ballot that includes the all Affiliated Conference/A.I.I./Unaffiliated group Coach-of-the-Year winners and AVISTA-NAIA World Series participant coaches. The Rawlings-NAIA National Coach of the Year is honored at the annual recognition banquet of the NAIA-BCA each January at the ABCA Convention.

The Rawlings-NAIA National Player of the Year Award is selected by the All-America Selection Committee prior to the start of the AVISTA-NAIA World Series.

F. HANK BURBRIDGE CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER TEAM & PLAYER AWARDS

The Hank Burbridge Champions of Character Team and Individual Awards will be selected by the NAIA-BCA executive committee at the annual NAIA World Series.

The individual player and team awards will be given to participating teams in the NAIA World Series. Players must be nominated by their institution as their team's NAIA Champion of Character representative prior to the tournament. Award winners will be selected based upon their documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship on the field, on campus, and in the community. Specifically, fulfillment of the "Core Character Values" of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship will be taken into consideration.

See Appendix J for more information and nomination forms for this award.

G. ROBERT E. SMITH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Robert E. Smith Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has given oneself in the promotion of NAIA Baseball and has distinguished oneself as a coach or administrator.

See Appendix I for more information and nomination forms for this award.

H. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for the national championships. National championship awards are provided to the official parties of the top four teams. Team trophies are awarded to the championship team, second-place team and third and fourth-place teams. All-tournament team selections (16 players) are presented, as well as a Most Valuable Player, Charlie Hustle Award and an Outstanding Defensive Player Award. The Hank Burbridge Memorial Champion of Character Player and Team Awards are also presented.

I. ORDERING AWARDS

Appropriate conference tournament awards are to be ordered by the conference chair and are the financial responsibility of the conference or the conference tournament host institution. Official NAIA awards MUST be ordered from:

Collegiate Awards, 18081 E. Trafficway, Springfield, MO 65802
Contact: Brad Stout, brads@collegiateawards.com, 417-873-9280
NAIA National Office Staff Awards Liaison – Kelli Briscoe – kbriscoe@naia.org

J. NATIONAL AWARDS

Nomination details and forms for the following national award can be found at: http://www.naia.org/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=27900&ATCLID=205327005



COACHES ASSOCIATION

A. NAIA-BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (NAIA-BCA)

The NAIA-Baseball Coaches Association (NAIA-BCA) is an organization of collegiate baseball coaches at NAIA institutions. The NAIA-BCA meets annually, conducting its business each January in conjunction with the meetings of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA).

The NAIA-BCA elects officers who serve one-year terms and provide the leadership for the Association. The NAIA-BCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation of all action affecting the organization and administration of the NAIA baseball program. The president, first vice president, second vice president and secretary serve as the Games Committee for the NAIA World Series and are in charge of the administration of the tournament. The NAIA-BCA Executive Committee is composed of the officers of the Association, the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group chairs and the NAIA-BCA's immediate past president.

B. AMERICAN BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

The ABCA was organized in 1945 by college coaches to promote and improve the collegiate game. The main objective of the Association is educational in nature, and to help improve the level of coaching. The ABCA also assists in the promotion of baseball and acts as a sounding board on issues concerning various levels of baseball. The ABCA has more than 6,400 members, which includes coaches from every state in the country and international membership from over 26 countries.

For information relative to these policies, contact:

Chad Waller – cwaller@naia.org
NAIA Director of Sports Information
1200 Grand Blvd.
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
816.595.8119

NAIA-Baseball Coaches Association Officers

President	Brad Niethammer, Webber International University 1201 N. Scenic Hwy, Babson Park, FL 33827 (863) 638-2951, Niethammerbv@webber.edu
1st Vice President	Brian Wede, Northwestern College 208 9 th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041 (712) 707-7418, bwede@nwciowa.edu
2nd Vice President	Kip McWilliams, Indiana Tech 1600 East Washington Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 (260) 422-5561, kdmcwilliams@indianatech.edu
Secretary	Tony Roepcke, Lyon College 2300 Highland Road, Batesville, AR 72501 (870) 307-7337, tony.roepcke@lyon.edu
Past President	Boyd Pitkin, Briar Cliff University 3303 Rebecca Street, Sioux City, IA 51104 (712) 279-5553, boyd.pitkin@briarcliff.edu
NAC Liaison	Mike Daniels, Golden State Athletic Conference (949) 680-7255, mdaniels@gsacsports.org
NAC Ratings Liaison	Mike Daniels, Golden State Athletic Conference (949) 680-7255, mdaniels@gsacsports.org
A.B.C.A. Liaison	Scott Dulin, Fisher College 118 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116 (617) 236-8877, sdulin@fisher.edu
USA Baseball Liaison	Scott Dulin, Fisher College 118 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02116 (617) 236-8877, sdulin@fisher.edu

(One Year Terms)



NAIA Baseball Coaches Association Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this association shall be the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics-Baseball Coaches Association (NAIA-BCA).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1

NAIA-BCA is an allied, sectional activity area of the NAIA parent organization and is charged with the responsibility of initiating programs beneficial to the game of baseball and to the NAIA member coaches of this sport. The activities of this section shall be in accordance with the aim and objectives of the NAIA and under the guidance of the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

Section 2

The NAIA-BCA shall submit to the NAIA National Administrative Council for approval all recommendations, plans and practices.

ARTICLE III - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1

To initiate, conduct and supervise programs utilizing the guidance of the NAIA National Administrative Council, which will promote interest in baseball programs on national and conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group levels.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Active membership shall consist of baseball coaches who are current members of the NAIA and are actively engaged in coaching baseball at an NAIA institution.

Section 2

For purposes of voting by members, each active member institution in good standing is entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The officers of this Association shall be elected for a one-year term at the annual meeting from the active membership of the Association as follows: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Secretary. Such elected officers shall be from institutions which are in good standing in the NAIA.

Section 2

There shall be an Executive Committee of the NAIA-BCA, which is composed of the following members: NAIA-BCA officers, current conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group chairs, the NAIA-BCA immediate past president and the appointed liaison from the NAIA National Administrative Council.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section 1

The annual business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the ABCA Convention.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1

This constitution may be amended if presented to the membership by mail no later than three weeks prior to the annual meeting and 50-percent of the membership votes with 51-percent majority. NAIA Coaches Associations must have a quorum (at least 50-percent of eligible voters) in order for a sport motion to be heard by the National Administrative Council. All voting will be completed using an online process following the business meeting in order to ensure all head coaches have an opportunity to vote. Motions will still be presented and discussed at the Annual Business meeting. If desired, a "straw poll" can be taken by those present to determine if a motion will be opened for vote to the full coaches association.



BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NOMINATIONS

Section 1

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of four members which will include the past president, the president and two active NAIA-BCA members, who are not current Association officers. This committee will be chaired by the past president.

Section 2

The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office. Other nominations may be made from the floor.

ARTICLE II - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1

Election of officers shall be by acclamation or ballot. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes for an office shall be declared elected.

Section 2

Any vacancy occurring in an office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the NAIA-BCA Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and supervise the working of the Association. He is the executive officer of all appointed and standing committees. The individual serving in the role of President for the NAIA-BCA during the 2019-20 academic year will also be a member of the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA). This role on the CSA is a two year responsibility, regardless of their term lengths as an officer of the NAIA-BCA.

Section 2

The First Vice President, in the absence or disability of the President, shall perform the duties of the President.

Section 3

The Second Vice President shall work directly with the affiliated conference/A.I.I./unaffiliated group chairmen. He assumes the leadership designated to the President or First Vice President in the event neither are available to assume their designated duties.

Section 4

The Secretary shall give notice of the annual convention and meeting of the Executive Committee and shall make an annual report, supervise correspondence, maintain the roster and keep a permanent record of the proceedings of all meetings.

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The committee shall meet immediately preceding and following the annual convention and at any other time at the direction of the President.

Section 2

Seven members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

Section 1

The President of NAIA-BCA is empowered to appoint standing and special committees which will assist in programs designed to improve and advance the aims and objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Roll Call
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes
3. Report of Officers
4. Report of Executive Committee
5. Report of Committees
6. Unfinished Business



7. New Business
8. Election of Officers
9. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII

Section 1

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided said amendment has been approved by the Executive Committee.

2016 NAIA-BCA Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 7, 2016
ABCA Convention – Nashville, Tenn.
Gaylord Opryland Resort

RATINGS COMMITTEE MEETING

- Clemente Baseball: Luis Clemente, bring NAIA Baseball to Puerto Rico
- Raters had no issues or questions with 2015 National Poll
- 2016 ARC changes: Two conferences and four schools lost from 2015
 - Teams schedule for this season based off 2015 ARC
 - Not much different from last year, some schools don't play teams in their ARC anyway
 - Possibly put an ARC in place for three years unless we lost conference so that teams can schedule
 - Committee looking for feedback from coaches, it won't necessarily affect change, however

PAST PRESIDENT'S MEETING

- Nominations for "Ish" Smith Award as well as Hall of Famers needs to increase
- Create "liaisons" for awards to help drive names and nominations each year
 - JK will oversee the "Ish" Smith Award
 - Scotty Berry will oversee the Hall of Fame nominations
- Survey sent out to NAIA coaches regarding many topics; NAIA-ABCA liaison Jeremy Sheeting can be an asset to us if we use him properly
- Motion: Tony Roepcke (Lyon College) to join the NAIA-BCA Officers (Passed: 13-0)

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES MEETING

- Resubmit 2015 proposal regarding Opening Round format and syncing it up with what is done at the World Series
 - Eliminates questions and opportunities to deviate from the schedule
- Site Supervisor role at Opening Round
 - What authority do or do they not have?
 - Who has the authority on game suspensions?
 - Work with NAIA Sport Manager and World Series Games Committee
- Opening Round completion deadline
 - Every effort must be made to complete the tournament on the field
 - Deadlines need to be a deadline, no exceptions once established
 - Manual currently states "No game shall begin after 2:00 p.m. local time
 - Does the gap need to be wider?

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

- Reviewed the changes or modifications for 2016 – No new topics
 - Discussion on foul poles and how it affects the NAIA
- Discussion on visit rule – Straight up NCAA
 - Not enough pitchers, plus the coaching and teaching aspects it allows
 - DENIED: 3-17
- Discussion on 10-run rule for 7-inning games
 - DENIED: 2-18

BUSINESS MEETING

- Rawlings – Mark Kraemer
- Louisville Slugger Awards (by conference)
- Approval of 2015 meeting minutes
 - APPROVED: 71-0
- NAIA Report – Austin Bennett
 - Increased focus on Membership, both retention and acquisition
 - Drug testing to begin at Championships in 2017-18, education pieces are already developed and underway
 - Fifth season of competition was voted down
 - NAIA Showcase (third year)
 - Hosting events in Kansas City, Chicago and Atlanta in July of 2016
 - Over 150 scholarships offered at last year's events
- ABCA Report – Scott Dulin and Jeremy Sheeting
 - 7,300 ABCA members; 5,300 attending convention – both are largest ever
 - Anaheim in 2017; Indianapolis in 2018; Dallas in 2019



- Addition of new position for ABCA: Jeremy Sheeting, NAIA Baseball Liaison
- Survey: 152-of-187 NAIA coaches participated
- Clemente Baseball – Luis and Roberto, Jr.
 - Working to continue father's legacy
 - Roberto Clemente Cup: 10 teams, 10 towns – in Puerto Rico
 - Uniforms to receive and wear for championship
 - Each team gets a host mayor, host town and home field
 - Live webcasts, press conferences, honorary coaches and youth clinics

SPORT MOTIONS

- The NAIA-BCA executive committee will create an opening round format to be followed at all NAIA National Championship Opening Round sites
 - This would ensure consistency between all opening rounds and would limit the ability for a host to manipulate the schedule or format to their advantage
 - APPROVED: 70-0-1
- Coach Tony Roepcke (Lyon College) to become the next NAIA-BCA Officer
 - APPROVED: 71-0
- Create and enforce a NAIA Baseball National Letter of Intent, binding student-athletes that sign to that institution for one calendar year
 - APPROVED: 70-0-1
- Elimination of College Baseball, non-professional and amateur baseball from the NAIA Competitive Advantage Rule
 - APPROVED: 68-2
- Increase the Baseball Postseason roster size from current size (25) to 30
 - Includes both Opening Rounds and World Series
 - APPROVED: 60-11