
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



Baseball

Division I

Division I Baseball

I. GUIDELINES

- A. Bids to host the NCCAA National Baseball Championship shall be submitted to the National Baseball Chair.
- B. Dates of the National Championship for the upcoming years are as follows:
May 16-19, 2012 - Mason, Ohio May 15-18, 2013 - Mason, Ohio May 14-17, 2014 - TBA
- C. All Regional Championships are to be completed by the Saturday evening prior to the National Championship. 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, along with the Burbridge rating and results, to the National Baseball Chair and the Director of Member Relations **two weeks prior to the start of their Regional Championship**. Burbridge will be used for regional seeding.

Each school must submit the weekly statistical report on time to the NCCAA National Statistician (stats@thenccaa.org), to be eligible to participate. **The penalty for not reporting statistics or for being late: 1st offense=warning; 2nd offense=\$100 fine paid before regional playoffs; 3rd offense=team is not allowed post season play.** All NCCAA member institutions must send to the National Office a completed Declaration of Intent to Participate form by September 15 for all varsity sports. Amendments for Winter sports must be submitted by January 15 and Spring sports by March 1. (see Forms & Procedures section).

D. Regional Representation

The following regions would advance one team automatically to the National Championship as a result of Regional play:

East Region	1 Bid	Central	1 Bid
Mid-East Region	1 Bid	West Region	1 Bid
South Region	1 Bid	At Large	3 Bids
Mid-West Region	1 Bid		
North Central Region	1 Bid		

- a. In the event there is no Regional Championship due to lack of participation, a lone region representative may be selected by that region to receive their automatic bid provided they have a record of .500 or better. This may occur when only one team is seeking to participate or if other teams are alive in NAIA/NCAA play and are unable to participate in the NCCAA regional. A team that had originally declared its intent to participate (see Forms & Procedures section) but could not because of NAIA/NCAA tournament participation may still be considered for an at-large bid.
- b. Any team that chooses not to participate in their Regional Championship is NOT eligible for at-large consideration.
- c. The revised Burbridge rating shall be reported only after the final regular season game. The rating shall be used in seeding for the Regional Championship.
- E. Selection of At-Large Bids
- a. The National Baseball Committee shall consist of the Past National Chair, Current National Chair and the Vice-Chair.
- b. Runners-up in regions shall be given priority for consideration of at-large bids over other teams in regions that held a regional tournament provided they have a record of .500 or better.
- c. At-large bids shall only be given to teams that have sought to participate in their respective Regional Championship. If a team does not play in its NCCAA Regional Championship due to NAIA/NCAA regional conflict, that team may be considered for an at-large berth if it was declared to participate in its NCCAA Regional Championship and provided that it has submitted its weekly statistical report to the NCCAA National statistician and its results to the National Baseball Chair. The Intent to Participate form must be filed by the listed deadline. At-large selections will be based on the following:
1. Overall record
 2. Information given by regional chairs during the conference call
 3. Final season Burbridge rating
 4. Strength of schedule

The process shall be as follows...Saturday evening there will be a conference call that includes all region sports chairs, the National Baseball Committee and a representative from the National Office. This call will include discussion of region winners and who would like an at-large bid from that region. The region sports chairs will give their opinion about those teams at this time. Following this call, the National baseball committee will have

a call to discuss at-large selection and tournament seeding. If a coach whose team is asking for an at-large bid is on the committee, he will excuse himself from this process. The National Baseball chair will email all region sports chairs with the 10 team field and the seedings after the call.

F. Ranking

The Top 10 ranking will use Boyd's World ISR (Iterative Strength Ratings).

G. Election of Sport Chair and Vice-Chair

A National Baseball Chair and a Vice-Chair are elected to serve three-year terms. Elections take place at the ABCA convention coaches' meeting. The Vice-Chair replaces the National Baseball Chair after three years to serve as the National Baseball Chair.

H. Championship Administration

To insure proper administration, transportation and expenses to the National Championship shall be paid for the National Baseball Chair by the Host Site. The Vice-Chair's transportation and expenses shall be paid in the event that the National Baseball Chair's team is involved in the National Championship. In the event that 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 can be designated to act as the Championship Administrator.

I. NCCAA Regional Player of the Year

Each region shall select one Regional Player of the Year from players nominated at the Regional Championship. Teams may nominate only one player for consideration. Coaches shall determine this award by vote at the Regional Championship. Regional Players of the Year shall be automatically selected to the All-American team unless there are more Regional Players of the Year than there are openings at that position. If that occurs, a vote shall take place between the Regional Players of the Year for that All-American spot(s). A certificate shall be awarded to the recipient.

J. National Player and Pitcher of the Year

A National Player and Pitcher of the Year shall be selected at the National Championship from the submitted Regional Players of the Year. The All-American Selection Committee shall determine the honorees at the coaches' meeting during the National Championship. Regional Chairs are to notify the National Baseball Chair of their respective Regional Player of the Year prior to the National Championship. A trophy/plaque shall be awarded to the recipients and certificates shall be presented to each recipient and his respective institution.

K. All-American Team

An All-American Team shall be selected annually at the coaches' meeting during the National Championship. Only individuals from institutions who have paid their sport-participation fees and who have been selected to the All-Regional Team shall be considered. The first team shall consist of 15 players: 4 starting pitchers, 2 catchers, 1 first baseman, 1 second baseman, 1 shortstop, 1 third baseman, one 5th infielder, and 4 outfielders. A second team All-American of 15 players shall be awarded based on the same positions as the first team. 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 Sports Chairs and shall follow the same format as the All-American Team selection. The Regional Chair is then responsible for presenting their All-Regional Team at the coaches' meeting during the National Championship for All-American consideration. A trophy/plaque shall be awarded to each member of the All-American first team and a certificate shall be presented to each recipient and his respective institution.

L. Scholar-Athlete Team

A Scholar-Athlete Team shall be selected at the coaches' meeting during the National Championship. All candidates shall be submitted on the ballot to the National Baseball Chair one week prior to the World Series (See [Forms and Procedures section](#)). Candidates to be considered must meet the following criteria:

1. Player must have attained at least junior academic status.
2. Player must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.40, which must be confirmed by the Registrar.
3. DAN Statistics shall be sent directly to the Vice-Chair.
4. See other details in Awards Section.

M. Hank Burbridge Unlimited Potential's Outstanding Christian Leadership Award (see [Appendix C](#))

N. Regional Baseball Chair

The following individuals shall serve as the Regional Baseball Chair for their respective regions for 2008-09:

Keith Veale	Mt. Vernon Nazarene University (OH)	East Region
T. Ray Fletcher	Oakland City University (IN)	Mid-East Region
Aaron Brister	Emmanuel College (GA)	South Region
Chad Newhard	Indiana Wesleyan University (IN)	Mid-West Region
Tom Raven	Trinity International University (IL)	North Central Region
Rob Pegg	Colorado Christian University (CO)	Central Region
Monte Brooks	The Master's College (CA)	West Region

O. All-Regional Team and Regional Coach of the Year

1. The Regional Baseball Chair is responsible for the administration of the vote and shall notify the National Baseball Chair of the All-Regional Team selection by May 12. At the time of the selection of the various All-Regional Teams, each region is required to rank each player to aid in the selection of the All-American Team under the following guidelines:
 - A Player – A definite All-American candidate
 - B Player – An above average All-Regional performer
 - C Player – An average All-Regional performer
2. A 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 by May 12. 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
3. Special care should be given to insure that the win/loss record does not become the lone consideration for this award.

P. The National Coach of the Year

The National Coach of the Year award shall be presented to the coach of the team that wins the National Championship as part of the awards ceremony immediately following the championship game.

Q. National Championship Banquet

There shall be a "Lead Off" banquet on the Tuesday evening prior to the National Championship. All teams are required to participate and awards will be presented.

R. National Championship Housing

All teams are required to lodge in the hotel designated by the host institution or city for this championship.

S. National Championship All-Tournament Team

A total of 10 players plus 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 team based on his 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 team-the tenth place team	1 player for each team

T. National Championship Community Service Opportunities

Each player and coach participating in the National Championship shall be asked to donate up to, but not more than, 2 hours of his time to visit with members of an organization or school. The host Championship Director, in concert with the Director of Member Relations, is in charge of securing the sites and setting up the times for the visits.

U. National Championship format

There shall be two five-team pools allowing each team to play at least four games. The top two teams from each pool shall advance to a semi-final game. The winner of Pool A will play the second place team from Pool B. The winner of Pool B shall play the second place team from Pool A. The winners of the semi-final game shall play one game for the championship. The championship pool play shall be:

Sample Pool Play Schedule, Division I Baseball

Pool A Seeds: 1, 4, 5, 8, 9

Pool B Seeds: 2, 3, 6, 7, 10

		<u>Prasco Park</u>			<u>Legacy</u>			
Wed	10am	3	v	6	9am	4	v	5
	1pm	1	v	8	12pm	2	v	7
	5pm	4	v	9	4pm	3	v	10
	8pm	1	v	5	7pm	2	v	6
Thu	10am	6	v	7	9am	5	v	8
	1pm	2	v	10	12pm	1	v	9
	5pm	7	v	10	4pm	8	v	9
	8pm	2	v	3	7pm	1	v	4
Fri	10am	4	v	8	10am	3	v	7
	1pm	5	v	9	1pm	6	v	10

Semifinals: #1 Pool A v #2 Pool B and #1 Pool B v #2 Pool A. Winners advance to the championship match with an additional game if needed.

Tie Breaker:

1. If there is a tie between two teams with identical records, the tie breaker is the score of the game played between the two teams. (head-to-head result).
2. If there are two teams, and no clear victor can be determined through head-to-head competition, then the total number of defensive runs given up, divided by the number of innings played on defense, is computed for each team involved in the tie. The one team with the lowest "run differential" advances.
3. If the two teams are still tied, the number of defensive runs given up, divided by defensive innings played will be re-computed using just the teams involved in the tie.
4. If a three-or-more-team tie exists and one team has defeated all of the other teams tied through head-to-head competition, that team will advance.
5. If there are three or more teams tied, and no clear victor can be determined on head-to-head competition, then the total number of defensive runs given up, divided by the number of innings played on defense, is computed for each team involved in the tie. The one team with the lowest "run differential" advances.
6. If a three-or-more-team tie still exists, the number of defensive runs given up, divided by defensive innings played, shall be re-computed using just the teams involved in the tie. However, if a two way tie exists after advancing a team, refer to two way tie above.

NOTE: If a team only plays part of a half-inning on defense before the game is ended, that partial inning will count as a full half-inning for the purpose of computing run differential.

V. Official Rulebook

Baseball: Professional Baseball Rules with National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Baseball Coaches Association modifications. Rule books may be purchased by contacting: The Sporting News, Book Department, Box 11229, Des Moines, Iowa 50340.

ADDENDUM A

Official Speed-up and Championship Rules Mandatory for NCCAA Regional and National Championships

A. Speed-up Rules

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.

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2. 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 as long as he does not delay the start of the next half-inning.
 3. Relief pitchers shall be allowed five warm-up pitches when entering a game.
 4. Batter must be on deck when his turn at bat comes around.
 5. On an intentional walk, the batter is waved to first base (no pitches to be thrown).
 6. 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.
 7. 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.
 8. The Ten-Run Rule shall be in effect at the end of five 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 and to the first two rounds of play (game numbers 1-8) in the National Championship.
 9. All batters/runners are required to wear a double earflap helmet. The same helmet, worn while batting, shall be worn on the basepaths.
 10. 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.
 11. A pitcher is permitted to go to his mouth on the dirt portion of the mound as long as he is not on the rubber and that he wipes off before going to the rubber.

B. Regional and National Championship Rules

1. All Regional and National Championships shall be double elimination championships.
 - a. Any other type of championship, other than double elimination, which may be caused by weather, playing conditions, etc., shall be determined by the Regional Chair (for Regional Championship) and/or by the National Baseball Committee, in consultation with the Director of Member Relations, for the National Championship.
 - b. Regions, which determine a champion without conducting a Regional Championship event, must certify that the regional representative complies with all NCCAA championship policies.
2. The two head coaches for each game shall agree on who will call heads or tails on the coin toss. The coach who wins the toss shall choose to be home or visiting team and jersey color, light or dark. The loser of the coin toss shall choose first or third base dugout and shall wear the contrasting jersey color. If both coaches cannot agree on uniform color, then the Home Team shall wear light or white, and the Visiting Team shall wear dark uniforms. **Example:** If Team A wins the toss and chooses to be the Home Team, then Team B would get its choice of dugouts for the game. If Team A chooses to take a specific dugout, then Team B would get its choice of being the Home Team or Visiting Team and choice of light or dark jersey.
3. The designated hitter rule is in effect for all championship games. It is permissible for the pitcher to remain as the designated hitter after he is removed as pitcher providing he was listed as the designated hitter prior to the start of the game.
 - a. A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A designated hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the line-up card presented to the Umpire-In-Chief. The starting pitcher may be designated prior to the start of the game as the designated hitter and, in this case, it is only permissible for the pitcher to remain as the designated hitter after he is removed as the pitcher. It is not mandatory that a team designates a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter for that game.
 - b. Pinch hitters for a designated hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a designated hitter becomes the designated hitter. A replaced designated hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity.
 - c. The designated hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made. The manager (coach) then must designate their spots in the batting order.
 - d. A runner may be substituted for the designated hitter and the runner assumes the role of designated hitter.
 - e. A designated hitter is “locked” into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the designated hitter.
 - f. Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to another defensive position, this move shall terminate the designated hitter role for the remainder of the game.

- g. Once the game pitcher bats for the designated hitter, this move shall terminate the designated hitter role for the remainder of the game.
4. Any of the starting players, with the exception of 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 line-up.
5. The aluminum bat is approved for all championship games.
6. The official traveling party (for expense purposes) is not to exceed 30. All teams with more than 30 in their party shall have their institution assume financial responsibility for every person over the official 30-person traveling limit. Only coaches, players, manager and trainer shall be permitted in the dugout.
7. No one is permitted on the playing field unless in proper uniform.
8. Coaches and assistant coaches (or players) are allowed to occupy the coaching boxes at first and third base provided they are properly uniformed.
9. There shall be no tobacco use of any form in the dugout or on the playing field by managers, coaches, players, umpires, honorary coaches or any other personnel associated with the championship.
10. The National Baseball Committee is given the authority to suspend, for the next game, a player or coach who is removed from a championship game for improper behavior.
11. The National Baseball Committee shall decide upon championship protests before the next pitch is thrown. All protests must be made to the Umpire-in-Chief before the next pitch is thrown.
12. Any game that is suspended (including tie games) shall be continued from the point of suspension at a time designated by the National Baseball Committee. All games shall be seven innings except those affected by the 10-run rule.
13. Rules governing the final game of each championship (regional or national) shall be decided by the Regional Baseball Chair (for the Regional Baseball Championship) and by the National Baseball Committee, in consultation with the NCCAA liaison (for the National Championship) before the game is played.
 - a. If a game is interrupted after five innings and cannot be completed before the completion deadline established for Regional and National Championships, it shall be considered a regulation game.
 - b. If a rain date has been established for the championship, then the rain date becomes the official completion date for the said championship.
14. Once a team has committed (Declaration of Intent to Participate – see Forms & Procedures section) to the Regional Championship, it must agree to continue through the National Championship, if it so qualifies.
15. The NCCAA's designated baseball season is spring and **ONLY GAMES AGAINST A FOUR YEAR DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTION SHALL COUNT ON A TEAM'S RECORD** (winning percentage, ties do count) **AND SEASON STATISTICS**.
16. Teams are responsible for their own accident insurance. Neither the NCCAA nor the championship host/sponsor is responsible for hospital or doctor bills.
17. The OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES (professional) shall govern play, except as cited in Section A (Speed-up Rules).
18. NAIA Mandatory Slide Rule shall be in effect.
19. Throwing helmets or bats is not acceptable as appropriate Christian conduct. One warning per team may be given per contest. Any subsequent violation shall result in the ejection of the offender. A member of the National Baseball Committee or an umpire has the authority to give this warning, and the head coach shall be notified of this warning.

II. 2011-2012 DEADLINES

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Destination</u>
January 5, 2012	National Coaches' Meeting at ABCA Convention	Nashville, TN
Postmarked Prior to First Game or Scrimmage	Eligibility Certificate Mailed	Regional Chair
March 1, 2012	Last date to amend the Declaration of Intent to Participate Form (see Forms & Procedures section)	All Coaches
May 12, 2012	Conference call with Regional Chairs by 10:00 p.m. Eastern time Scholar-Athlete Nominations Due Burbridge/Unlimited Potential Nominations Due Dan Stats for All-Region Players Due	National Baseball Chair

May 12, 2012	Conference call with National Baseball Committee following the previous call. Selection of At-large teams and seeding the National Championship	National Baseball Chair
May 15, 2012	National Championship Teams participate in CSPs & Championship Banquet	Mason, Ohio
May 16-19, 2012	NCCAA National Championship	Mason, Ohio

Appendix C

Hank Burbridge Unlimited Potential's Outstanding Christian Leadership Award

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

Both the recipient and his institution receive a trophy, provided by Unlimited Potential, bearing the title, date, and name of player receiving this award. Unlimited Potential, Inc. is an organization that ministers to baseball programs around the world "serving Christ through Baseball". 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

In order to be eligible for this award, a student-athlete must:

1. Be at least a junior.
2. Possess and demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities.
3. Possess and demonstrate outstanding athletic ability.
4. Possess and demonstrate a vibrant and clear Christian testimony on and off the field.
5. Possess and demonstrate an unlimited potential in serving Christ through: athletics, his local fellowship, sports evangelism, and/or other Christian organizations.
6. Possess at least a 2.50 grade point average.

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 copied and mailed no later than May 8 to the National Division I Baseball Chair. The National Baseball Chair will send copies to the committee. The committee members shall then make their recommendations with the final announcement to be made at the National Baseball Championship Banquet by the Director of Unlimited Potential, or a representative from their ministry, if possible.

V. SELECTION COMMITTEE

The selection committee shall be comprised of the following:

1. Director of Unlimited Potential
2. Board members of Unlimited Potential (up to two)
3. NCCAA National Office Representative
4. NCCAA National Baseball Chair
5. NCCAA National Baseball Vice-Chair

Appendix D Revised Burbridge Rating Method NCCAA Baseball

I. FORMULA

VICTORIES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	9 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	8 points
NCAA Division III	7 points
NCCAA Division I	7 points
NCCAA Division II	6 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	8 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	7 points
NCAA Division III	6 points
NCCAA Division I	6 points
NCCAA Division II	5 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	7 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	6 points
NCAA Division III	5 points
NCCAA Division I	5 points
NCCAA Division II	4 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	6 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	5 points
NCAA Division III	4 points
NCCAA Division I	4 points
NCCAA Division II	3 points

LOSSES

On the road against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	5 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	4 points
NCAA Division III	3 points
NCCAA Division I	3 points
NCCAA Division II	2 points

At home against a winning opponent:	
NCAA Division I	4 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	3 points
NCAA Division III	2 points
NCCAA Division I	2 points
NCCAA Division II	1 points

On the road against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	3 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	2 points
NCAA Division III	1 points
NCCAA Division I	1 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

At home against a losing opponent:	
NCAA Division I	2 points
NCAA Division II or NAIA	1 points
NCAA Division III	0 points
NCCAA Division I	0 points
NCCAA Division II	0 points

II. POWER POINTS

The rating is determined by adding the power points for the season, dividing by the number of games, and carrying the result to the third decimal place.

III. RANKINGS BASED ON POWER POINTS

Teams shall be ranked each week throughout the season using this rating system. The rating system is only as accurate as the information supplied on the game results form. Each institution shall gather and report the most accurate data possible.