



NCAA Division II Softball Committee Annual Report - December 2019

1. 2020-21 National Governing Softball Committee Members.

Dean Johnson, chair Head Softball Coach/Associate Director of Athletics Caldwell University Term expires September 2022	East Region	Patrick Peasant Head Softball Coach/Assistant AD Miles College Term expires September 2021	South Region
Allie Kolezynski Assistant Commissioner Mountain East Conference Term expires September 2023	Atlantic Region	Donna Fields Head Softball Coach/SWA St. Mary's University (TX) Term expires September 2022	South Central Region
Jason Anderson Head Softball Coach Southern Arkansas University Term expires September 2024	Central Region	TBD	Southeast Region
Rob Fournier Director of Athletics Wayne State University (Michigan) Term expires September 2021	Midwest Region	Rebekah Gasner Compliance Coordinator/SWA Montana State University Billings Term expires September 202	West Region

2. 2020-21 Softball Sponsorship.

Division I – 301; Division II – 282; Division III – 409 (Note: These numbers include provisional and reclassifying members.)

3. Future Championship Dates and Sites.

To access future dates and sites for the championship, please use this link to filter to the correct sport, year and division. This is the most up-to-date listing of dates and sites: <http://www.ncaa.org/championships/ncaa-championships-schedule>.

4. Dates for 2021 Division II Softball Championship. The 2021 championship will take place May 27-31 at the Regency Athletic Complex in Denver.

Selection Announcement:	Monday, May 10 (10 a.m. Eastern)
Regionals:	May 13-15
Super Regionals:	May 20-21
Championship:	May 27-31

5. Selection Requirements. The following criteria shall be employed by a governing sports committee in selecting participants for NCAA championship competition [Bylaw 31.3.3; Criteria for Selection of Participants]: A team must have a .500 overall Division II record or above to be selected. Selection of teams shall be completed by Sunday, May 9. The softball committee will select eight teams from each region to participate in the championship. The softball committee shall have full authority to select the teams to compete in the respective regional tournaments. Each conference shall appoint regional advisory committees (RACs) to assist in evaluating teams, but recommendations of the advisory committee members are not binding on the softball committee.

- Availability of student-athletes for NCAA championships;
- Nullification;
- In-region winning percentage;
- Division II winning percentage;
- Division II strength of schedule;
- Division II head-to-head competition; and
- Results versus Division II common opponents.

The Division II Softball Committee has received approval from the Division II Championships Committee to consider the following criteria in the selection of at-large teams for the Division II Softball Championship (not in priority order):

- Results vs. ranked Division II opponents;
- In-region Ratings Percentage Index (RPI); and
- Division II results vs. teams with a winning record.

All selection criteria are weighted equally. Additionally, input is provided by regional advisory committees for consideration by the Division II Softball Committee. Coaches' polls and/or any other outside polls or rankings are not used by the Division II Softball Committee for selection purposes. Additionally, conference standings are not used as part of the selection criteria.

6. **2020-21 Adjustments due to COVID-19.** The following adjustments have been made to the 2020-21 softball season and championship due to COVID-19.

- Bat testing will be delayed and will become mandatory beginning January 1, 2022.
- Recommendation by championships committee has been made to reduce bracket to 48 teams for the 2020 championship. This is not final and must continue through the governance structure for approval. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- All preliminary sites will be predetermined and will be selected through a bid process.
- Minimum number of contests in order to be eligible for the 2020 championship has been reduced to 16.
- There will be no banquets at the 2020 championship.

7. **The Championships Committee Took the Following Actions on 2020 Committee Recommendations:**

- Approved Lee University, University of North Georgia and the Chattanooga Sports Commission to host the 2023, 2025 and 2026 championships in Chattanooga, Tennessee at Frost Stadium at Warner Park.
- Approved the following 23 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2020-21 academic year: California Collegiate Athletic Association; Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Conference Carolinas; East Coast Conference; Great American Conference; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Great Lakes Valley Conference; Great Midwest Athletic Conference; Great Northwest Athletic Conference; Gulf South Conference; Lone Star Conference; Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Mountain East Conference; Northeast-10 Conference; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Pacific West Conference; Peach Belt Conference; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference; South Atlantic Conference; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Sunshine State Conference.
- Approved the clarification to the date formula (clarification in bold) to read "Regionals are Thursday through Saturday before super regionals. Super regionals are Thursday and Friday before finals. Finals **begin the Thursday before Memorial Day (Thursday-Monday) and end on Memorial Day (Thursday-Monday).**"
- Approved a recommendation to increase the number of individuals allowed in the dugout from 26 to 28. The NCAA reimbursable travel party remains at 26 and the number of athletes allowed in uniform remains at 24.
- Additionally, the Division II Championships Committee voted to extend a pilot program in football, men's and women's basketball and softball for 2020-21 preliminary round hosts to allow pregame promotions before remaining neutral in-game. Please refer to this ["do's and don'ts"](#) document for further guidelines.

8. **Annual Meeting.** The national softball committee's 2020 annual meeting will take place **June 15-16** virtually. If you have an issue you would like the national softball committee to discuss, please forward it in writing to the NCAA championship manager by **June 1, 2021.**

This annual report is provided by the NCAA Division II National Softball Committee to outline key actions taken by the softball committee and the Division II Championships Committee during the past year and to provide general information regarding the softball championship. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact a member of the softball committee or the NCAA championship manager.