

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III CAUCUS**

December 8-9, 2016; New Orleans Marriott

NFCA Division III representative and Eastern Connecticut State University head coach Diana Pepin brought the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. ET.

1. NFCA Top 25 Committee Report. Committee chair George Wares (Central) reminded the group that the NFCA Top 25 rankings are for publicity purposes and have nothing to do with NCAA regional rankings (and therefore no bearing on NCAA selections).
 - a. Mr. Wares noted that the committee tries to do a good job with the rankings, but if you feel like your team is not getting consideration, contact your regional representative, as the committee relies on regional reps to speak on behalf of the worthy teams in that region.
2. NFCA All-American Committee. Committee chair Cheryl Milligan (Tufts) said it's important that the committee makes sure it gets the most worthy players recognized.
 - a. Ways to accomplish that:
 - i. Use At-Large spots to honor players in spots for positions (i.e. pitcher, shortstop, outfield) already completely filled with qualified players.
 - ii. Reminder to nominate worthy players and then vote to keep those players eligible to be honored.
 - iii. Suggestions:
 1. Consider using second and third teams to be ALL At-Large spots (rather than a series of specific positions) to allow the best players regardless of position to be honored.
 2. Consider allowing Second Team All-Region players to be considered with First Team All-Region players (just First Team selections are eligible currently) for All-America selection.
 3. Consider putting conference Player of the Year honorees into pool of eligible players (with First Team All-Region selections) for All-America selection.
 - iv. Kris Herman (Williams) added that it is very important to vote thoughtfully about regional reps and then make sure those reps have the information they need to effectively speak on behalf of your nominated players.
3. NFCA Awards Committee. Ms. Milligan is also on the NFCA's Awards Committee and reminded those in the room to make sure to nominate worthy Division III coaches for awards, such as the Humanitarian or Easton Assistant Coach of the Year.

- a. She noted that Division III members can nominate for Travel Ball Coaching Staff of the Year, so if you know a good candidate for that honor, please nominate.
- 4. NFCA Hall of Fame Committee. Committee member Deb Pallozzi (Ithaca) said they will have a call in mid-October to talk about Hall of Fame nominations (which are due Oct. 1) and then meet in person at the NFCA National Convention in Las Vegas to choose the 2018 Hall of Fame induction class.
 - a. Ms. Pallozzi asked to loop her in, as the Division III rep, if you nominate a Division III person for the Hall of Fame.
- 5. NCAA Rules Committee. Committee member Julie Lenhart (Cortland) noted that this is the last year for the NCAA Rule Book, so if there's any rules you want changed, please submit a request.
 - a. The Committee will be meeting in June to finalize the next two-year rule book.
 - b. Netting in dugouts.
 - i. Doesn't have to be full dugout coverage, but provide an area of safety.
 - ii. Foul poles need to be white.
- 6. NCAA Championships Report. Jan Gentry, the NCAA's associate director of championships, offered her annual report (her full report summary is attached at end of this caucus report).
 - a. Special notes:
 - i. Michelle Manning (Ithaca) is the new chair of the NCAA Division III Softball Committee.
 - ii. Ms. Gentry publicly thanked former chair Renae Hartl (Luther) and Robin Baker (Wisconsin-Eau Claire) for their service to the committee.
 - iii. The 2017 and 2018 Division III Championships will be held at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City.
 - iv. The Great South Conference disbanded.
 - v. There will be 42 bids to the NCAA tournament (there are enough schools offering softball to have 43 bids, but the Championships Committee desires an even number of competing teams).
 - vi. Two positions opening on NCAA Division III Softball Committee in the Atlantic and West regions:
 - 1. Can be a coach or administrator.
 - 2. Next regional rep can't be from same conference as the outgoing rep.
 - 3. Will continue to accept self-nominations for the openings.
 - vii. Official rankings.
 - 1. Publish ranking in conjunction with selection:
 - a. Selections will be made on May 7.

- b. Final ranking will be released on NCAA.com following NCAA Selection Show revealing the tournament teams on May 8.
 - c. There will be a link for each of the eight regions at the bottom of the page to get primary criteria for each of the teams.
 - viii. Approved host per diem at \$30 rate.
 - ix. Championship Committee.
 - 1. Current 1:6.5 access ratio supports 63 teams, but Championships Committee has balanced brackets, so it stays at 62 teams for time being.
 - 2. Goal is to get 64 teams eventually.
 - 3. Increase travel party back to 25 from 23.
 - 4. Ground transportation for teams that don't fly.
 - 5. Officials fees.
 - 6. Suggested increasing to 600-mile radius to try to separate teams better (from current 500 miles), but that was not approved.
 - 7. Non-conference strength-of-schedule was added to selection criteria (effective August 2017).
 - 8. Look at ranked teams at time of selection.
 - 9. Presentation of awards.
 - a. Present awards only to squad size.
 - i. It can be awkward to just shake hands with an athlete when there are not enough medallions for the entire team.
 - ii. Perhaps give awards to coaches for presentation later (possibly after additional awards have been ordered to cover everyone).
 - iii. Straw vote of group showed almost everyone in favor of keeping handshakes to allow players their "Kodak moment," but not present medallions, knowing there possibly wouldn't be enough to present to everyone.
 - iv. Ms. Gentry said a suggestion to have schools plan (and pay) ahead for medallions to assure enough are on hand wouldn't work, because medallions have to be ordered from supplier too far ahead of time.
- 7. Salary Survey. Marie Curran (Buffalo State) created the statistics from the submissions and said she will gladly add more information and send an updated version to anyone that wants it.
 - a. There is a mix of 10-month and 12-month coaches.

- b. We are still waiting to see where coaches fall with regard to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Schools not all handling it the same.
- 8. NCAA Legislation. Mo Harty said there are a number of proposals to be voted on in January (complete list of proposals is attached at end of this caucus report).
 - a. Special notes:
 - i. Proposal 2017-2: Must be a graduate *degree*, rather than a *certificate* program. 50 percent of Division III schools have a graduate program.
 - ii. Proposal 2017-4: Alumni game eats up one of your two available exceptions.
 - iii. Things that could come to softball in the future:
 - 1. 2017-5
 - 2. 2017-6: Variance of day off (i.e. pitchers and catchers could come in on different practice schedules, than say, infielders, and therefore have different days off).
 - b. Playing and Practice Subcommittee.
 - i. Did work on possibility of split season, which softball opted to not push for.
 - c. Sportsmanship Subcommittee.
 - i. Game environment (a lot of focus is on problems with parents)
 - d. Resources.
 - i. Please take advantage of resources available to you.
 - 1. Grants:
 - a. Identity grant (for signage).
 - b. Student-athlete grants.
 - c. Coach grants.
 - e. Straw votes.
 - i. Grad school proposal (majority favored).
 - ii. Two scrimmages (majority favored).
 - iii. Variance of day off — proposal 2017-6 — which could come to softball at some point (majority favored).
- 9. Leadoff Classic.
 - a. Kandice Tiggas (Tucson Invitational Games)
 - i. Their complex is the site of the 2018 NFCA Division III Leadoff Classic.
 - ii. She noted that there is an opportunity to stay after the Leadoff Classic to get more games at the Tucson Invitational Games.
- 10. Member Legal Benefits.
 - a. NFCA Legal Counsel Samantha Ekstrand introduced herself to the group and explained a little about herself and the free legal benefit included with NFCA memberships.
 - i. She is a coach.
 - ii. She played college lacrosse.
 - iii. Services:
 - 1. Advise coaches and avoid problems.

2. Assist once problems present themselves and coordinate local legal counsel if needed.
3. Help with contract negotiations and strategy.
4. Crisis management.
5. Separation agreements/severance packages.

11. Head Coaches Committee.

- a. Introduce reps.
- b. Three-year terms will start next year.
- c. Jen Williams (MIT) talked about the mission of the HCC and the HCC manual that she is helping establish.
 - i. HCC acts as a voice for Division III coaches to other groups.
 - ii. Work to enact NCAA rules and NFCA regulations.
- d. Next step for HCC is naming alternates to fill in for reps when they can't participate. Please let your regional rep know if you want to serve yourself or know someone that should serve.
- e. HCC has conference calls the first Wednesday of each month.
- f. Minutes will soon begin to be posted regularly on NFCA.org and reps will share what is discussed with the coaches in their respective regions.

12. Umpires. NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires Donna Vavrinec said SUP Arbiter site is "one-stop shopping" for coaches for information on umpires and rules.

- a. <https://sup.arbitersports.com>
- b. Coaches can register on the website for free.
 - i. Coaches can't see the online umpires test, but have access to everything else.
- c. NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor Vickie Van Kleeck items there.
 - i. DP/Flex.
 - ii. Bat testing information.
- d. Please fill out postseason Umpire Recommendations Form under forms tab at Arbiter site.
- e. Please fill out SUP observation form.
- f. They are working to reduce the size of the NCAA Rule Book, taking out approved rulings (which would go into a separate case book).
- g. Go be active on the arbiter site!

13. NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor. Vickie Van Kleeck's full PowerPoint is attached at end of this caucus report).

- a. Special notes:
 - i. Dugout netting.
 1. Must be six feet from floor (so teams with sunken dugouts have an advantage, since they do not have to have as much netting).
 - ii. Foul poles must be at least 10 feet (20 feet is better).
 - iii. Rules survey timeline.
 1. Call for proposals Jan. 17-Feb. 24 (go to Arbiter site to fill out form).

2. Survey for feedback from March 27-May 12.
 3. Ms. Van Kleeck noted that these are your rules and your game, so please be proactive and participate in the process. Please give feedback.
 4. As Ms. Vavrinec mentioned in her presentation, the plan is to reorganize the NCAA Rule Book to make it easier to navigate and take out multiple references to the same rule.
14. Caucus Continuation. The Division III Caucus will continue tomorrow with a NCAA Bracketing session led by Ms. Gentry.
15. Adjournment. The first day of the caucus adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

NCAA DIVISION III SOFTBALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2016

This annual report is provided by the NCAA Division III Softball Committee to outline key actions taken by the softball committee and the Division III Championships Committee during the past year and to provide general information regarding the softball championship. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact a member of the softball committee or Jan Gentry, NCAA associate director of championships (jgentry@ncaa.org; 317-917-6626).

2016-17 Division III Softball Committee Members

<u>Region</u>	<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
Atlantic	Charlie Dobbins	William Peace University	919-422-3607	cdobbins@peace.edu
Central	Lindsay Eagan	Thomas More College	859-344-3628	eaganl@thomasmore.edu
East	Kim Wilson	Rowan University	609-221-0239	wilson@rowan.edu
Great Lakes	Kim Tatro	Lawrence University	920-832-6975	kimberly.n.tatro@lawrence.edu
Midwest	Steve Wammer	Northland College	715-682-1244	swammer@northland.edu
New England	Renee Hellert	New England College	603-428-2335	rhellert@nec.edu
Northeast	Michelle Manning	Ithaca College	607-274-5708	mmanning@ithaca.edu
West	Janet Lloyd	Chapman University	714-997-6518	jlloyd@chapman.edu

Review of 2016 Championship

The 2016 NCAA Division III Softball Championship was a 62-team tournament. Teams competed at 16 regional sites (14 four-team sites and two three-team sites) and the regional winners advanced to eight super regional sites. The finals were held at the Moyer Sports Complex in Salem, Virginia, hosted by the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and the City of Salem. The national champion was the University of Texas at Tyler and the runner-up was Messiah College.

Key Dates for 2017 Championship

Selections: Sunday, May 7

Regionals: May 12-14

Super Regionals: May 19 & 20

Championship: May 25-30 at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma and the Oklahoma City All Sports Association.

2017 Championship Field

The 2017 championship field will include 62 teams.

Pool A: 42 Pool B: 1 Pool C: 19

2016-17 Sport Sponsorship

There are 411 institutions that sponsor Division III softball and are eligible for the championship.

Committee Nomination Process

- Two positions open (Atlantic and West)
- Coach or administrator
- USA South and SCIAC not eligible
- Self nominations accepted; posted deadline was **December 2 but nominations still being accepted**
- <https://web1.ncaa.org/committees/loginPage>

Future Championship Dates

Year	Selections	Regls	Super Regls	Champ
2018	May 6	May 11-13	May 18 & 19	May 24-29
2019	May 5	May 10-12	May 17 & 18	May 23-28
2020	May 3	May 8-10	May 15 & 16	May 21-26

Future Championship Sites

2018: Oklahoma City (ASA Hall of Fame Stadium)

2018-19 – 2021-22 Bid Process

January 4: Bid materials shared with sport committees

February 16: Finalists due from sport committees

March 1: Final recommendation due from sport committees

March governance meetings: Recommendations reviewed and approved

April 18: Site selection announcement

Division III Championships Committee Actions

- Ranking conducted in conjunction with selections to be published, effective 2016-17
- Per diem increased to \$95 (from \$90), effective 2017-18
- Host per diem reintroduced at \$30, effective 2017-18
- Request to increase bracket size to 63 teams, based on 1:6.5 access ratio, was not approved.
- Nonconference strength of schedule added to selection criteria as secondary criterion, effective 8-1-2017
- Results versus ranked opponents to include teams in final ranking and preceding ranking, effective 8-1-2017
- Great South Athletic Conference dissolving, effective 2016-17
- To be considered: seeding for final site confirmed after teams advance from preliminary round

2017 Softball Committee Annual Meeting

The softball committee will meet **June 19-21, 2017** in Indianapolis. If you have issues that you would like the committee to discuss, please forward them in writing to Jan Gentry at the NCAA office by **June 9**.

NCAA Division III Proposals - Adopted in Final Legislative Format - October 2016

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Intent	Additional Information
ADM-2017-1	EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS -- SELECTION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPATION -- ADDITION OF NONCONFERENCE STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE TO SECONDARY SELECTION CRITERIA	08/01/2017	To add nonconference strength of schedule as a secondary selection criterion when determining the championship field.	
ADM-2017-2	EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS -- SELECTION OF TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS PARTICIPATION -- RESULTS VERSUS RANKED OPPONENTS MAY BE CONSIDERED FROM BOTH FINAL RANKING AND PRECEDING RANKING	08/01/2017	To specify that, as part of the primary selection criteria, all teams established as ranked from the final ranking and the preceding ranking may be considered when determining results versus ranked opponents.	
ADM-2017-3	ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES -- NOTICE OF ALLEGATIONS -- REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL 30 DAYS PRIOR TO HEARING	Immediate	To establish the deadline for receipt of written material to be considered by the NCAA Committee on Infractions as 30 days prior to the date of a hearing.	
M-2017-1	ELIGIBILITY -- SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION -- HARDSHIP WAIVERS AND SEASON OF PARTICIPATION WAIVERS -- CLARIFICATION ON WAIVER NUMERATOR	Immediate	To clarify that in order to qualify for a hardship waiver or a season of participation -- participation while eligible waiver, a student-athlete may not have participated in more contests or dates of competition than a number equivalent to one-third of the standard denominator, where the standard denominator is determined by the maximum number of contests or dates of competition plus one contest or date of competition.	Figure 14-1 clearly identifies both the standard denominator and the number of contests or dates of competition equal to one-third of the standard denominator. Member institutions, however, have suggested that the legislative language pertaining to hardship waivers and season of participation, participation while eligible waivers suggests an alternative calculation. This proposal would amend the legislative language to more clearly reflect the intended method of calculating one-third of the maximum contests or dates of competition plus one contest or date of competition.
NC-2017-7	MEMBERSHIP -- PROVISIONAL OR RECLASSIFYING MEMBERSHIP -- CLASS SIZE AND ASSIGNMENT -- AMENDING ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA	Immediate	To clarify that items for consideration during an institution's evaluation for acceptance and placement in the provisional/reclassifying membership program are not in priority order. Additionally, to add the provision of athletically related financial aid as an element to be considered during the evaluation process.	Each legislated criterion reviewed by the Membership Committee during candidacy evaluations is evaluated, with no one criterion favored over another. When taken as a whole, these attributes are predictive of an incoming member institution's likelihood of membership success. In addition, the committee has discovered, over time, that whether an institution offers athletically related financial aid impacts future membership success. These revisions to the legislation will clarify how the committee evaluates candidate institutions.
NC-2017-8	COMMITTEES -- COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP -- INCREASE THE WRESTLING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION	08/01/2017	To increase the representation on the Division III Wrestling Committee from four to six members.	In 2011, a regional format was established in wrestling that created six competitive regions, which resulted in two regions without representation on the four-member committee. The addition of two committee members is consistent with other Division III sports in having one committee member per

Proposal Number	Title	Effective Date	Intent	Additional Information
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competitive region. The Division III Management and Presidents Councils previously supported this recommendation and its associated expense as part of other championships budget recommendations. This proposal simply codifies that change in Figure 21-1.

NCAA Division III Convention Legislation

Proposal Number	Title	Status	Effective Date	Intent	Rationale
2017-1	NCAA MEMBERSHIP -- CONDITIONS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP -- INDEPENDENT MEDICAL CARE	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To specify that an active member institution shall: (1) establish an administrative structure that provides independent medical care and affirms the unchallengeable autonomous authority of primary athletics health care providers (team physicians and athletic trainers) to determine medical management and return-to-play decisions related to student-athletes; and (2) designate an athletics healthcare administrator to oversee the institution's athletic health care administration and delivery.	The NCAA Principle of Health and Safety makes it the responsibility of institutions to protect the health of, and provide a safe environment for student-athletes. As a continuum of Inter-Association Consensus: Independent Medical Care for College Student-Athlete Guidelines, this proposal supports this principle and requires further administrative controls in the delivery of integrated sports medicine and athletic training services. Specifically, this proposal addresses the issue of medical providers at institutions having unchallengeable autonomous authority to determine medical management and return-to-play decisions of student-athletes. Further, the administrative structure should ensure that no coach serve as the sole supervisor for any medical provider, nor have sole hiring, retention, or dismissal authority over that provider. This is an issue facing institutions that directly impacts the health and well-being of student-athletes and this proposal will help ensure that appropriate medical care controls and authority exist.
2017-2	ELIGIBILITY -- GRADUATE AND POSTBACCALAUREATE TRANSFERS	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To permit a graduate student to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the institution of his or her choice.	Current legislation permits a graduate or postbaccalaureate student to participate only at the institution from which the student-athlete received his or her undergraduate degree. This legislation is overly restrictive in that it prohibits student-athletes who have already achieved the primary goal of collegiate enrollment (i.e., the attainment of an undergraduate degree) from continuing to pursue athletics endeavors while simultaneously progressing toward a postgraduate degree and the ultimate fulfillment of their academic and career goals. Currently, student-athletes on the verge of earning a baccalaureate degree with both seasons of participation and terms of attendance remaining must either delay graduation or potentially enroll in a graduate program that is not consistent with their career aspirations in order to continue their athletics participation.
2017-3	FINANCIAL AID FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES THAT CONSIDER ATHLETICS LEADERSHIP, ABILITY, PARTICIPATION OR PERFORMANCE -- RESTRICTION ON RECIPIENT'S CHOICE OF INSTITUTIONS	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To amend the limitations of outside financial aid awards to preclude the donor of an outside aid award that considers athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance from restricting the recipient to attend a specific institution.	Current legislation allows Division III student-athletes to receive a financial aid award from an outside source that considers athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance, provided a variety of conditions are met. One of those conditions precludes the student-athlete's choice of institutions from being restricted, in any way, by the donor of the aid. This requirement precludes a student-athlete from receiving such an award that must be used within the student-athlete's home state or even within Division III. Amending that requirement to allow these outside awards, as long as the student-athlete is not restricted to attend a single institution allows student-athletes additional flexibility to receive outside awards without subverting the integrity of the outside aid legislation.
2017-4	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- GENERAL PLAYING SEASON REGULATIONS -- STANDARDIZATION OF ANNUAL CONTEST AND DATE OF COMPETITION EXEMPTIONS	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To standardize annual contest and date of competition exemptions. Specifically, to allow each sport to exempt participation in the following: (1) conference championship; (2) season-ending tournament; and (3) two	Current annual contest and date of competition exemptions vary dramatically from one sport to the next, which creates an administrative burden for institutional staff charged with overseeing compliance with playing seasons legislation. Allowing each sport to continue to exempt conference and season-ending championship (e.g., NCAA championship) participation would maintain the most commonly used annual exemptions. Eliminating all other annual and sport-specific exemptions while permitting each sport to exempt two

Proposal Number	Title	Status	Effective Date	Intent	Rationale
				scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices. Additionally, to allow the two scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices to occur prior to the first permissible contest date in all sports other than wrestling.	scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices would standardize contest and date of competition exemptions across sports, without negatively impacting the sports that use those current exemptions. Sports with a nontraditional segment would continue to be permitted to exempt an alumni contest occurring during the nontraditional segment; the alumni contest would be the only exemption permitted during the nontraditional segment and those institutions would be required to count the alumni contest as one of their two scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices. Lastly, allowing the scrimmages, exhibitions or joint practices to occur prior to the first contest date allows institutions to use those competitions as preparation for the regular season. Wrestling would continue to be precluded from competing prior to its first permissible contest date based on the rationale for Proposal 2011-12.
2017-5	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- FIELD HOCKEY AND LACROSSE -- PRESEASON JOINT PRACTICE, SCRIMMAGE OR EXHIBITION -- EXEMPTION FROM MAXIMUM CONTEST AND DATE OF COMPETITION LIMITATIONS	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To allow field hockey and lacrosse teams to conduct an exempted scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice with outside competition prior to the first permissible contest or date of competition.	At the 2015 Convention, the membership adopted Proposal 2015-13, which established an exempted preseason scrimmage, exhibition or joint practice in the sports of soccer and women's volleyball. Because the conference sponsor of Proposal 2015-13 does not sponsor lacrosse or field hockey, neither of those two sports were included in the proposal. Field hockey and lacrosse are very similar to soccer and should be treated in the same fashion. Thus, field hockey and lacrosse should be afforded the opportunity for a preseason exemption that is already available to soccer. This proposal creates consistency between similar sports, which will ease administrative and tracking burden on institutional campuses.
2017-6	PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS -- GENERAL PLAYING SEASON REGULATIONS -- REQUIRED DAY OFF FOR TRACK AND FIELD INDOOR/OUTDOOR AND SWIMMING AND DIVING	Official Notice	Immediate	To eliminate the requirement that the mandatory day off for track and field and swimming and diving programs be the same day for every student-athlete.	Currently, the required day off must apply to each team as a whole. Division III indoor and outdoor track and field and swimming and diving teams have difficulty accommodating the number of different disciplines within the sports and the distinct training regimens amongst those disciplines. A number of variables go into planning practices and athletically related activities for these two sports. Allowing institutions the flexibility to schedule athletically related activities independently for each student-athlete will minimize challenges such as limited facility availability, staffing concerns, and student-athlete class schedule conflicts without increasing the time demands on individual student-athletes. Additional flexibility to accommodate each student-athlete's individual schedule and training requirements will also prevent injuries. An immediate effective date will allow institutions to take advantage of more appropriate scheduling practices during the spring of 2017.
2017-7	RECRUITING -- TRYOUTS AND CAMPS AND CLINICS -- DEREGULATING CAMPS AND CLINICS	Official Notice	Immediate	To deregulate the tryout events and camps and clinics legislation to allow institutions to host or conduct events involving prospective student-athletes, provided those events are: (1) open to the general public; and (2) do not offer free or reduced admission to prospective student-athletes.	Camps and clinics provide benefits to institutions and conveniences to prospective student-athletes; they are one of the most effective recruiting tools for any institution. Additionally, athletic departments and athletics staff can realize revenue and income from these events. Much confusion exists surrounding the application of the existing legislation and the nuances in the legislation do little to minimize recruiting advantages or demand on prospective student-athletes. This proposal would allow for instruction, practice-type activities and competition amongst prospective student-athletes without the unnecessary restrictions that exist in the current legislation. This proposal would continue to require that events involving prospective student-athletes are open to the general public and could not offer free or reduced admission to prospective student-athletes. Additionally, institution-hosted events would continue to be precluded from offering recruiting or scouting services. Maintaining those limited restrictions while eliminating all other existing criteria related to camps and

Proposal Number	Title	Status	Effective Date	Intent	Rationale
2017-8	MEMBERSHIP -- PROVISIONAL OR RECLASSIFYING MEMBERSHIP -- CLASS SIZE AND ASSIGNMENT -- PROVISIONAL PROGRAM SIZE LIMIT	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To limit the total number of participants in the provisional or reclassifying membership program to not more than 12 institutions.	<p>clinics will make it easier for institutions to productively host events involving prospective student-athletes without opening the door for abuse. An immediate effective date will allow institutions to take advantage of the more reasonable restrictions beginning in 2017.</p> <p>Setting a maximum limit on the number of institutions in the provisional or reclassifying membership process will improve the quality of attention and service provided to each participating institution. Limiting the number of institutions in the process to 12 will allow each institution to have an experienced mentor by allowing new membership committee members the opportunity to spend one year on the committee before being assigned to mentor an institution in the provisional program. The change also eliminates the need to average class sizes at four per year if, at any time, a waiver for more than four institutions is granted. Participant institutions in the exploratory year would not be included in calculations of the limit. A waiver of the class or program limits would still be available in special circumstances.</p>
2017-9	LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND PROCESS -- AMENDMENT PROCESS -- RECONSIDERATION -- ELIMINATE WINDOW OF RECONSIDERATION AND PROHIBIT ADDITIONAL RECONSIDERATION	Official Notice	08/01/2017	To eliminate the opportunity to reconsider an amendment following confirmation of an affirmative or negative vote on that amendment by the presiding officer.	<p>The window of reconsideration for items just debated and voted on is unnecessary. Voting delegates have ample time to research and determine their institutional opinion, debate the merits, and cast informed final votes on proposals. Allowing any additional opportunity to discuss and revote on a previously decided proposal is superfluous. The window of reconsideration provides opportunities for unethical voting. Many delegates may depart after an initial vote on Convention proposals; as a result, a delegate could strategically vote on the prevailing side of a proposal with the intent to use the window of reconsideration to take advantage of the change in the composition of the room and reverse the outcome on the proposal. Removing the window of reconsideration and any additional opportunity to request a revote will be a positive change and will streamline the business session at Convention.</p>



NFCA Convention

Caucus Meetings



2015-16 Interpretations

- Pitching—taking the signal from the catcher--2 second pause required if pitcher takes signal before stepping on pitching plate (10.2.2)
- Pause is interpreted as noticeable stop of at least 2 seconds



Pitching Change

- Team positioning between innings or during pitching change (6.5.4 & 6.6.6)
- Offensive team cannot position themselves along foul line to “watch” pitcher warm up
- Defensive starters cannot position themselves along foul line to prevent opposing team from watching pitcher



Pitching Change (cont.)

- First time it occurs, head coach is warned
- Second time, head coach is ejected



Compression Arm Sleeves

- If worn by more than one player, must be same color
- Visible undergarments must be a solid color and worn as intended
- Same criteria as undershirts (3.8.5)



Smart Watch

- Coaches cannot be allowed to wear or bring any type of smart watch onto the field.
- First offense is a team warning. The next violator on the same team will be ejected



2017 Field Requirements

- Minimum fence heights and outfield distances required for institutional fields
- Not required for municipal fields



Protest Procedure

- Rule 7.2.5 details the steps
- Umpires need to understand & follow this procedure:
 - Coach protests before next pitch
 - Coach identifies alleged failure to apply correct rule, effort or misapplication of rule



Protest Procedure

- Opposing coach may provide input
- Umpires try to settle dispute using NCAA Rules Book
- Umpires bring coaches together to explain their ruling or
- Call SRE to determine on field resolution
- Submit Incident Report



In-Game Field Maintenance

- Rule 5.2.4—In-game field maintenance shall only be at the direction of the umpire
- Can only be done if the umpire feels poor field condition warrants it
- Currently not legal in NCAA Softball



Nonregulation Field

- 2.17.2—when playing in a dome or multiuse facility, fences distances must meet the 2017 minimum requirements listed in Rule 2.11
- If fence distances are shorter, a fair batted ball over the fence is a ground-rule double and not a home run



Possible Rules Changes

- Obstruction—require defensive player to have the ball in her possession
- Illegal Pitch—change penalty to ball on batter only. Runners do not advance
- Intentional Walk—not requiring pitcher to throw pitches



Possible Rules Changes

- Allow for projected substitutions
- Allow coaches to just “point” for a straight substitution for runner or batter
- Limit number of offensive & defensive conferences per game
- Limit number of player-to-player conferences in an inning



Possible Rules Changes

- Require batter to keep one foot in box between pitches
- Pitcher has 4, not 5, warmup pitches
- Limit time between innings & between pitches—possible clock
- Experimental use of instant replay



Possible Rules Changes

- Allow home team to hand drag/rake infield between innings without umpire requesting it to be done
- Allow coaches to retrieve scouting data from iPad, tablet, etc during game



Possible Rules Changes

- Hit by pitch—require batter to make attempt to get out of way even if ball is in batters box
- Artificial noisemakers—umpires will rule on it without opposing coach bringing it to their attention



Possible Rules Changes

- Base Running—not allowing baserunners to run into the outfield to deceive the defense



Rawlings Softball

- Official NCAA softball for championship play
- Can use any ball that meets specifications in 3.2
- Same ball as Worth softball

THANK YOU!



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