

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

December 7, 2016

New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans

The meeting was brought to order at 8:30 am. CT. Those present were:

Alicia Abbott, Northern Illinois University; Todd Buckingham, Saginaw Valley State University; Dave Hines, NFCA liaison; Melvin Jenkins, Pratt Community College; Jennifer Steele, Jacksonville University; Nat Wagner, Augustana (S.D.). University.

Heather Gelbard, University of Maryland-Baltimore County; Cheryl Milligan, Tufts University and Annie Smith, Georgia Southern University were not able to attend.

1. Introductions. NFCA liaison Dave Hines asked all committee members in attendance to introduce themselves to the group.
2. Publications. Mr. Hines described and showed examples of the types of publications the NFCA produces during the year. He explained how article authors and topics are determined.
  - a. Fastpitch Delivery
    - i. There are certain months of the year that have particular topics, such as Coaching Staffs of the Year in the late spring and summer months, and Convention-related coverage in the December issue.
    - ii. It was suggested to get graduate students to contribute articles to benefit both themselves by getting published and the Association by the sharing of helpful information.
    - iii. The group thought it was good to have regular contributors (Counsel's Corner, Training Your Mind), but also important to have new faces as well to share as many different viewpoints as possible.
    - iv. Future topics:
      1. Culture-building articles
      2. Team-building: Problems and how they are solved
      3. Leadership
      4. Professional coaching:
        - a. When is it time to make a job change?
        - b. What do you do when coach and administration goals/ideas don't align, while keeping the players' best interests in mind?
      5. Family life:
        - a. Buying a house/setting down permanent roots
        - b. Dealing with (personal) difficulties off the field

6. What is the experience of a new softball coach after moving from another sport (i.e. football coach moving into softball)?
  - a. Are they welcomed (softball tends to be much more welcoming than other sports, but what things help make that happen)?
  - b. How do they become comfortable being around coaches that have much more experience in softball than they have starting out (may be similar to just being a new coach, period, rather than someone changing sports)?
7. "The Grind" monthly column
  - a. The stressors you go through
  - b. Dealing with things going on outside the team (could be players and/or coaches)
  - c. Balancing personal life/coaching
8. May-June is a great time to have articles on contract negotiations (especially helpful for young coaches or coaches going through the process for the first time)
  - a. How should you proceed with negotiations (how does the process work?)
  - b. How do other places do it?
  - c. Averages on salaries
  - d. How do schools make it hard for coaches to leave if a better opportunity presents itself?
  - e. Should you have a buyout clause?
  - f. Will mid-majors and lower divisions do buyouts?
    - i. Do those coaches get multi-year deals? Just single-year deals? Are multi-year deals even offered?
9. How to identify/pick team captains
10. Integrating technology into your team
  - a. How are we using technology to help our coaching?
  - b. Best video camera to buy to film games, practices, etc.?
  - c. Video-editing software picks and tips
11. How do you train an assistant to REALLY assist you?
12. How to best prepare your team in the fall to have success in the spring
13. Title IX stories (Rayla Allison suggested as an author)
- v. The group felt that high school and travel ball coaches need to contribute more, so that the membership can better understand their issues and needs

### 3. Podcasts.

- a. The group was in favor of podcasts with coach interviews

- b. TED talks-style approach?
  - c. "Coaching Development Corner" could help people
4. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. CT

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Establish a February 2017-January 2018 schedule for committee members to contribute articles, drills and Tip Tuesday items themselves or to coordinate someone to provide those materials during their assigned month(s).
- Select new committee chair