



2026-27
**BASEBALL
COACHES MANUAL**



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IMPORTANT DATES

2026-27 BASEBALL SPORT CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1*	Practice Start Date <i>*September 1 or the start of the institution's fall term, whichever comes first</i>
DECEMBER 18	DEADLINE – Submit Sport Motions
JANUARY 7-10	ABCA CONVENTION – Chicago, Illinois – www.abca.org
JANUARY 13	START - National Coaches Poll Release <i>Dates: January 13 (Preseason), March 3, and March 17</i>
JANUARY 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Opening Round Facility Certification Information
JANUARY 28	Competitions Start Date
FEBRUARY 2	START – NAIA National Player and Pitcher of the Week Honors Releases <i>Dates: Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, Mar. 2, Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23, Mar. 30, Apr. 6, Apr. 13, and Apr. 20</i>
MARCH 31	START – Area Rating Committee Ranking Releases <i>Dates: March 31, April 14, April 28, and May 11</i>
MARCH 31	START – National Selection Committee Polls Releases <i>Dates: March 31, April 14, April 28, and June 9 (Postseason)</i>
APRIL 6	DEADLINE – Undeclare from Postseason
APRIL 15	DEADLINE – Nominations for NAIA Scholar-Athlete
APRIL 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Champions of Character Nomination
APRIL 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Opening Round Bids to NAIA
MAY 1	RELEASE – 10 NAIA National Championship Opening Round Hosts/Sites
MAY 10	QUALIFICATION DEADLINE – Completion of Conference Qualifying Tournaments
MAY 12	RELEASE – Qualifiers and Bracket for Baseball National Championship Opening Round
MAY 14	DEADLINE - Deadline to submit All Conference forms
MAY 17-20	NAIA BASEBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING ROUND TOURNAMENTS
MAY 27-JUNE 5	AVISTA NAIA BASEBALL WORLD SERIES – LEWISTON, IDAHO
JUNE 10	RELEASE – NAIA Baseball All-America Teams
JUNE 17	RELEASE – NAIA-ABCA Gold Glove Teams
JUNE 30	DEADLINE – Scholar Team Award Nominations
JULY 15	DEADLINE – Submitting Hall of Fame Nominations to NAIA National Office

FIVE-YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Conference Tournament Deadline	May 10	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5
Opening Round	May 17-20	May 15-18	May 14-17	May 13-16	May 12-15
World Series	May 28-June 5	May 26-June 3	May 25-June 2	May 24-June 1	May 22-31

The National Championship Website can be found [here](#).

PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYING RULES

NAIA Baseball will use NCAA Baseball Rules with approved [NAIA modifications](#). These rules will be applied to all contests (preseason, regular-season and postseason) when both institutions are members of the NAIA. Rules defined as experimental by the official NCAA Rules and Regulations Handbook are prohibited from use in National Championship (both Opening Round and World Series) play – [NCAA Baseball Rule Book](#)

GAME UMPIRES

Umpires for conference tournament games shall be assigned by the Conference Commissioner. Compensation is the responsibility of the host institution or conference.

OFFICIAL BALL

The official baseball for all NAIA Baseball National Championship (Opening Round and World Series) competition is the Rawlings FSR100-NAIA. Rawlings will provide baseballs for National Championship competition. The NAIA strongly recommends the use of the Rawlings FSR100-NAIA baseball for regular-season and conference tournament play.

SEASON RECORDS

Won-loss records for all member institutions participating in Baseball shall include only those games played against accredited, upper-level, four-year, degree-granting institutions, and shall NOT include games against junior colleges, clubs, foreign (Canada and Mexico excluded), or military teams.

Competition against institutions holding associate membership in the NAIA or members of the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) shall be considered as satisfying this requirement. To verify countable vs. non-countable opponents, [click here](#).

Each member institution should also ensure that the correct designation of home, away, or neutral site status is designated for every game within the season.

Home Game

A **home game** is a contest played at the institution's primary baseball facility or another venue where the institution is designated as the host.

- The home team controls game operations (ticketing, game management, facilities, etc.).
- Games played at an alternate site within the institution's local area may still be considered home games if the institution is the designated host.

Home games are recorded as "home" for scheduling, record-keeping, and evaluation purposes.

Away Game

An **away game** is a contest played at an opponent's primary baseball facility or at a site where the opponent is designated as the host.

- The visiting team does not control game operations.
- Travel is required for the visiting institution.
- Away games are recorded as "away" for scheduling, record-keeping, and evaluation purposes.

Neutral-Site Game

A **neutral-site game** is a contest played at a location where neither participating institution is designated as the home team.

- Neither team has a competitive home-field advantage.
- Common examples include tournaments, showcases, conference or nonconference events, or games played at third-party venues.
- Neutral games are recorded separately from home and away games for evaluation, including strength-of-schedule and selection considerations.

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 40) 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

EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game umpire consistent with the playing rules in that sport. Ejections are not subject to appeal. Some sport rules allow protests through an official process outlined in each sport rule book.

Ejection reports must be completed by the NAIA game umpire 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

In the NAIA, any ejection in any sport carries a mandatory suspension of at least one game (see NAIA Bylaws Article VI, Section B, Item 7). In addition, the specific sport itself may also carry a suspension, as determined by rules of competition for that sport. If both an NAIA and sport rule suspension apply, the two suspensions run concurrently.

Baseball Sport Rule – A suspended person must follow the same penalties as those in an ejection (removed from sight and sound of contest). Additionally, a suspended person cannot –

Be dressed in game uniform; Communicate with any team personnel or umpires; Take part in any pre-game activities at the site of competition; Or be in the stadium or on the field once pre-game activities have started.

Procedures for enforcing penalties are as follows – After an ejection or suspension, the offending party must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with team members or umpires. Suspended personnel shall not be in uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty while serving their suspension. It is the responsibility of the institution's head coach and Athletics Director to administer and enforce the suspension penalty. If a suspended student-athlete or coach is found to have participated in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited by the offending team.

If a suspension is mandated by an NAIA bylaw it may be appealed starting with the Conference Commissioner. 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 NAIA 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 competition venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game umpires 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.

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).

POSTSEASON COMPETITION

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

OFFICIAL PARTY

The official party for each team participating in postseason play is 28 players allowed in uniform and up to 5 support staff. Each team will receive a maximum number of 33 credentials, 28 student-athlete credentials and 5 official party credentials.



MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Each team is allowed up to two athletic training/medical personnel on the team sideline. One of which must be an ATC, MD, or DO. A licensed health care provider's license information/number must be submitted in the application in order to receive any medical/athletic training credentials for your team. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Medical personnel credentials can be picked up during team check-in/registration only with a photo ID.

Please [apply here](#) for a medical personnel credential.
(Applications required for Final Site play only.)

SPORTS INFORMATION/MEDIA PERSONNEL

All SIDs/Media personnel will need to apply for a credential for the final site. Applications will close 72 hours before the event starts. Media Credentials can be picked up at the box office only with a photo ID. Media credentials will NOT be included in the team packets at coaches pick up.

Please [apply here](#) for a Final Site Media Credential.

ADMINISTRATOR PERSONNEL

All Presidents and Athletic Directors from qualifying teams will each receive two credentials. These credentials can be picked up at the box office.

All other administrators will receive free admission with their NAIA membership card when presented at the box office.

Official Postseason Roster forms will now be filled out via NAIA Connect (<https://www.naiiaconnect.org/s/login>) and sent to the NAIA National Office. If you do not have a login account, please contact naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org. Once you login, please follow these [instructions](#).

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.

If you have trouble with the online roster form, please contact naiiaconnectsupport@naia.org. For any other general questions related to the official postseason rosters, please contact the NAIA Championship Sport Manager.

The list of up to **28** 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 postseason roster may be in uniform. If a team is discovered using a player not on the official postseason roster at any time during the postseason tournament, that team will be immediately disqualified from further postseason play that year. From the point of first infraction by a team using a player not on the official postseason roster, all subsequent games shall be forfeited by the offending team.

A copy of this roster form MUST also be hand-carried to the site of the conference qualifying tournament and National Championship (Opening Round and World Series) and be presented to the respective Championship Site Supervisor prior to that institution's participation in the tournament.

The deadline for certifying the official roster of 28 players is 30 minutes prior to each team's first game of any conference tournament, Opening Round, or World Series.

Once the National Championship (Opening Round or World Series) begins, no player may play who is not on the official roster.

ROSTER CHANGES

A player may be replaced on the official roster between the conference 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.

For Unaffiliated Group qualifying tournament plans that call for preliminary competition between conference teams, roster changes cannot be made once this preliminary competition begins. Unaffiliated group tournaments will follow the same roster change policies used for conference tournaments.

UNIFORMS



Teams must have both light and dark colored uniforms available. Home teams generally wear light colored uniforms and visitors wear dark colored uniforms.

NAIA Uniform modifications allow sponsors' logos/patches during competition.

1. Limit of one sponsor logo or patch on a uniform.
2. The logos may not exceed a standard size of 2.25 inches square.
3. Sponsors of alcohol, tobacco, or any other legalized drugs (for example, Oregon marijuana) are not permitted.
4. Sponsors whose sole or primary business function is sports gambling (e.g., FanDuel, DraftKings, etc.) are not permitted.
5. Sponsor logos must be in the same location on each set of uniforms (e.g., if the home whites patch is on the neckline, all home whites must be the same; away jerseys could be in a different permissible location).

No sport-specific location restrictions. Sponsor Primary Location: Front shoulder panel opposite the manufacturer's logo. Between the apex of the neckline and the shoulder seam. Secondary Permissible Location: Centered on the bottom right sleeve (as worn) or centered bottom opposite sleeve of the manufacturer's logo. Alternate Permissible Location: If neither of the above locations is available back of the jersey, the apex/center of the neckline, as close to the neckline as possible.

If the institutional logo is located at the apex of the neckline on the front of the jersey, the secondary location is the back of the jersey at the apex/center of the neckline as close to the neckline as possible. If an NAIA conference requires a conference patch, the location of said patch shall be determined by the conference in keeping with any sport rule limits on size/location and shall supersede any sponsor location.

EXPENSES

Each participating team shall be responsible for its own expenses en route to, during, and from all postseason events.

PARTICIPATION AT EVENTS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship, including Opening Rounds, must attend all event functions including, but not limited to – Parade of Champions, coaches meetings, Opening Round celebrations and Champions of Character initiatives. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

The coach or designated person for each participating team must be in attendance and is responsible for their team at all times while at the site of the National Championship (Opening Round or World Series). This person shall accept the responsibility for the conduct of his student-athletes at the National 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.

INSURANCE

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

REPORTING SCORES

Scores from all games of the conference tournaments must be reported to the NAIA scoreboard via the Presto Stats Web-Sync feature within 24 hours of the game/session.

POSTSEASON PLAY

FINAL-GAME PROCEDURES

Procedures governing the final game of each tournament (conference tournament, NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round and NAIA World Series) shall be decided by the conference baseball chair (for the conference tournament), by the designated NAIA Site Supervisor (Opening Round) and by the NAIA Baseball Sport Manager and Tournament Games Committee (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 the conference tournament and National Championship (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 2016) for each of the ten NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round sites, and the policy is outlined in the Baseball Opening Round Manual and posted on the Baseball Championship Resources page.

10-RUN RULE

The 10-run rule is applicable for all postseason play, except the championship game(s). The postseason game must be stopped only after seven innings if one team is ahead by at least 10 runs. Each team must play an equal number of innings unless shortened because the home team needs none or only part of its half of the final inning.

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 qualifying tournaments can petition the NAC to play seven-inning games in their conference qualifying tournaments.

RELATED INFORMATION

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.

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.

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).

Use of Tobacco/Alcohol – All tobacco products are prohibited, including cigarettes, snuff and chewing tobacco. The NCAA zero tolerance policy (page 40) 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. No alcoholic beverages in any form shall be allowed to be sold, dispersed or consumed under any circumstances.

Home Team Determination – In the first round of each Opening round tournament (as well as the second round game that the No. 1 seed will play after its bye), the home team will be the higher seed. In subsequent games, the home team shall be determined according to the following procedures –

- a. The institution that has been the home team the fewer number of times shall be designated the home team.
- b. 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 more 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 or the committee representative shall observe the following procedures in the order stated –
 1. The team that was visitor in its preceding game shall be the home team, unless both teams were visitors in their preceding games.
 2. If the two teams have met previously in that particular 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, a coin flip shall determine the home team. The coin toss will be held on the field immediately after the game that caused the situation to develop and both coaches (or designated team representative) are requested to be in attendance.

The home team shall occupy the third-base dugout, take infield practice first and wear white or light-colored uniforms. The visiting team must wear a uniform of contrasting color. The NAIA Site Supervisor will resolve any conflict in the selection of uniforms. All decisions are final and assignments of uniform color are mandatory.

Teams waiting to play are expected to stay clear of the dugouts until the teams in the preceding game have had an opportunity to remove their equipment, and teams vacating the dugouts shall be encouraged to depart as soon as possible. The host team should abide by this protocol, regardless of their home dugout or pre-game routines during the regular season.

AFFILIATED CONFERENCE/CAC/UNAFFILIATED GROUP TOURNAMENTS

The Affiliated Conference/Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) (formerly the Association of Independent Institutions)/Unaffiliated Group baseball tournaments are planned and administered by the Affiliated Conference/CAC/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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Executive Committee/Commissioner.

Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group tournament plans for all spring sports must be submitted to the National Office no later than **February 1** of each year.

DATES AND SITES

Affiliated Conference/CAC/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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Commissioner(s) and approved by the NAIA Championships Department.

Conference/Group tournaments MUST be completed no later than Monday, May 10, 2027.

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 Championships Department.

ADMINISTRATION

All Affiliated Conference/CAC/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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Baseball Chair; or
2. Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Commissioner(s); or
3. Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Executive Committee

The Affiliated Conference/CAC/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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group and national policies in the conduct of the tournament games – See Appendix E for roles of the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group baseball chair.

It is the financial responsibility of the host institution to provide housing and meals for the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group baseball chair during the national qualifying tournament. Any member of the Affiliated Conference/CAC/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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group national qualifying tournaments. Team and individual awards must be ordered from the suppliers noted in this handbook. Affiliated



Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group tournament awards are the financial responsibility of the Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING ROUND

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 hosts to submit an official bid is **April 15**. Announcement of the eight (8) 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 –

1. In order to be eligible for a guarantee to host an Opening Round tournament, a minimum bid fee of \$12,500 will be paid to the NAIA. Bid fees will be used to pay to assist with reimbursement to traveling teams in Opening Round tournaments.
2. There is a designated host site for each 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.
3. Bids to host an NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round Tournament will be open to any NAIA institution, Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group and CVB/Sports Commission.
4. Certified umpires will be assigned by the host Affiliated Conference/CAC/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.
5. Pairings for Opening Round tournaments will be based upon the following prioritized criteria –
 - a. Geographical location of teams
 - b. Financial considerations
 - c. Final seeding

Every attempt will be made to not pair Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group teams for Opening Round pairings; however, based upon pairings and selection criteria above, this may be unavoidable.

ADMINISTRATION

NEW for 2026-2027 – NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round will be held at eight sites.

Each of the eight sites of the NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round is under the direct supervision of the NAIA, and each designated NAIA Site Supervisor, who works with the Host Site Coordinator in the overall administration of the event.

All Opening Round brackets must be a six-team, double-elimination format to determine which team will advance to the World Series.

EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO COMPLETE THE OPENING ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE FIELD. However, no game shall start later than 2 PM local time on the final day of Opening Round play. In the Opening Round, 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 NAIA) is the final authority on the 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 policies in the conduct of the championship.

TEAM QUALIFICATION, SELECTION AND SEEDING

NEW for 2026-2027 - NAIA Baseball National Championship field expanded to 48 teams participating in the Opening Round.



The 48-team NAIA Baseball National Championship incorporates 48 Opening Round participants. The NAIA Baseball Championship Opening Round brackets are a double-elimination format, with eight Opening Round sites of six teams each.

NEW for 2026-2027 – The NAIA World Series is an eight-team, double-elimination format, culminating in a best-of-three championship.

The eight Opening Round winners advance to the NAIA World Series, which is an eight-team, double-elimination format. Complete Opening Round team qualification, at-large selection, and seeding information is listed below –

2026-2027 NAIA Baseball Qualifying Plan

- 28 automatic berths for Affiliated Conferences/CAC/Unaffiliated Groups
- One Host Berth
- 19 at-large selections
- Affiliated Conferences and CAC will receive one automatic berth per six teams and two berths per 10 teams
- At-large qualifiers and Opening Round pairings will be determined by the NAIA Baseball Selection Committee
- The championship field will NOT be re-seeded between the Opening Rounds and the World Series.

Teams will be seeded #1 – #48 by the NAIA Baseball Selection Committee and assigned to an Opening Round site.

CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION APPEALS PROCESS

If there is a 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 within 24 hours 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-site at the selection 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 selection. The oversight committee will review ratings to prevent any ratings process violations or unethical use of the ratings process.

TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council (NAC) and the Council of Presidents (COP) have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate for traveling teams in Opening Round competition. Please contact Short's Travel (866-902-9654) to book your travel arrangements.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum amount of their transportation and housing expenses determined by the Council of Presidents (COP) prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round.

NAIA WORLD SERIES

DATES AND SITES

The NAIA World Series will be played at Harris Field in Lewiston, Idaho, from **May 28-June 5, 2026**.

ADMINISTRATION

The National Championship is planned and implemented by the NAIA Championships Department 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 National 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 "ABCA 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 Championships Department contracts eight umpires and a National Supervisor of Umpires to work the NAIA World Series. Umpires are evaluated by the Supervisor of Umpires and the Games Committee.

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

QUALIFICATION, SEEDING OF TEAMS AND TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The NAIA World Series is an 8-team, double-elimination format played in eight or nine days, featuring the eight Opening Round winners. The 48-team National Championship is seeded by the NAIA Baseball Selection Committee (after Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group qualifying tournaments).

The 8 World Series teams will be placed in the bracket according to their original seed (#1 – #48). The bracket will NOT be re-seeded after the Opening Round.

NEW for 2026-2027 – Only the top eight seeds will be publicly announced and assigned as Opening Round host/pod seeds. The winner of each Opening Round bracket will automatically advance into the corresponding seeded position in the NAIA World Series bracket (e.g., the winner of the No. 3 Opening Round advances as the No. 3 seed in the World Series bracket).

GAME TIMES

The host organization, the NAIA Championships Department and the Games Committee 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, and the NAC-approved Opening Round and World Series Weather Contingency Plan is enacted. There will be a minimum of three hours between published game times.

TEAM TRAVEL/REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

The National Administrative Council and the Council of Presidents have approved a flat fee reimbursement rate for traveling teams in the Opening Round competition. For those institutions that require air travel to the World Series, please contact Short's Travel (816-323-6405) to book your travel arrangements.

Traveling teams will be responsible for a minimum amount of their transportation and housing expenses determined by the Council of Presidents (COP) prior to being eligible for expense reimbursement for participation in NAIA Baseball National Championship Opening Round.

TEAM 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 World Series.

PARTICIPATION IN FUNCTIONS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All participating teams and individuals competing in a National Championship must attend all functions including, but not limited to – Parade of Champions, coaches meetings and student-athlete experience event. Failure to comply will result in a penalty of a \$1,500 fine to the institution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If inclement weather should cause travel delays for any team(s) competing in the World Series, it will be up to the discretion of the NAIA Championship Sport Manager and the Games Committee to make changes to the World Series bracket to accommodate such delays.

It is the responsibility of the host Medical Director/Athletic Trainer at NAIA Championship events to determine when an event should be suspended and when it is safe to return to play as the result of severe weather. The AT is to notify the NAIA Championship



Sport Manager who, in collaboration with the appropriate personnel (i.e. Games Committee) will implement the predetermined action plan for both player and spectator safety.

GAME UMPIRES

Eight umpires will be selected to work the NAIA Baseball World Series, and will work in four-man crews. The process will consist of Conference Assignors nominating umpires for selection, while the NAIA National Assignor will consider all nominations and select the eight umpires. The on-site Coordinator of Umpires will make all game assignments, while the Games Committee will help with written assessments that are submitted to the Coordinator of Umpires. Six umpires will work the semifinals and National Championship (and possible "if necessary" game). The NCAA Baseball Rules (with applicable NAIA modifications) are utilized for all games.

RELATED INFORMATION

Prior to both the Opening Rounds and the 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.

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 National Supervisor of Umpires.

Banquet – The opening banquet will be held at the Lewis-Clark State College Activity Center.

Opening Ceremonies – Opening Ceremonies involving all 8 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 hosts for each of the teams. Honorary coaches sit with their teams at the field and are generally available to assist teams during their stay in Lewiston. Teams are requested to provide 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.

Hotel Checkout – Following their last game, team head coaches or authorized representatives are required to check out at their assigned hotel with 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.

Awards – Team trophies are presented to the champion, runner-up, and semi-finalist finishers. Additionally, awards are presented to the NAIA World Series All-Tournament Team (16), Most Valuable Player, Championship Gold Glove Award winner, Hank Burbridge Champions of Character award, 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:

TRAVEL

SHORTS TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Qualifying institutions are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to the National Championship. Please contact **Short's Travel (816-323-6405)** to book your travel arrangements.

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

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.

Click [here](#) for account setup and instructions to use code.



MASTER'S TRANSPORTATION

Master's Transportation is the official provider of all shuttles/buses for your sale, lease and rental needs. Please contact Maria Duran at **(816) 979-3493** or mduran@MastersTransportation.com for more information.

NAIA POLICY HANDBOOK INFORMATION

The NAIA Policy Handbook can be found at [HERE](#). 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 B Item 7
- H. Drug Testing and Reinstatement Procedures – Bylaws, Article VIII

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 Assistance – Bylaws, Article II, Section B
- D. Financial Aid Limits – Council of Presidents, Article XII

SUNDAY POLICY PLAY

As a matter of policy, NAIA Opening Round and National Championship competition will not be scheduled on Sunday. See NAIA Policy Handbook, National Administrative Council, Article XXIII for additional information.

DRUG TESTING

Drug testing may be done at any randomly selected NAIA National Championship competition for performance enhancing drugs. In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Drug Testing and Education Committee, the National Office will select which championships will incorporate drug testing each year. Student-athletes may be tested before, during and/or after NAIA National Championships.

For more information regarding championship drug testing including the [Drug Testing Info Sheet](#) the safety of supplements and over-the-counter medications and resources to increase awareness on your campus, please visit – <https://www.naia.org/student-athletes/current/wellness-center/>

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

Each academic year all eligible NAIA student-athletes must sign a [Drug Testing Consent Form](#) in which he or she consents to be tested for the use of drugs prohibited by the NAIA Banned Substance List to participate in any NAIA National Championship competitions. This consent form shall be administered by the institution.

To ensure all student-athletes participating in NAIA National Championship competitions have signed a consent form and such form is on record with the institution, a representative of each institution participating in any NAIA National Championship competition must sign an Official Certification of Student-Athlete Consent Form at check-in.

It is recommended that before the season begins that an institution has all student-athletes complete the form to minimize the possibility of issues occurring when the postseason roster is submitted at a NAIA National Championship.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION FORM

The NAIA recognizes that some banned substances are used for legitimate medical purposes. Accordingly, the NAIA allows exemptions to be made for those student-athletes with a documented medical history demonstrating the need for regular use of such a drug. Exemptions may be granted for substances included in the following classes of banned drugs – Stimulants, anabolic agents, beta blockers, diuretics, peptide hormones, anti-estrogens, and beta-2 agonists.

[Medical Exemption Form](#)

COACHES ASSOCIATION

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 (July 1 -June 30) and provide the leadership for the Association. The NAIA-BCA studies and makes recommendations through legislation of all actions 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.

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.

NAIA-BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS (One-Year Terms)

President		
Luther Bramblett	Midway University (Ky.)	lbramblett@midway.edu
First Vice President		
Ryan Goodwin	Baker University (Kan.)	Ryan.Goodwin@bakeru.edu
Second Vice President		
Addison Rouse	Warner University (Fla.)	addison.rouse@warner.edu
Secretary		
Jesse Trask	Freed-Hardeman University (Tenn.)	jtrask@fhu.edu
Past President		
Corby McGlauflin	Briar Cliff University (Iowa)	Corby.McGlaulin@briarcliff.edu
NAC Liaison		
Troy Plummer	Grand View University (Iowa)	tplummer@grandview.edu
ABCA Liaison		
Brian Michalak	University of St. Francis (Ill.)	bmichalak@stfrancis.edu



NAIA BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION & 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

The 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/CAC/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. The one-year term begins on July 1 of that same year.

Section 2

There shall be an Executive Committee of the NAIA-BCA, which is composed of the following members: NAIA-BCA officers, current conference/CAC/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, 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 will also be a member of the Council for Student-Athletes (CSA) as requested. 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/CAC/Unaffiliated Group chairs. 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 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.

REPORTING RESULTS AND STATISTICS

REPORTING RESULTS/SUBMITTING SCORES

Mandated by the NAC, all contest results must be reported to the NAIA Stats site (via Presto Stats) within 24 hours of completion and final statistics within 72 hours 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 to be included in the national statistical website or leaderboards.

Institutions failing to report statistics or 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.

STATISTICS

An in-season, weekly national statistical report is produced utilizing Presto Stats for the sport of Baseball. To be eligible for the statistical report, a student-athlete must play in 75-percent of 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 and by the NAIA Athletics Communications & Media Department.

It is strongly recommended that the host institution be responsible for both teams' official statistics. The home team must notify the opposing team at least 72 hours prior to the 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 sports 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 www.ncaa.org, go to the Baseball page and the Statistician's Manual link – [Click Here](#)

AWARDS

NATIONAL PLAYER/NATIONAL PITCHER OF THE WEEK

An NAIA National Player and Pitcher of the Week will be selected by the NAIA Department of Athletics Communications & Media. Nominations must be made by an Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Sports Information Director from Players/Pitchers of the Week in their Conference/Group. The National Office will **NOT** accept nominations from anyone but the affiliated conference SID or designated representative. Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Groups may nominate only one athlete per award for national consideration.

ALL-AMERICA

NAIA All-America honors in Baseball consist of a 17-man first team, a 17-man second team, and a 17-man third team. The third team may exceed the numbers of first and second teams to include conference players of the year not selected as one of the 17-member first, second, or third teams. The All-America Selection Committee is responsible for administering the selection procedures at the site and prior to the start of the National Championship. 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.

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARD

Each participating team shall nominate one student-athlete who has shown a documented display of exemplary character and sportsmanship during competition, on campus, and in the community that exemplifies the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship, and Servant Leadership.

NAIA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

Criteria for the NAIA Scholar-Athlete Award are as follows:

1. Nominee must be a sophomore or above in academic standing;
2. Nominee must have been in attendance at the nominating institution one full academic year at the time of the nomination deadline (April 15)
3. 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).
4. Nominee has been certified as eligible and is listed on the eligibility certificate submitted to conference eligibility chair.
5. Nomination form is complete and submitted through NAIA Connect.
6. All the above information is to be received by **April 15** 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.

NAIA Scholar-Athlete nominations will be filled out via the NAIA Connect admin website at <https://www.naiacconnect.org/s/login/>.

NAIA Connect is the only way to nominate student-athletes as a NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

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.

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. To be eligible for listing on website, honors database or receive a certificate, forms **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY April 15**. LATE nominations will not be accepted.

RED BANNER SCHOLAR AWARD

New in 2026-27: The Red Banner Scholar Award recognizes the highest level of academic achievement among student-athletes competing at each NAIA National Championship Final Site. The award celebrates the NAIA's commitment to developing champions in the classroom, character, and competition by honoring the student-athlete(s) with the highest cumulative institutional grade point average participating in the national championship.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Red Banner Scholar Award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be listed on the official active championship roster (team sports) or be an official qualifier and active participant (individual sports) at the NAIA National Championship Final Site.
2. Be recognized as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the applicable academic year.
3. Meet all established NAIA Scholar-Athlete eligibility requirements and be submitted through the official NAIA Scholar-Athlete nomination process by the applicable sport deadline.

Selection Process

The NAIA National Office will determine the recipient(s) using approved NAIA Scholar-Athlete data.

- The eligible student-athlete with the highest cumulative institutional GPA at the national championship final site will receive the Red Banner Scholar Award.
- In the event of a tie for the highest GPA, all tied student-athletes will be recognized as co-recipients.
- No additional nomination is required beyond the NAIA Scholar-Athlete submission process.

SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD

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

The deadline for Scholar Team nominations is **June 30**. Download the **NAIA Scholar Team Award Form** [HERE](#).

RAWLINGS-NAIA COACH AND PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Each Affiliated Conference/CAC/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 all Affiliated Conference/CAC/Unaffiliated Group Coach of the Year winners and 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 NAIA World Series.

HANK BURBRIDGE CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER PLAYER AWARD

The Hank Burbridge Champions of Character Individual Award will be selected by the Games Committee at the annual NAIA World Series.

The individual player award will be given to a recipient of one of the 8 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 National Championship. 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.

ROBERT E. "ISH" SMITH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

The NAIA maintains a standardized awards program for its national championship, with awards provided to the official parties of the top four teams. A 16-member All-Tournament Team, including the Most Valuable Player and Outstanding Defensive Player Award, is selected by participating media members, with input from the tournament committee. The Most Valuable Player and outstanding Defensive Player Award are included as part of the 16-member All-Tournament Team. The Charlie Hustle Awards and Hank Burbridge Champions of Character Player Award are also presented during the awards ceremony.

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