

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION  
DIVISION III HEAD COACHES COMMITTEE**

**Dec. 7, 2016**

**In-person meeting at NFCA National Convention, New Orleans Marriott**

The meeting was brought to order by NFCA Division III Board Representative Diana Pepin at 7:30 p.m. CT. Those present were:

Shannel Blackshear (on behalf of her head coach, Josie Henry, University Athletic Association, who was unable to attend); John Byrne, Landmark Conference; Marie Curran, State University of New York Athletic Conference; Brandon Elliott, Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Lindsay Freitag, Middle Atlantic Conference; Angela Froboese, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; Erica Hanrahan, North Coast Athletic Conference; Renae Hartl, Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Tiffany Prager, College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Meghan Roman, Midwest Conference; George Wares, Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Jen Williams, New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference; and Kim Wilson, New Jersey Athletic Conference.

Diana Pepin, Little East Conference and NFCA Division III Board of Directors representative; Dave Hines, NFCA Division III Liaison; and guests Jan Gentry and Mo Harty, both of the NCAA, were also in attendance.

Hannah Shalett Quintana, Liberty League; and Janae Shirley, American Southwest Conference; participated via conference call.

Dave Canan, New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference, was not at the meeting or on the call.

1. NCAA Report.

- a. Jan Gentry and Mo Harty of the NCAA provided an update on NCAA matters and a preview of the ranking exercise planned for the second day of the Division III caucus.
- b. Membership dues increased for Division III schools.
- c. Per diem for championships increased to \$95 (from \$90), effective 2017-18.
- d. Host per diem reintroduced at \$30, effective 2017-18.
- e. Requested increase in tournament field to 63, based on 1:6.5 access ratio (not approved).
  - i. 411 teams, so based on ratio, could go from 61 to 63.
  - ii. Championships Committee committed to even brackets, so when participation allows to go to 64 teams, they can try again.
- f. Recommended that NCAA extend mileage to 600-mile radius (not approved).

- g. Recommended seed 1-8 at finals site, rather than knowing in advance who you will play coming out of super regionals (not approved)
  - h. Recommended seed final 16 teams remaining (not approved)
  - i. Recommended adding non-conference strength-of-schedule as selection criteria (approved)
  - j. Recommended using results versus ranked opponents as selection criteria (approved)
  - k. Heading into next budget cycle:
    - i. Expand as membership grows
    - ii. Assigners of officials
    - iii. Pay ground transportation?
    - iv. Travel size
    - v. Bench size
    - vi. Mementos for participants
  - l. More legislation:
    - i. Camps and clinics deregulation
    - ii. Transfer rules
2. Division III HCC Manual.
- a. Adapt Division I manual for Division III
  - b. Acts as a new HCC member packet
  - c. Highlights:
    - i. We need committed committee members. If you miss two conference calls without notice, you'll be removed from the committee.
    - ii. There is a need to add alternates.
      - 1. Each region needs alternates (that get all HCC information everyone else does) to be able to fill in if "regular" committee members are unable to participate.
    - iii. If a head coach leaves, or is removed, how do we replace that person?
    - iv. Plan is to have one-third of reps rotate off HCC each year to preserve balance of new and veteran members.
    - v. Committee members have the responsibility of soliciting input from the conferences they represent and sharing HCC discussions with those conferences.
3. Member participation.
- a. Less than 10 percent (of 411 teams) in Division III filled out the NFCA Committee Survey.
  - b. Form subcommittees to take on issues facing/important to the Division III membership.
    - i. Subcommittee to help Division III members understand what the various NFCA committees (including the HCC) do
  - c. Track who hasn't voted yet, so we can remind them to vote.
  - d. Encourage member coaches to run for open committee positions

- e. When minutes are approved, send them to the entire membership to keep them informed, as well as post online in the Division III Coach's Box at NFCA.org
  - f. Growing Division III membership.
    - i. Janae Shirley mentioned that her conference (American Southwest) passed a rule requiring all member coaches to be members of the NFCA.
    - ii. Membership Subcommittee.
      - 1. Lindsay Freitag, Renae Hartl,, Hannah Shalett Quintana and George Wares volunteered for the subcommittee.
      - 2. Perhaps have a contest to see which region gets the highest *percentage* of new members (rather than *number* of new members, since size of regions vary).
      - 3. Provide list to regional reps of schools within their region (specifically the conferences they represent) that are not members.
  - g. Legislation Subcommittee.
    - i. Need to lead the way and be proactive, rather than reactive.
  - h. Other Ideas.
    - i. Rules Subcommittee.
    - ii. Championships Subcommittee.
      - 1. Kim Wilson is on the NCAA Softball Committee and can report back to the HCC.
4. Division III Caucus planning.
- a. Have attendees sit with others in their region.
  - b. Provide time for breakouts on hot topics.
    - i. Sample topics:
      - 1. How can the HCC serve you better?
      - 2. Rules
      - 3. Thoughts about recruiting process.
  - c. Second day of caucus is for NCAA bracketing exercise.
5. Adjournment. The call was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. CT.