

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DIVISION I SOFTBALL ANNUAL REPORT/KEY INFORMATION

The NCAA Division I Softball Committee is providing this information to outline key actions taken by the committee during the past year, as well as future recommendations or information that will be helpful to you. In addition, if you have any questions regarding this information, please contact a member of the committee or Sharon K. Cessna, NCAA director of championships (Phone: 317/917-6519, Fax: 317/917-6210, E-mail: scessna@ncaa.org).

1. 2007-08 Committee Members. The 2007-08 committee members' contact information is listed below:

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TBD_[DB1]
West Region Representative

2. Sponsorship. The 2007-08 sponsorship list for Division I softball is attached.

Division I - 273 with 1 provisional.
Division II - 271 with 9 provisionals.
Division III - 405 with 18 provisionals.

3. 2007 Championship. The NCAA Division I Softball Championship provided for a field of 64 teams. Four teams participated at each of 16 regional sites in a double-elimination tournament. Sixteen teams were seeded and each of the seeded teams was placed at one of the regional sites. The regional winners participated at eight super-regional sites in a best of three format. The finals included the eight super-regional winners.

2007 Women's College World Series and regional results are available on the NCAA Web site, www.ncaasports.com.

4. ESPN Ratings. All games were broadcast in high definition.
Finals: 1.79--highest-rated and most-viewed finals ever on ESPN/ESPN2 (avg 1,911,077 viewers)
Game 3--highest-rated and most viewed college softball game on ESPN2 (2,326,800 viewers)
5. Attendance. Preliminary attendance figures (with comparisons to previous figures) are:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	
Total:	41,034	41,168	46,122	62,463	
Finals:	5,862	4,168	4,168	5,533	(8,222
high)					
Location:	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma City	

6. Dates and Sites for 2008 Championship.
SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT
May 11, 2008 — 8 p.m. ESPNU

REGIONAL COMPETITION
May 16-18, 2008

Friday—Games 1 & 2
Saturday—Games 3, 4 & 5
Sunday—Games 6 & 7 (if necessary)

Games on Friday and Sunday may be scheduled between Noon and 8:30 p.m. local time and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

SUPER REGIONAL COMPETITION
May 23-24 or 24-25, 2008

(When completing the bid and arranging hotel rooms please take into account the possibility of hosting Saturday/Sunday.)

Thursday or Friday—Games 1
Saturday or Sunday—Games 2 & 3 (if necessary)

All games may be scheduled between Noon and 8:30 p.m. local time.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

May 29-June 4, 2008

Thursday—Games 1 - 4

Friday—Games 5 & 6

Saturday—Games 7 - 10

Sunday—Games 11-12 (13 & 14 if necessary)

Monday—Championship Game 1

Tuesday—Championship Game 2

Wednesday—Championship Game 3 (if necessary)

ASA Hall of Fame Stadium, Oklahoma City

Ticket Information: 405/236-5000

7. Future Dates.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Selections</u>	<u>Regionals</u>	<u>Super Regionals</u>	<u>WCWS</u>
2009	May 10	May 15-17	May 22-23	May 28-June 3
2010	May 16	May 21-23	May 28-29	June 3-9
2011	May 15	May 20-22	May 27-29	June 2-8

8. Annual Meeting. The NCAA Division I Softball Committee's 2007 annual meeting will be conducted July 8-11, 2008, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

9. NCAA Division I Championships/Competition Cabinet Actions.

a. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The cabinet directed all sports committees that currently produce a Rating Percentage Index (whether it is produced by the NCAA or by a third party on behalf of the NCAA) to release its Rating Percentage Index during the regular season effective 2007-08. Sports committees will adhere to the following guidelines:

The RPI will be published on the NCAA web site beginning mid-season and then be published weekly until selections. Conferences will continue to receive the selection RPI and final RPI following the WCWS.

b. **Bylaw 17.21.1.3-b– Playing and Practice Seasons – Softball – Championship Segment First Contest Date.** Based on a recommendation from the Division I Softball Committee and the Division I Championships Cabinet emergency legislation (Proposal 2007-1) was adopted by the Division I membership to specify that in softball, beginning with the 2008 softball season, the first contest date in the championship segment is the Thursday that is 14 weeks from the Thursday before regional competition. This is February 7, 2008 for this season and February 5, 2009 for the spring 2009 championship season.

c. **Bylaw 17.21.5.1 – Playing and Practice Seasons – Number of Contests – Tournament Dates and Nonchampionship Contests.** The Division I membership adopted legislation effective with the 2008-09 academic year that specifies each contest of a tournament in which an institution participates shall count as one contest toward the institutional and student-athlete maximum contest limitations; further, to specify that an institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition during the playing season to 56 contests (games and scrimmages) during the segment in which the NCAA Championship is conducted and eight contests (games and scrimmages) during another segment, provided no class time is missed for competition during the nonchampionship segment, including activities associated with competition (e.g., travel and other pregame or postgame activities) conducted during the nonchampionship segment.

10. NCAA Web Sites. To find more information on the NCAA softball championships, go to www.ncaa.org and www.ncaasports.com.

We hope the information provided is helpful. Again, if you have any questions, please contact David Batson, chair of the committee, or Sharon K. Cessna, director of championships at the NCAA national office.