NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Baseball

Division I

Baseball

I. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

A. Administration
The NCCAA Division I Baseball National Championship and all events related thereto are under the control and supervision of the NCCAA Division I Baseball coaches and are subject to standards developed by these respective coaches and subsequent approval of the NCCAA Board of Directors. These standards shall receive annual review and approval by the National Sport Committee.

B. National Sport Committee for Baseball
1. Composition and Term of Office
   a. The National Baseball Committee shall consist of the National Baseball Chair (who serves as chair of the committee), the National Baseball Vice-Chair, and the Regional Baseball Chairs. A National Office representative shall serve as a non-voting member.
   b. The National Baseball Chair shall serve a three-year term of office and shall be succeeded by the National Baseball Vice-Chair.
2. Election
   a. The Regional Coaches, in conjunction with the Regional Coordinator, shall conduct an election of the Regional Baseball Chair to the National Baseball Committee at an appropriate time. The term of office for the Regional Baseball Chair shall be determined by each individual region.
   b. If a vacancy occurs on the National Baseball Committee, the National Baseball Chair shall, in coordination with the Regional Coordinator and upon approval of the National Baseball Committee, appoint a replacement or conduct an election.
3. Duties of the National Baseball Committee (see Bylaws section)
   a. Represent the interests of coaches and student-athletes to the National Baseball Committee.
   b. Propose revisions of the National Baseball Championship operating policies and procedures to the Board of Directors.
   c. Assist in solicitation of bids for future championship sites.
   d. Submit the top players in each region as All-American nominees.
4. Duties of the National Baseball Chair (also see National Sport Chair Job Description in Forms & Procedures section)
   a. Initiate, direct, and control the work of the National Baseball Committee.
   b. Communicate with the National Baseball Committee on issues requiring their input.
   c. Conduct meetings of the coaches and the committee at the National Championship to provide opportunities for questions, suggestions, and recommendations regarding the conduct of the championships.
   d. Supervise and assist the Tournament Director of the National Championship with planning and conducting the National Championship.
   e. Invite coaches of all NCCAA participating institutions to the coaches' meeting and request agenda items.
   f. Submit proposed revisions of the operating procedures (Baseball section of the NCCAA Handbook) to the NCCAA Director of Membership by the deadlines listed in the National Handbook Proposal Process.
   g. Assist Regional Coordinators in selecting Regional Sport Chairs as needed.

C. National Championship Committee
1. Membership
   a. The committee shall be composed of the Tournament Director of the National Championship, the National Baseball Chair or his/her appointee from the National Baseball Committee, and the NCCAA Director of Championships or an NCCAA National Office representative.
   b. If a member of the Championship Committee is directly or indirectly involved in a submitted protest, this individual shall be replaced by an appointee of the National Baseball Chair.
   c. Three members must be present for action to be taken.
2. Responsibilities
   a. Ethical Behavior
      1) Observe the behavior of the student-athletes, coaches, and other team personnel for the duration of the National Championship.
      2) Promote standards of ethical behavior during competitive events and throughout the championship. This can be accomplished by general reminders to individuals and teams during the championship and reinforced by more specific communication. If unacceptable behavior occurs, this

committee has the right and obligation to act on the issue. This may include a reprimand with official notice to the institution in conjunction with and via the NCCAA Director of Membership.

b. Write a report of all cases on which this committee acts.
c. Make on-site decisions concerning extenuating circumstances that affect the conduct of the championship (e.g., extreme weather conditions).
d. Make sure all teams follow the NCCAA #KingChasing Code of Ethics signed by coaches and the NCCAA #KingChasing Commitment by student-athletes (on file in the National Office).

3. Protests
   a. Ensure that protest procedures, as indicated in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA with NAIA modifications) Rulebook, have been followed.
   b. Act on all appropriate protests.

D. Election of Sport Chair and Vice-Chair
A National Baseball Chair and a Vice-Chair are elected to serve 3-year terms. The Vice-Chair replaces the National Baseball Chair after 3 years to serve as the National Baseball Chair. Selection must be by more than 50% of the total number of coaches in the NCCAA and shall be conducted by email vote.

E. Officers
Chair: Tony Hurla, Kansas Christian College
Vice-Chair: Joe Blackwell, Southwestern Christian University

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Institution Eligibility
Only teams that are in good standing with the NCCAA shall be eligible. Good standing shall include all dues paid in full and free from any sanctions imposed by the NCCAA restricting institutional eligibility.

B. Team Eligibility
All NCCAA member institutions must file a completed Declaration of Intent to Participate form by August 15 for all varsity sports with the National Office (see Forms & Procedures section).

C. Individual Eligibility
NCCAA only member institutions must file an affidavit of eligibility (see Eligibility section) to the NCCAA Director of Membership no later than the date of their first contest (including scrimmage). Dual members with CCAA, NAIA, NCAA II, and NCAA III confirm eligibility is being filed for all sports in compliance with their primary affiliation on the Membership Directory & Dues Form.

III. PLAYING RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Official Rule Book
Baseball: NCAA baseball rule book with NAIA Baseball Coaches Association modifications. (See Appendix F.)
To obtain rules, visit www.ncaapublications.com.

B. Bat testing is required for all NCCAA competition during regular and postseason play. See the full policy in Appendix H.

C. Statistics
Complete and accurate statistical information must be submitted to the NCCAA in the form of .XML game files, following the steps outlined at www.thenccaa.org/helpcenter and using only one of the approved statistical programs (DakStats, Genius Sports, PrestoSports, StatCrew, or StatInput). Game files must be submitted to the NCCAA within 24 hours after the game and visiting team appeals are required to be filed with the home team within 48 hours following the conclusion of the contest. However, the mandatory deadline for weekly game files to be uploaded to the NCCAA website is Tuesday at noon ET. Any amount of missing game files in a week shall count as a missed report. Any game files submitted from a non-approved statistical program shall count as a missed report. Once statistical reporting begins, missing or incomplete game schedules may result in multiple penalties being issued at the discretion of the National Office.

The penalties for not reporting statistics or for being late are:
1. 1st offense: email or letter of notice of the violation.

2. 2nd offense: email or letter of warning of the violation.
3. 3rd offense: $100 fine paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice or before Regional Championships, whichever comes first.
4. 4th offense: $250 fine paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice or before Regional Championships, whichever comes first, a loss of postseason awards for the applicable athletes and/or team, the team shall become ineligible for statistical reports and ratings for the remainder of the season, and any further penalties at the discretion of the Administration Committee (e.g., ineligible for postseason play).

It is the responsibility of each institution to contact the National Office regarding any technical problems experienced in submitting weekly statistics. Proper communication can prevent team penalties.

Regular Season Neutral Site Tournament Statistics: The host institution of regular Season tournaments (e.g., classic, tri-match, or any multi-team event of the like that an institution hosts, regardless of venue or if the host institution is competing) is responsible for recording official statistics, for all participating teams, for those sports in which a weekly national statistical report is conducted. Missing statistics from a regular season tournament shall be considered a missing statistical report for the host institution, regardless if the host competed (other participants of the tournament shall not be considered to have a missed stats report the first week, but the following week shall be considered to have missed a statistical report if still missing). Note: If the host sent files to opponents and opponents failed to update the files in time, the host shall not be penalized.

Postseason Statistics: NCCAA members must upload files by the weekly deadline for all postseason play (conference tournament, regional championship, national championship, etc.). In NCCAA postseason play, it is the responsibility of the host to record official statistics and the responsibility of the higher seed to upload files. Failure to upload files by the weekly deadline is subject to penalty, including fines.

D. National Ranking
1. The coaches' poll voting shall be conducted by the National Chair, in conjunction with regional representatives, and be reported to the NCCAA Director of Communications.
2. Each Regional Sport Chair shall be the region rater and voter.
3. Regional raters are responsible for submitting region ratings to the National Chair, who shall then send out all region ratings to voters. Raters should include explanation/summary as to why teams are rated where they are. Raters may work to get feedback from region teams when developing the region ratings.
4. Regional raters shall then select the top 10 teams nationally and send to the National Chair. The National Chair shall tally all votes and must send the final ranking along with each regional rating to the NCCAA Director of Communications by 11:00 a.m. (ET) each Tuesday that has a ranking.
5. When casting votes for the national rankings, voters must follow the order of the regional ratings.
6. Ties shall be broken by:
   a. Number of ballot appearances;
   b. Most votes in highest place; and
   c. Winning percentage.

   The team winning the tie-breaker shall receive one additional point.
7. There shall be bi-weekly rankings through the conclusion of the regular season, with a final postseason ranking the week following the National Championship.
8. The National Office serves as the oversight committee.

E. NCCAA Power Rating System
1. See Appendix D for the NCCAA Power Rating System.
2. Each member institution must meet all statistical requirements (see Section III.C above).
3. There shall be a total of three consecutive weeks of power ratings, with the final power rating released on the Wednesday one week prior to the Regional Completion Deadline. If a team has regular season games after the final power rating, the final power rating shall be updated with the additional regular season dates for the National Baseball Committee to use in selection and seeding.

F. Official Speed-Up and Championship Rules Mandatory for NCCAA Regional and National Championships
1. There shall be a 10-minute warm-up period for each team between games. A National Baseball Committee member shall be charged with timing the warm-up. Home team shall take infield practice first.
2. Teams transitioning out after their game is complete should remove all gear and conduct any team meetings outside of the field area to allow the next game teams to begin their warmup.

3. Infielders shall be allowed to throw the ball around infield while the pitcher takes five warm-up pitches. RECOMMENDATION: The pitcher in the game is permitted to use the bullpen between innings to stay loose if he does not delay the start of the next half-inning.
4. Relief pitchers shall be allowed eight warm-up pitches when entering a game.
5. Batter must be on deck when his turn at bat comes around.
6. On an intentional walk, the batter is waved to first base (no pitches to be thrown).
7. ENFORCE the 20-second rule: The pitcher shall deliver the ball or make a play, or an attempted play, within 20 seconds after receiving the ball.
8. Umpire shall insist that both the pitcher and batter be ready in a reasonable time. If not, they shall be penalized. If the batter delays, the umpire shall instruct the pitcher to pitch and shall call "strike" on each such pitch. If the pitcher delays, a "ball" shall be called under normal pitching rules.
9. The 10-Run Rule shall be in effect at the end of seven innings or any inning thereafter. This is applicable only to the first complete round of play, including the loser's bracket games in the Regional Championships.
10. All batters/runners are required to wear a double earflap helmet. The same helmet, worn while batting, shall be worn on the base paths.
11. It is mandatory that teams use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher with two men out in all championship games. With less than two outs, this rule is optional. NOTE: A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. If the pitcher is also designated hitter for the game, a courtesy runner is allowed. A player removed from the line-up may not be used as a courtesy runner.
12. A pitcher is permitted to go to his mouth on the dirt portion of the mound if he is not on the rubber and that he wipes off before going to the rubber.

G. Frequency of Play and Practice Guidelines

Each sport in the NCCAA has 24 weeks between August 1 and May 15 to conduct practices and competitions. Each sport has a maximum and minimum number of contests in the regular season. Baseball has a maximum of 50 contests and a minimum of 16 contests. Each sport has a specified date to begin practice and to conduct its first contest. Baseball's start date for practices, scrimmages, and exhibitions is September 1 or the start of the institution's fall term, whichever is earlier. Baseball is permitted two scrimmage dates plus three additional scrimmage dates to be conducted before the end of the fall term. The first allowable contest is the Thursday of the last full weekend in January. More details can be found in the Sport Policies and Procedures section of the NCCAA Handbook.

H. Rules Education

All coaches, new and returning, must complete an annual online rules education training program. For NCCAA-only members, this includes all paid and voluntary head, associate, assistant, and graduate assistant coaches. For dually affiliated members, this includes all head coaches. New coaches must complete the required training within the first 60 days of hire or prior to the coach's first competition, whichever is earlier. Returning coaches and staff members must complete the required training prior to the earliest start date for competition for any sport sponsored by the institution. More details can be found online at the NCCAA Member Help Center.

IV. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR POSTSEASON COMPETITION

A. Site and Date

1. Bids to host the NCCAA Division I Baseball National Championship shall be submitted to the National Office and reviewed by the National Baseball Chair. All necessary information pertaining to the National Championship Bid Contract is answered in the Forms & Procedures section.
2. Dates of the National Championship for the upcoming years are as follows:

Regionals Completed	National Championship	Site
May 15, 2027	May 22-26, 2027	Kansas City Urban Youth Academy
May 13, 2028	May 20-24, 2028	TBA
May 12, 2029	May 19-23, 2029	TBA
May 11, 2030	May 18-22, 2030	TBA
May 10, 2031	May 17-21, 2031	TBA

3. All Regional Championships are to be completed by the Saturday evening prior to the National Championship. Extensions can be granted due to weather issues. Regional Championships may be completed earlier if agreed upon by members within each region. Regions may choose whatever format is most expedient for the number of teams participating but must send a copy of their Regional Championship pairings to the National Baseball Chair and the NCCAA Director of Championships. The NCCAA Power Rating System shall be used for regional seeding. Regions are required to accommodate institutions' conference postseason (within

NAIA/NCAA) when scheduling NCCAA Regional Championships. If conference postseason dates leave no time for NCCAA Regional Championships, regional leadership shall work in conjunction with the National Office to determine a plan.

B. General Guidelines

1. National Championship Broadcasting
   The NCCAA owns exclusive rights for all broadcasts (television, webcast, radio, etc.). When the NCCAA produces a webcast, no institution or entity is allowed to produce a webcast. All institutions interested in producing a broadcast of any kind must first obtain written approval from the NCCAA Director of Communications. Approval is not guaranteed. More information, including rights fees, is in the Sports Policies and Procedures section. Each qualifying team must submit the following in the team's folder in the Google Drive five days prior to the championship: Up to date full season stats (individual & team), schedule with results, story lines for broadcasters, a TRO roster file, and action photos.
2. Championship Administration
   To ensure proper administration, transportation and expenses to the National Championship shall be reimbursed for the National Baseball Chair in accordance with the reimbursement policy. (Flight must be scheduled 21 days in advance.) The Vice-Chair's transportation and expenses shall be paid if the National Baseball Chair's team is involved in the National Championship. If both the National Baseball Chair and the Vice-Chair's teams are in the National Championship, an NCCAA head baseball coach of a team not in the National Championship may be designated to act as the Championship Administrator. When two fields are used, it is recommended to have an additional coach or baseball leader to administrate the second field.
3. Required Functions to Attend
   Teams that advance to the Baseball National Championship are required to attend and participate in the National Championship Banquet, the Christian Service Project, the Coaches Meeting, and Contests. Arriving late to the championship or not attending/participating in these required functions shall be considered failure to comply with its Declaration of Intent to Participate. The sanction for failure to comply with the Declaration of Intent to Participate is the sport being placed on Restrictive Probation for the following academic year with the potential for additional penalties up to all sports at that institution being placed on Restrictive Probation.
4. National Championship Banquet
   There shall be a championship banquet on the Friday evening prior to the National Championship. All teams are required to participate, and awards shall be presented.
5. National Championship Housing
   All teams are required to lodge in the hotel(s) designated by the host institution, the NCCAA National Office, or city for this championship. Lodging at an unapproved location shall be considered failure to comply with its Declaration of Intent to Participate and shall result in loss of eligibility for championship travel reimbursement in addition to a fine of $1,000.
6. National Championship Christian Service Project (CSP)
   Each player and coach participating in the National Championship shall be asked to donate up to, but not more than, two hours of his time to serve in a CSP. The host Tournament Director of the National Championship, in concert with the NCCAA Director of Championships, is responsible to secure the sites and set up the times for the service.
7. Roster Size and Official Traveling Party
   The official party is made up of participants, defined as student-athletes, coaches, managers, athletic trainers, additional student-athletes not in uniform, and any staff member who travels with a competing team.

   The official party for each team participating in NCCAA National Baseball Championship competition is 34 individuals, which includes 28 student-athletes in uniform and 6 additional personnel (which can include coaches, managers, athletic trainers, sports information staff, additional student-athletes not in uniform, bullpen catcher, and/or other institutional personnel) to be used at the discretion of each participating institution. Only members of the official travel party shall be permitted in the team areas and/or dugout.

   Each qualifying team must submit the following in the team's folder in the Google Drive 10 days prior to the championship: Official team roster and travel party on Google Docs Form (completely filled out), high resolution team photo, player headshots, and any other requested information.

   A player may be replaced on the official roster between the Regional Championship and the NCCAA National Championship by any eligible player whose name is included on the Official Eligibility Form for the current season.

When a roster is submitted to the NCCAA National Office, it shall serve as the Official Roster for the National Championship competition.

a. Each head coach can amend his/her roster with the NCCAA Director of Championships at the championship coaches meeting on site.
b. Once the coaches' meeting is concluded, a team's roster shall be deemed certified, and no changes can be made for the duration of the championship.
c. Once the championship begins, no player may play that is not on the official roster with no exceptions including the event of injury, illness, or family emergency.
d. Additional people (which can include coaches, managers, athletic trainers, sports information staff, additional student-athletes not in uniform, and/or other institutional personnel) must also be registered on the Official Roster to be permitted in the team only areas.
e. Any additional university personnel above the travel and roster numbers need to be outside of official championships areas (e.g., dugout, bullpen, batting cages, etc.), and the university shall assume any additional cost associated with additional numbers to the travel party.

8. Umpires
The Tournament Director of the National Championship shall secure all the officials for the National Championship. The Tournament Director of the National Championship shall assign umpires for all games through, and including, the finals. Umpires shall be NCAA or NAIA rated umpires. A minimum of three officials shall be provided for National Championship games (unless the schedule is altered by rain).
9. Home and Away Team Determination for each game shall be decided as follows:
The home team shall occupy the third base dugout with the exception that the same team that played in the previous game already is occupying a dugout. Said team shall NOT move dugouts. Existing protocol shall be followed as to which team is designated home or away.

In the first round of games in the NCCAA National Championship, the home team shall be the higher seed. In subsequent games, the home team shall be determined according to the following procedures by the championship committee:

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 shall 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; or
    2) If the two teams have met previously in that 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 shall 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.

NOTE 1: In an "if-necessary" game, the teams shall reverse home and away designation regardless of the above guidelines but remain in the same dugout and same uniforms. All other games: flip of the coin with higher seed calling.

d. The host institution shall be given the opportunity to:
    1) Choose which field they play on for their first tournament game. Home and away protocol shall apply.
    2) Occupy the dugout of their choosing throughout the tournament on the field chosen in d.1. above (only if the tournament site is the host institution's regular season home field). Home and away protocol shall apply.

NOTE 2: If the same team that played in the previous game is already occupying the dugout chosen in d.2., said team shall NOT move dugouts.

10. Thirty minutes shall be allowed between games and follow the 10 minute-10 minute-10 minute format. If requested, infield shall be home team first 30 minutes prior to first pitch and visiting team 10 minutes immediately following home team I/O's.
11. Championship Reimbursement Policy
A Championship reimbursement fund called Future Generations shall reimburse member schools for championship expenses when teams qualify. The amounts and policy guidelines are listed in the Sports Policies and Procedures section of the NCCAA Handbook.

12. The schedule of games and/or matches shall be determined in conjunction with the National Chair, the Tournament Director of the National Championship, and the NCCAA National Office. Preference shall be given to the higher seeded teams to advance with the most amount of rest and/or best playing conditions. Game times and dates may be adjusted to accommodate any Seventh Day Adventist member institution's Sabbath or rain delays.
13. Rainout Policy
    a. Every effort shall be made to complete the championship as structured.
    b. If rainouts occur and result in the cancellation of a partial day, full day, or multiple days, the Championship Committee, in conjunction with the host and the National Office, shall determine any adjustments to the schedule and/or format.
    c. Possible adjustments include:
        1) Adjusting the schedule to retain the double elimination format.
        2) Adding a day to retain the double elimination format.
        3) Changing to a single elimination format.
        4) Adding a day to complete the single elimination format.
    d. If the National Championship is completely rained out, it shall be considered no contest.
    e. If the final two days of the tournament are rained out and adjustments cannot be made, the National Champion shall be the number one seed unless the team has been defeated. Should the number one seed be in the loser's bracket, the National Champion shall be selected by the following criteria:
        1) Head-to-head competition.
        2) Higher seed in the National Championship.
    f. The Championship Committee reserves the right to adjust times of the schedule as needed due to weather considerations. When rainouts occur, the Championship Committee, in conjunction with the host and National Office, shall make every attempt to utilize a possible adjustment but shall make the best decision possible based on the circumstances.

C. Championship Team Selection
1. Teams included shall be the champions, representative, or qualifier of each region, the host institution, and the number of at-large bids needed to make up a 10-team championship.

   The following regions would advance one team automatically to the National Championship:

Central – 1 Bid	South – 1 Bid
Mideast – 1 Bid	West – 1 Bid
Midwest – 1 Bid	Host – 1 Bid
North Central – 1 Bid	At-Large – 3 Bids

2. If a region has only one team available to participate in the Regional Championship or Regional Qualifier Process, that team shall be declared the Regional Representative and receive the region's automatic bid provided they have a record of .500 or better in addition to being declared to accept a Regional Representative bid.
3. The power rating shall be used in seeding for the Regional Championship or to determine the Regional Qualifier.
4. The host institution shall receive an automatic bid. An institution who is the host of an NCCAA National Championship may allow its team to participate in the National Championship if that team meets its institution's Declaration of Intent requirements. The host institution, via the Declaration of Intent process, can choose to accept an automatic bid to National Championships without competing in the Regional Championship or choose to participate in the Regional Championship to earn a place in the National Championship.
5. Teams Advancing to NAIA Championship Competition
   If a team is eliminated by the Tuesday of the NAIA National Championship opening round and the institution's Declaration of Intent permits it, the team may still participate in NCCAA championship competition if the time frame allows.
6. Selection of At-Large Bids
    a. The at-large bid request to be considered for the NCCAA National Championship is on the Declaration of Intent to Participate. Athletics Directors can list the conditions by which they shall accept an at-large bid on the Declaration of Intent to Participate. To be considered for an at-large bid, the team must have played in the NCCAA regional playoffs, made its declaration to be considered for the Regional Qualifier, or been exempt due to NAIA/NCAA conflicts. In regions that limit teams in their playoff format, teams that have met any institutional declaration requirement may be considered for an at-large bid.

b. If a team does not play in its NCCAA Regional Championship due to NAIA/NCAA conflicts, that team may be considered for an at-large bid if it was declared to participate in its NCCAA Regional Championship.
c. At-large bids shall be based on the NCCAA Power Rating System Option A (Power Ratings only). Teams within .250 rating points of each other shall switch places if they met during the regular season and the lower-rated team won the contest or series. Teams move only one place at a time, and movement is applied from bottom to top. This shall be reapplied as many times as necessary until no further changes in position take place. For an at-large selection, only teams eligible for an at-large selection shall be included in the list when determining teams within .250 rating points.

7. National Championship Seeding
   a. The championship seeding shall be the responsibility of the National Baseball Committee.
   b. The NCCAA Power Rating System (Appendix D) Option B shall be used to seed the championship field. The criteria to be used in the seeding from the a la carte options shall be the following (in order of importance):
      1) Head-to-head results
      2) Common opponents
      3) National rankings
   c. For a la carte items to be used, teams must be within .500 in power ratings and a team may only move up or down three places in power ratings.
   d. The National Baseball Committee, in conjunction with the National Office, can adjust seeding to avoid regional opponents playing each other in the first round (if possible), following the Regional Seeding Conflict Guidelines in the Sports Policies and Procedures section of the handbook.
8. Selection and seeding shall be determined via a conference or video call no later than the Sunday before the championship and includes the National Baseball Committee and a representative from the National Office.
9. Qualifier Packet and Qualifier Call
   The NCCAA Director of Championships, in concert with the Tournament Director of the National Championship and the National Sport Leadership, shall prepare a Qualifier Packet detailing key information about the championship event such as lodging information, schedule, CSP, and other important information. The Qualifier Packet shall be made available on the NCCAA website and sent to each qualifier. Additionally, a mandatory Qualifier Call shall be scheduled once all teams have qualified and before teams travel to the championship site.

D. National Championship Format
The NCCAA World Series is a 10-team double elimination format played in 4 days. All games shall be 9 inning games with a 10 run rule in 7 innings. The championship game shall be a 9 inning game without a run rule. See Appendix G for the brackets.

V. AWARDS

The NCCAA maintains a standardized awards program for all National Championships. Team, Most Outstanding Player, National Coach of the Year, and All-American awards are ordered and paid for by the National Office.

A. NCCAA All-Regional Awards
   a. The number of athletes on each All-Regional Team shall be equal to the number of athletes on each All-American Team, which for baseball is 12.
   b. Regional Player of the Year and Regional Pitcher of the Year must each be included in the number of athletes on the All-Regional Team, not a plus one in addition to it.
   c. Coaches may not vote for their own players, except when there are only one or two teams in the region.
   d. The maximum number of All-Regional Teams a region is permitted to have is based on the number of full members in the region that sponsor the sport, regardless of Declaration of Intent, and is listed in the Sports Policies and Procedures section of the handbook.
   e. The maximum number of athletes any team can have on each All-Regional Team (e.g., First Team, Second Team, etc.) is six for baseball.
   f. Regions cannot limit nominations based on regular season or postseason finish.
   g. Regions are permitted to have Honorable Mention.
   h. If a team does not participate in the nominating and/or voting process, that shall eliminate that team from the number of teams in the region when determining how many All-Regional teams there are. If a team nominates student-athletes but does not vote, that team's student-athletes shall not be included on All-Regional teams.

i. Regions must have tiebreaking procedures in place. Ties may not be submitted within the rank order for All-American purposes.
j. After the Regional Sport Chair has concluded the voting process and finalized the All-Regional Team(s), the chair shall submit the All-Regional Team(s) via Teamworks. The Regional Coordinator shall then review and approve the submission via Teamworks by the Wednesday prior to the Regional Completion Deadline.

B. NCCAA Regional Player and Pitcher of the Year

Each region shall select one Regional Player of the Year and one Pitcher of the Year from players nominated at the Regional Championship. Teams may nominate only one player for consideration for each honor. Coaches shall determine this award by vote at the Regional Championship. Regional Players of the Year and Pitchers of the Year shall be automatically selected to the All-American First Team. All-Regional certificates shall be awarded to the recipients from the National Office.

C. Championship Awards

The National Championship team shall receive a championship banner, trophy, medallions, and t-shirts. Teams finishing second through fourth shall receive a plaque designating their finish.

D. National Championship All-Tournament Team

A total of 10 players including Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament (with plaque) shall be selected to the All-Tournament Team during the National Championship. Each coach shall nominate the appropriate number of players from his/her team based on the team's final place in the championship. The number of players selected per team is as follows:

First Place team	1 player (plus the Most Outstanding Player)
Second Place through Eighth Place teams	1 player for each team

Additional player to be selected from champion or runner-up team by the National Championship Committee.

E. Hank Burbridge Award

1. Recipients of this award must:
   a. Have a clear Christian testimony both on and off the field, including Christian service activities.
   b. Be an excellent/highly skilled student-athlete.
   c. Be a junior, senior, or graduate student and a varsity team member.
   d. Demonstrate leadership ability.
   e. Possess a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale.
2. Purpose: To enhance the Christian purpose of athletic excellence in Christian athletic competition and to perpetuate the Christian philosophy and faith in evangelical Christian colleges and universities across our nation.
3. Procedures:
   a. Only one student-athlete per institution may be nominated by the head coach, Athletics Director, or Sports Information Director (SID).
   b. The nomination form (See Appendix C) must be used and submitted to the National Office by April 20.
   c. Final selection shall be made prior to the National Championship by a selection committee, comprised of the National Chair, National Vice-Chair, the Regional Sport Chairs, and the namesake of the award (if applicable). It is the responsibility of each committee member to recuse themselves from the vote and find a replacement voter if they have a direct bias toward a nominee. If there are three or more nominees, voters shall rank their top three with points allocated to athletes from highest to lowest (e.g., top athlete receives three points, second two, third one). All ties in voting shall be broken by the National Chair (or National Vice-Chair or his/her appointee pending recusals).
4. The recipient shall be encouraged to be present at the banquet. The National Office shall contribute up to $250 toward travel expenses.
5. The recipient of the Hank Burbridge award shall subsequently be a nominee for the year-end NCCAA GP4L Student-Athlete Character Award. It is encouraged that one letter of recommendation from an Athletic Director, opponent coach, or member of the institution faculty or staff be included with the nomination.

F. All-American Honors

All-American Teams shall be selected no later than the Tuesday following the championship by phone or video conference. Only individuals who have been selected to the All-Regional Team shall be considered. Players may only be selected for one position. The All-American team shall not be voted on by position but shall be awarded as the top players regardless of position. There shall be 12 players each on the first team, second team, and third team. There shall be no honorable mention. Coaches who wish to have players considered for the All-Regional

Team and/or the All-American Team must submit completed DAN Statistics (see Appendix A and Appendix B) to their respective Regional Sport Chairs and shall follow the same format as the All-American Team selection. The Regional Sport Chair is responsible for the administration of the vote and shall notify the National Baseball Chair of the All-Regional Team selection prior to the National Championship. The Regional Sport Chair is then responsible for presenting their All-Regional Team in rank order (with all ties broken) at the All-American conference call for All-American consideration. Regional Sport Chairs are responsible for doing any necessary research of individuals on the All-Regional Team and be fully prepared to promote each individual. An award shall be given to each member of the All-American first team and certificates shall be given to each member of the second and third teams. There shall be an NCCAA representative (National Office personnel or Administration Committee member) in the room or on the call for the voting to oversee that the process is followed. Copies of the voting procedure shall be provided to each voting member of the committee at least one week prior to the vote. The voting procedure is listed in Appendix E.

G. National Player of the Year

A National Player of the Year shall be selected from the submitted Regional Players of the Year and Pitchers of the Year during the All-American conference call. Regional Sport Chairs are to notify the National Baseball Chair of their respective Regional Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year prior to the National Championship. A plaque shall be mailed, and the award recipient shall be announced on the NCCAA website.

H. Coach of the Year Honors

1. Regional Coach of the Year is to be selected by a vote of the regional coaches. The Regional Baseball Chair is responsible for the administration of the vote and shall notify the National Baseball Chair of the Regional Coach of the Year selection before the start of the National Championship. Criteria to be considered should include the following:
   a. Christian testimony
   b. Conduct of the team
   c. Win/loss record
   d. Development of overall program

   Special care should be given to ensure that win/loss record does not become the lone consideration for this award.
2. The National Coach of the Year award shall be selected on the All-American conference call, and the candidates shall be the six Regional Coaches of the Year plus the National Champion Coach. The same criteria listed for Regional Coach of the Year shall be used. A plaque shall be mailed, and the award recipient shall be announced on the NCCAA website.

I. Scholar-Athlete Award

The purpose of the Scholar-Athlete Award is to recognize outstanding scholar-athletes among NCCAA member institutions, emphasize the place of academics in our national organization, and publicize and promote the NCCAA by recognizing institutions individually and collectively through this medium.

1. Criteria for nomination
   a. Be of junior, senior, or graduate student academic standing making normal progress toward a degree.
   b. Have completed at least one term (semester or quarter) at the nominating institution.
   c. Be a competing student-athlete in the sport for which nominated.
   d. Have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.40 on a 4.00 scale at the nominating institution. Transfer students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.40 on a 4.00 scale based on all grades at all institutions attended, regardless of whether a course grade is accepted at the nominating institution. GPA cannot be rounded up.
2. Procedure for nomination

   The nominating institution must submit a completed nomination form on Teamworks to the National Office four weeks prior to the National Championship. The institution's registrar's office or compliance officer must verify the nominee's GPA on the Teamworks form with a signature. Forms shall not be complete until signatures are acquired.

J. Scholar Team Award

The purpose of the Scholar Team Award is to honor NCCAA athletic teams that demonstrate academic success in the classroom, emphasize the importance of academics within our national organization, and promote individual student-athlete scholarship on the team.

1. Criteria for nomination
   a. An institution must be a current NCCAA member in good standing. The team must be a varsity team.

b. Have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.40 on a 4.00 scale. Please do NOT round up to 3.4 or 3.40.
c. Fall teams use fall term(s) GPA's only and spring teams use spring term(s) GPA's only.
d. Teams that overlap terms and have countable games or matches in each term must use GPA's from all terms in which the sport participates. (Note: tennis is a spring only sport, golf is a fall only sport.)
e. Include all varsity student-athletes who competed in the sport with the institution for any portion of the academic year.
f. Meet the minimum number or greater on the team as the number of student-athletes required to field a team in the sport to be recognized. (Note: track and field minimum is eight student-athletes.)

2. Nomination and Selection process
a. The NCCAA Scholar Team Award Nomination Form must be completed on Teamworks and sent to the NCCAA National Office by January 31 for all eligible fall sports and May 31 for all eligible winter/spring sports of each academic year.
b. The institution's registrar's office or compliance officer must verify the nominee's GPA on the Teamworks form with a signature. Forms shall not be complete until signatures are acquired.

K. Student-Athlete of the Week Award
The NCCAA Student-Athlete of the Week award shall be given to two student-athletes (one offensive & one pitcher) in Division I Baseball during the regular season, chosen from the list of nominees submitted by institutions. Only one student-athlete per school per award (offensive/pitcher) may be nominated. See the full procedures and instructions in the Forms & Procedures section of the Handbook.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. NCCAA Certified Athletic Trainer Policy
Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC) are required at each hosted NCCAA Member home event, NCCAA Regional Championship, and National Championship. For hosted contests in cross country, and golf, institutions may have a trainer able to respond within three to five minutes. The ATC must be certified by the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification (NATABOC), or an equivalent affiliation, and maintain a current license in the state of practice. Please reference the policy in the Sports Policies and Procedures section.

B. Code of Conduct
Conduct in competition policy found in Infractions and Penalties section IV.A. shall be followed by all NCCAA-only institutions during regular season and postseason competition. It shall be followed by all NCCAA institutions for Regional and National Championship competition. Any coach or student-athlete ejected from play shall be subject to penalties found in this policy. It is the responsibility of the offending institution to provide a report to the NCCAA Director of Membership and its Regional Coordinator within 48 hours of the incident. Please see the Infractions and Penalties section noted above for more details related to the Conduct in Competition Policy.

C. National Handbook Proposal Process
Should changes to a sport specific section or the Sports Policies and Procedures section of the NCCAA Handbook be desired, the following process shall be followed:
1. Coaching group may propose changes to their sport handbook.
2. Coaching group votes to present proposal(s) to the appropriate committee within the National Administrative Council (NAC), if needed, or directly to the Administration Committee, as determined with the Director of Membership.
3. The appropriate committee within NAC votes whether to advance it to the Administration Committee who then votes to accept or reject the proposal.
4. Proposals for change may also come from regions and subcommittees of the Administration Committee, such as the National Administrative Council (Sports Information Committee, Competition Experience Committee, Regional Experience Committee), Eligibility Committee, or Handbook Committee.
5. All proposals must come in written form and identify which section of the handbook is being addressed.
6. All proposals must have a vote of support.
7. All proposals must be submitted for consideration to the Administration Committee by May 1 for possible inclusion for the upcoming academic year. If the proposal requires review of a committee within NAC, it must be submitted by March 15.

Division I Baseball Appendix A

(Copy form for additional opponents & staple)

All-American Selection Committee
DAN Statistics
Catchers – Outfielders – Infielders
Game by Game Analysis

Player: _____ Position: _____ Institution: _____ Class: _____ Region: _____ Coach: _____

Opponents	G	AB	R	1B	2B	3B	HR	H	RBI	BB	K	SB/ SBA	BA	PO	A	E	PCT	SBA	SB	PB
Total of all games																				

Special Information: (Great Pitching Performances: Against which teams) _____
Coach's Comments (Technical Proficiency, Versatility, Execution, Consistency, etc.) _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Division I Baseball Appendix B

(Copy form for additional opponents & staple)

All-American Selection Committee
DAN Statistics
Pitchers
Game by Game Analysis

Player: _____ Position: _____ Institution: _____ Class: _____ Region: _____ Coach: _____

Opponents	G	GS	GC	W	L	IP	R	ER	S	ERA	AB	1B	2B	3B	HR	HP	WP	WP	BB	K
Total of all games																				

Special Information: (Great Pitching Performances: Against which teams) _____
Coach's Comments (Technical Proficiency, Versatility, Execution, Consistency, etc.) _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The above-named student-athlete(s) has my support as a viable nominee for NCCAA postseason honors. His behavior both on and off the field is complimentary to the NCCAA and its Christ-like standards.

Appendix C
Division I Baseball
Hank Burbridge Award
Due April 20

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this award is to honor the NCCAA's Outstanding Christian Baseball Player of the Year with potential in Christian service through baseball.

II. AWARD

The recipient shall receive an award bearing the title, date, and name of the player receiving this award. Hank Burbridge was the long-time baseball coach at Spring Arbor University and mentor/leader in NCCAA as well as NAIA baseball.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Recipients of this award must:
   a. Have a clear Christian testimony both on and off the field, including Christian service activities.
   b. Be an excellent/highly skilled student-athlete.
   c. Be a junior, senior, or graduate student academically and a varsity team member.
   d. Demonstrate leadership ability.
   e. Possess a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale.
2. The recipient of the Hank Burbridge award shall subsequently be a nominee for the year-end NCCAA GP4L Student-Athlete Character Award. It is encouraged that one letter of recommendation from an Athletic Director, opponent coach, or member of the institution faculty or staff be included with the nomination.

IV. NOMINATIONS

Coaches of their respective institutions may nominate only one player per year for this award. Completed nomination forms and current DAN Statistics are to be sent no later than April 20 to the National Office. The National Office shall send copies to the committee. The committee members shall then make their recommendations with the final announcement to be made at the Baseball National Championship Banquet.

V. SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee shall be comprised of the National Chair, National Vice-Chair, the Regional Sport Chairs, and the namesake of the award (if applicable).

Appendix C, Page Two
Hank Burbridge Award Nomination Form
Game Plan 4 LIFE Award Series

Student-Athlete's Name First _____ Last _____

Student-Athlete's Hometown and State _____ Year: ___JR ___SR ___G

Institution _____ Position_____ Coach _____

Christian Character
Describe student-athlete's faith story and character on/off the field.

_____

_____

_____

Christian Service
List student-athlete's specific activities in Christian service and outreach.

_____

_____

_____

Current Season Hitting Stats (Season Team Record: W_____ L_____)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
AVG	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	SLG	BB	SO	SB-ATT

Current Season Pitching Stats (If pitcher)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
ERA	W	L	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

Career Hitting Stats (Career Team Record: W_____ L_____)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
AVG	AB	H	2B	3B	HR	R	RBI	SLG	BB	SO	SB-ATT

Career Pitching Stats (If pitcher)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
ERA	W	L	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO

Other Stats Notes (Top 10 national statistical rankings, defensive effectiveness, etc.)

_____

_____

_____

continued

SAMPLE

Appendix C, Page Three
Hank Burbridge Award Nomination Form
Game Plan 4 LIFE Award Series

Athletic Honors Received (Individual and/or Team)
List athletic awards/honors from the institution, conference, regional, and national level).

_____

_____

_____

Academic Honors Received (Major _____ GPA _____)
List academic honors.

_____

_____

_____

Leadership
Describe student-athlete's leadership characteristics and qualities.

_____

_____

_____

Additional Comments
Share any other information on why student-athlete is deserving of this award.

_____

_____

_____

Required with Nomination Form

- High resolution headshot AND action photo of student-athlete
- Current season schedule with results.

Nominee Eligibility Requirements

- Be a junior, senior, or graduate student academically and a varsity team member
- Have a clear Christian testimony both on and off the field, including Christian service activities
- Demonstrate leadership ability
- Cumulative GPA must be 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale
- Be an excellent/highly skilled student-athlete

I attest that the nominee meets the eligibility requirements and nomination data is accurate.

_____ _____
Nominator Signature (Coach, SID, or AD) Date

Due by April 20 to jcampbell@thenccaa.org.

SAMPLE

Appendix D
NCCAA Power Ratings

I. FORMULA

(Results Pts + Location Pts) x (Opp. Affiliation + Opp. Win % + Ranked Opp.) = Individual Game Power Points

1. Results						
	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Football	Soccer	Volleyball	
a. if win by	6+ runs	15+ points	14+ points	3+ goals	in 3 sets	3 points
b. if win by	-	11-14 points		-	-	2.75 points
c. if win by	3-5 runs	8-10 points	7-13 points	2 goals	in 4 sets	2.5 points
d. if win by	-	4-7 points		-	-	2.25 points
e. if win by	1-2 runs	1-3 points	1-6 points	1 goal	in 5 sets	2 points
f. if a tie	-	-	-	-	-	1.75 points
g. if a loss by	1-2 runs	1-3 points	1-6 points	1 goal	in 5 sets	1.5 points
h. if a loss by	-	4-7 points		-	-	1.25 points
i. if a loss by	3-5 runs	8-10 points	7-13 points	2 goals	in 4 sets	1 point
j. if a loss by	-	11-14 points		-	-	0.75 points
k. if a loss by	6+ runs	15+ points	14+ points	3+ goals	in 3 sets	0.5 points

2. Location					
a. if away	0.25 points	b. if neutral	0.125 points	c. if home	0 points

3. Opponent's Affiliation (multiplier)	
a. NCAA I	x 2.9
b. NCAA II / U Sports	x 2.5
c. NAIA	x 2.2
d. NCAA III / NCCAA I / CCAA	x 1.8
e. NCCAA II	x 1.5
f. Other Countable Opponents^	x 1.0

4. Opponent's Winning %*	
a. .1.000 %	Add 1.00
b. .800 - .999 %	Add 0.80
c. .600 - .799 %	Add 0.60
d. .400 - .599 %	Add 0.40
e. .200 - .399 %	Add 0.20
f. .000 - .199 %	Add 0.00

5. Ranked Opponent*
National rankings of affiliations in lines a. - e.
Add 0.20

II. POWER POINTS

A. The sum of the criteria of Nos. 1-2, multiplied by the sum of Nos. 3-5 determines power points for a game. The maximum points for a contest is 13.325 (win on the road against 1.000 NCAA I Top 25 team). The minimum points for a game is 0.5 (loss at home against .199 or lower other countable opponent).

B. The power rating is determined by adding the power points for the regular season and dividing them by the number of games (to the third decimal place). Postseason contests shall not be included.

III. FORFEITS

Forfeits awarded for completed contests shall count toward power ratings (with the results points multiplier being calculated as a 1-0 result for all sports regardless of the official forfeit scoreline for that sport) and the minimum number of games requirement for inclusion in power ratings (e.g., ineligible player, conduct issues, etc.). Forfeits awarded for games not played shall not count toward power ratings or the minimum number of games requirement for inclusion in power ratings (e.g., teams not showing up, not honoring contracts, etc.).

IV. REPORTING

The National Office shall calculate each school's power rating. Each institution and region is responsible for reviewing the release to ensure their rating's accuracy. See sport handbooks for reporting dates and how power ratings are used within each sport. Power ratings shall be released by Wednesday evening per each sport's reporting dates. See region handbooks for how ratings are used within the region. Visit www.thenccaa.org/handbook.

*Opponent's winning percentage and national ranking shall be through the Sunday before the reporting date. When a report is released, winning percentages and rankings for that report shall not be updated for future reports. National rankings only include teams within the rankings. Teams who receive votes are not considered ranked.

continued

Appendix D, Page Two
NCCAA Power Ratings

^Other countable opponents must be an NCCAA countable game per definition in Frequency of Contest section of the NCCAA handbook. Uni-Division sports, such as Softball, follow Division I countable opponents rules.

A final power rating shall only be given to teams who meet the minimum number of games requirement for the specific sport. Each sport has a progression of min. number of games (listed below) to be included in each rating that is released. (R1=Report 1, etc.)
Baseball - R1=10, R2=13, R3=16; Basketball - R1=12, R2=15, R3=18; Soccer - R1=8, R2=10; Softball - R1=10, R2=13, R3=16; Volleyball (M) – R1=7, R2=8, R3=9; Volleyball (W) – R1=10, R2=13, R3=15.

Note: These Power Ratings are designed to measure past performance, not necessarily to predict future outcomes.

Appendix E
NCCAA Division I All-American Voting Procedures

All-American Voting Procedure for NCCAA Baseball is as follows:

1. All-Regional Teams shall be selected and submitted to the National Chair before the NCCAA National Championship. The regional team shall be listed in rank order from most points to least with all ties broken.

2. All nominations to the All-American process shall come from the All-Regional Team selections.
   a. The NCCAA shall recognize an NCCAA All-American First Team. A 12-member squad shall be selected. The First Team shall be comprised of the six Regional Players of the Year and the six Regional Pitchers of the Year.
   b. The NCCAA shall recognize an NCCAA All-American Second Team. The Second Team shall be a 12-member squad.
   c. The NCCAA shall recognize an NCCAA All-American Third Team. The Third Team shall be a 12-member squad.

3. A meeting shall be set, overseen by the National Chair with a member of the National Office present and assisting where needed.

4. The Player of the Year shall be voted on before the selection of the All-American Second Team from the top regional player or pitcher of each region.

5. An order of nominating shall be determined by the National Chair (i.e. West first, Central second, etc.).

6. The process for the Second Team shall begin with each regional representative nominating the top players (limit of 7 nominations from a region) from his/her region. The representative shall briefly (30 seconds to 1 minute) discuss the nominations. Regional representatives are responsible for doing any necessary research of individuals on the All-Regional Team and should be fully prepared to promote each individual. Players must be nominated in the rank order from the selection of the regional team.

7. Then the regional representatives shall each vote for their top 12 players. Voting by the regional representative must be in the rank order of the region. Voting can occur in a couple of ways. He/She can share their vote verbally to the National Chair who records it or an electronic method can be determined to have vote emailed or texted to the National Chair.

8. The National Chair shall tabulate the vote and share with the voting members the total points for each nominated player. Points are allocated to players from highest to lowest (e.g., 12 players on a team, top player receives 12 points, second 11, third 10, etc.). The top number of players to fill the number of slots designated for Second Team shall earn Second Team honors.

9. In the event of a tie in any position, there shall be an additional vote to break the tie. If a tie remains after additional voting, further analysis and discussion shall occur and another vote shall be conducted. If a tie remains after this additional voting, the tie shall be broken by the National Sport Chair, unless involving his/her student-athletes, in which case the National Vice-Chair shall break the tie.

10. The All-American Third Team selections shall proceed in the same manner as the Second Team.

11. The All-American Committee may decide by consent to vote for the Second Team and Third Team at once. This shall allow for discussion of all nominated players and then rank in order all 24 players. The vote shall determine who is first, second, and third team.

12. There are no honorable mention teams in the NCCAA.

13. Once the team is selected, it is reviewed by the sport leadership and the National Office before being announced on the NCCAA website.

Appendix F
NAIA Baseball — Rule Modifications

NCCAA baseball shall follow NCAA Baseball Playing Rules with approved NAIA modifications. With the change in NCAA rules, the modifications listed below are the only current modifications to the NCAA Baseball Rules that shall be in effect for the NCCAA Baseball season. Any future modifications to the NCAA Rules must be passed by the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association (NAIA-BCA) and approved by the NAIA National Administrative Council (NAC).

A. NCAA Rule 5-5 – NAIA Re-Entry Rule Modification
Any of the starting players, except for the pitcher and the designated hitter, may withdraw from the game and re-enter once, provided such players occupy the same batting position whenever they re-enter the lineup. Starting pitchers and designated hitters who change positions later in the same game are NOT eligible to re-enter, because their original starting position was either pitcher or designated hitter. A defensive substitution cannot be made unless the team wanting to make the substitution is playing defense at the time.

B. NCAA Rule 5-5 – NAIA Courtesy Runner Rule Modification
Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher/designated hitter or catcher at any time. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games. The courtesy runner, although never officially in the game, shall be credited with the following:
1. Run scored
2. Stolen base
3. Caught stealing

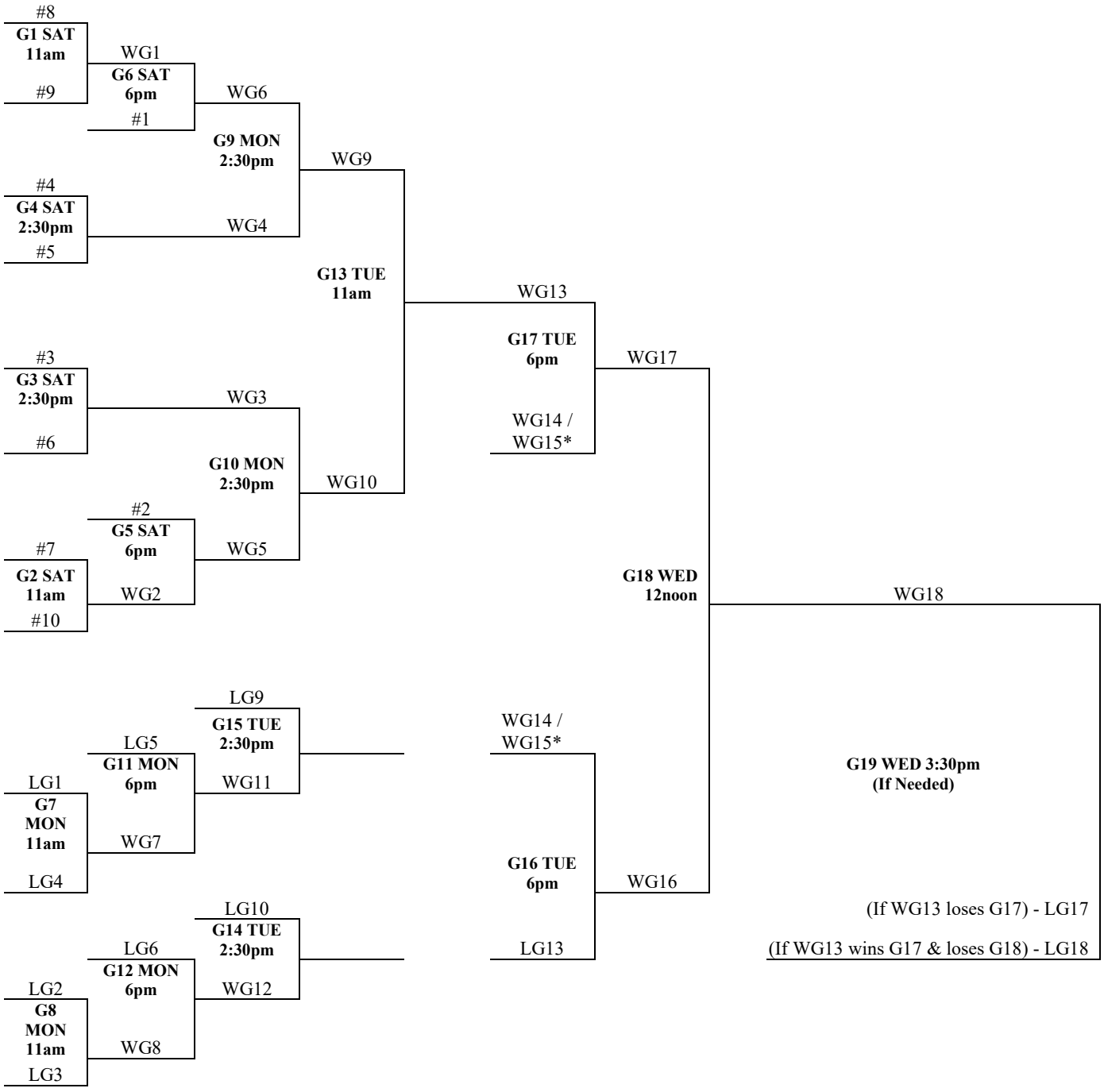
The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. However, it is permissible to re-enter a catcher for his pinch-hitter and subsequently use the courtesy runner. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher/designated hitter and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he shall no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner.

C. NCAA Rule 5-8.A – NAIA 7-Inning Game Option
Teams may adopt a rule providing that a game(s) shall be seven innings. In such games, any of these rules applying to the ninth inning shall apply to the seventh inning. The nine-inning rule may be waived and shortened to seven innings prior to the game if both coaches agree to the waiver. If both coaches do not agree, the nine-inning rule will be in effect. Teams playing multiple games versus different opponents on the same day may play seven inning games if coaches agree. This applies to regular season games only.

D. NCAA Rule 5-8.C – NAIA Regulation Game
A game shortened due to a time limit by a facility or tournament committee shall be a regulation game provided the conditions of Rule 5-8.b are met.

E. NCAA Rule Appendix F – Visible Action Clock
Use of a visible clock is recommended during all times of the game to enforce all timing rules equitably. A visible clock is not required.

Appendix G
Double-Elimination Bracket



*Lower seed plays in Game 17 and higher seed plays in Game 16.
Higher seed is defined as team with a seed value closer to one.

Appendix H
Bat Testing

All bats used during Regional and National Championship competition must appear on the NCAA Approved Bat List, pass the barrel ring test, and barrel compression testing. Bat testing is required for all NCCAA competition during regular and postseason play. Bat Testing Procedures consist of three parts:

1. Visual Inspection of the Bat
   a. Ensure that the bat model appears on the approved bat list.
   b. Ensure the bat does not have a predominantly white barrel.
   c. Ensure the bat does not have flat spots.
   d. Ensure the bat does not have an audible rattle.
   e. Ensure the bat does not have a cracked or loose knob or end caps and attachments. (By NCAA rule, attachments are not permitted on the end cap or knob of the baseball bat.)

2. Ring Test
   a. Place the bat end cap on the ground and place the bat ring over the knob letting it fall.
   b. If the ring passes over the bat from gravity alone (without force), the diameter passes.
   c. If the bat passes through the ring, it proceeds to barrel compression testing.
   d. If the ring does not pass over the bat, the bat is unacceptable for play and is surrendered for the duration of the game/series.

3. Barrel Compression Test Procedure
   a. Calibrate fixture: It is important to check the calibration of the bat testing fixture before testing occurs. To check the calibration of the device, insert the calibration cylinder (provided with the tester) just as you would a bat. Be sure to center the cylinder under the anvil. Turn the gauge until it reads “0 lbs.” and pull the cam level. The compression should meet the tolerance engraved on the cylinder.
   b. Barrel Compression Testing: Each bat shall be tested approximately 6 inches from the end of the barrel. The bat shall then be rotated 90 degrees and tested again. Bats shall be tested a maximum of 3 times until it receives 2 passing results or 2 failing results, whichever comes first.
   c. If after tests the bat has two passing results, the bat shall be considered approved for competition. If the bat has one passing result and one failing result, the bat shall be removed from the machine and be visually inspected for cracks. If no cracks are found, the bat shall be tested a third time for a final result. If the bat has two failing results, the bat shall be considered unacceptable for play and is surrendered for the duration of the game/series.
   d. Identifying Approved Bats: Bats passing bat testing shall be identified as approved with a tamper proof sticker at the taper area of the bat. The taper area is the area at the bottom of the barrel, just above the handle. Bat stickers shall be supplied by the NCCAA.
   e. Bats shall be tested prior to the first contest and shall be identified as passing with the applicable tamper proof sticker.
   f. The tamper proof sticker shall be applied to the same location on the bat to identify the bat as compliant.
   g. Location and Time of Testing: The location for bat testing shall be determined by the host and shall be communicated to participating teams.
   h. Testing must be conducted by the host with a team representative present.
   i. Coaches or team designee shall bring all bats to the testing location.
   j. Testing should not be conducted in public view or near fans/media.
   k. Procedure for Failed Bats: Bats that fail any part of the bat testing protocol shall be surrendered to the host/site supervisor and be retained for the duration of the Regional or National Championship or when the team is eliminated.