

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION  
DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA COMMITTEE**

December 7, 2016

New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans

The meeting was brought to order at 10 am. CT. Those present were:

Stephanie Conroy, SUNY Plattsburgh; Lindsay Freitag, Misericordia University; Dave Hines, NFCA liaison; Cheryl Milligan (outgoing chair), Tufts University.

Katie Anderson, North Park University; Brandon Elliott, Virginia Wesleyan College; Renae Hartl, Luther College; Shawn Hendrickson, Transylvania University; Janae Shirley, East Texas Baptist University and Heather Stone, Western Connecticut State University were not able to attend.

1. Introductions.
2. Ways to shorten All-America selection conference call.
  - a. Voiceover of each player a regional rep wants to bring to the table to distribute ahead of time to be better prepared/ready on the actual call.
  - b. Voting.
    - i. Make tallies before the meeting, and then discuss.
    - ii. Do a week in advance to make sure reps are not put "on the spot" during the call and can take more time to consider.
3. Suggested changes.
  - a. At-large selections.
    - i. Each regional rep can get one at each position considered.
    - ii. Allow more at-large selections.
      1. Establish at-large selections for entire second and third teams to make sure all the right players are honored, regardless of position.
      2. You shouldn't have to sacrifice a worthy shortstop, for example, because you have no spots left for shortstops due to the rules. The field of All-America candidates that year might be light on worthy third basemen, so why not be able to pick another shortstop, for example?
  - b. Utility players.
    - i. Allow a utility selection without a percentage of games at a specified number of positions (require only that the player must play multiple positions).
  - c. Consider more than just First Team All-Region players for the All-America team.

- d. Recognize conference players of the year on the All-America team or at least allow for those players to be in the group being considered for All-America status.
  - e. Do All-America selection conference call via Skype to allow participants to see when others are done talking and avoid reps talking at the same time.
  - f. Group All-America candidates by region within position pages to better gauge players against others in their region.
  - g. Wrap text on Excel and live Google spreadsheets to cut down on width of documents (and avoid so much left-and-right scrolling to see information).
  - h. Assist coaches in doing a better job helping reps speak on behalf our their players, as sometimes coaches don't do the work to promote (or even nominate) worthy players.
  - i. Preparing new committee members.
    - i. Listen to what happened the year before on the call to get a better understanding of the process.
    - ii. Veteran committee members should mentor new ones since it is such an important committee.
    - iii. How to do your research more effectively to speak on behalf of players in your region.
    - iv. You don't want your inexperience on the committee to affect the chances for worthy players.
  - j. Other award ideas (beyond All-America honors).
    - i. Recognize one in each region or one nationally.
      1. Community service.
      2. Dedication.
      3. Great teammate.
      4. Hardest worker.
4. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. CT

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Select new committee chair
- Share suggestions with Division III HCC for possible further action.