



NAIA – Softball Coaches Association Business Meeting Minutes

8:30-11:30 am – December 8, 2016 – Balcony K

New Orleans, La.

I. Call to Order – Steve Babinski, NAIA-SCA President

A. Introduction of Officers

Steve Babinski – President

Mike Christner – 1st Vice President

Tony Segovia – 2nd Vice President

Kat Ihlenberg – Secretary

Eric Ward – NAC Representative

B. Introduction of Attendees

Laura Klutsarits, Siena Heights; Amber Affholter, West Virginia Tech; Wendy Spratt, Columbia; Debbie Jameson, Columbia; Anna Ball, Lawrence Tech; Jenelle Trautmann, Valley City State; Mike Mouk, Valley City State; Tori Fite, Spring Arbor; Deb Thompson, Spring Arbor; Jessica Pistole, Southern Oregon; Ernie Adams, Southern Oregon; Juliaclare Plezbert, Oklahoma Wesleyan; Caty Reeves, Oklahoma Wesleyan; Elizabeth Burris, St. Andrews; Mary Cross, St. Andrews; Brandie Paul, Martin Methodist; Kaitlyn Perry, William Carey; Craig Fletcher, William Carey; Kayla Watkins, Bryan; Sarah Harman, Southwestern Assemblies of God; Betsy Westermann, Eastern Oregon; Brian Daley, Edward Waters; Aaron Jackson, Carroll; Phil McSpadden, Oklahoma City; Dani Dobbs Wondrasek, St. Gregory's; Gene Reardon, Central Methodist; Matt Wilkins, Texas Wesleyan; Aurelia Gamch, Ottawa; Roni Miller, York; Felix Esparza, Texas Wesleyan; Shannon Gower, Texas Wesleyan; Carolyn Bray, College of Saint Mary; Lorie Coleman, Biola; Michala Cimino, Bellevue; Brandi Alonzo, Viterbo; Larry Gerald, Bethel (Tenn.); Monica Strube, University of Houston-Victoria; Lexy Determan, Waldorf; James Kling, Our Lady of the Lake; Jackie Manrique, Trinity Christian; Kaleigh Velasquez, Trinity Christian; Hosea Bell, Langston; Miguel Justiniano Jr., Talladega; Ashley Spencer, McPherson; Jamie Stanclift, Baker; Jim Farrell, Cornerstone; Geena Capitini, Keiser; Terri Knecht, Keiser; Courtney Dunker, Keiser; Samantha Kircher, Central Methodist; Neil Hansen, Central Methodist; Pat Reardon, Central Methodist; Hal Wynn, Faulkner; Dana Goss, Benedictine; Stephanie Zimny, Indiana Tech; Erika Warren, Indiana Tech; Christen Hardee, Menlo

C. Approval of December 2015 minutes

Klutsarits/Wynn

42-0-0 APPROVED

II. Reports

A. NFCA National Office Report – Hal Wynn

124 head coaches and 66 assistant coaches from the NAIA are members. Continue to encourage membership to coaches as a way to ensure teams/players are recognized for awards at the NFCA level.

NFCA provides a legal service for members of the association, please feel free to use this service – Samantha Extra is the attorney for this service.

2018 convention will be in Las Vegas, Nev.

B. NAIA National Office Report – Jamie Adams

Membership – the NAIA has a stated goal of 275 member institutions by 2020, to this end there are 9 institutions that will receive site visits this year, including one Division II and one Division III institution.

InCred – the eligibility center has an open service that can be used for all international student-athletes regardless of whether they are athletes or not. Please feel free to share this amongst the admissions team on your campus.

ACT/SAT – to solve a concordance issue between the ACT and SAT, for the time being the acceptable scores for NAIA student-athletes will be ACT – 16 and SAT – 860. Legislation is being voted on in April to determine whether the ACT score will stay at 16 or not. If you are worried about a student-athlete, please encourage them to strive for the 18 ACT score or potentially take the SAT to try to gain the 860 score. A long term decision will be communicated after the convention in April.

National Office Role – Jamie emphasized her role as an advocate to softball coaches and her desire to help make changes that the softball coaching community feels are necessary.

C. 2016 National Tournament Report – Steve Babinski

Congratulations to Phil McSpadden and the Oklahoma City University Stars for their World Series win in 2016. 2nd year of National Championship has been finalized in Sioux City and the event will be moving to Clermont, Fla. for a 2 year contract.

III. **Proposals** – Steve Babinski (see attached)

Process for changes in the sport: motions should be submitted through the online portal, however they can also be brought on the floor of the Coaches Association Business Meeting. All motions that have been submitted are brought forward during the motion. If they are approved at the Business Meeting, they will be placed on the online ballot. 50% of NAIA coaches must vote in the online ballot in order to move any motions forward. Any motion that is passed through the online ballot will be addressed depending on the type of change it is: if it is simply a clerical issue, the National Office will address; if it is a bylaws issue there will need to be a co-sponsor and the motion will be voted on by membership during Convention; if it is an NAC change, the motion will be brought forward to the National Administrative Council for discussion and voting in June at NACDA.

A. Sport Motion #1 – Halted Game Protocol into Opening Round Reeves/Klutsarits

Motion: Incorporate halted game protocol into NAIA World Series Opening Round tournaments.

Rationale: The current inclement weather policy for the NAIA World Series Opening Rounds makes no mention to if halted games should be resumed or counted official after five innings of play if a game must be halted due to weather. This motion would clarify the language so that games halted due to rain would be concluded the following day (if two days are available to complete the tournament). This would support current legislation that “every effort must be made to complete the opening round tournament on the field.” This eliminates the umpires, coaches, and site supervisor from having to agree upon protocols and would make the policy universal across all opening sites.

Discussion: This is in place for the World Series, but not specifically listed in the Opening Round Manual. Is this a clerical issue? If approved this would be a simple adjustment to the manuals (not a change in policy). Match the language between the Opening Round and World Series regarding Halted Game Policy to complete games on the field.

Vote: 48-0-0 APPROVED

B. Sport Motion #2 – Opening Round Practice Times Klutsarits/Spratt

Motion: During the opening round of the national tournament, all teams will be allotted 90 minutes of practice time where the game field and batting cage areas are available for their use the entire 90 minutes on Sunday prior to the games on Monday. If a variation of time or day is necessary due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to do so equally for all teams.

Rationale: Opening round sites have had different practice time slots, running anywhere from one hour to two and a half hour blocks, having a standard set time frame across the board would put no school at a perceived advantage/disadvantage heading into the games.

Discussion: If inclement weather is coming in late in the day, all teams should be consistent.

Emphasis on having consistent time across the country

Include language for Opening Round and the World Series

Vote: 45-0-0 APPROVED

C. Sport Motion #3 – Opening Round Site Supervisors

Klutsarits/Hardee

Motion: At the opening round of the national tournament, the site supervisor will be a neutral person who is not employed by any school competing in that opening round.

Rationale: There are times when there are difficult decisions which need to be made in regards to game play, game times, cancellations, or rescheduling. The site supervisor works with the NAIA on these decision, however, they are still the lead in the decisions as they are on location. We don't want to run into any perceived bias or conflict of interest for the people tasked with helping to make these decisions.

Discussion: What resources are we using to get these site supervisors? (From Jamie): we ask schools to name a suggested site supervisor when they submit their bid, using executive committee who are not involved in opening rounds, "all call" for a pool of volunteers. The goal is to use regional coaches as much as possible.

Vote: 42-0-0 APPROVED

D. Sport Motion #4 – Postseason Roster

Klutsarits/Reardon

Motion: Allow for five coaches to be on the postseason roster rather than the three which are currently allowed.

Rationale: With more and more schools adding JV programs, roster sizes are increased and thus coaching staffs are increased. In a lot of cases, there are more than three coaches who work with a team throughout the year. They are penalized if their additional coaches are not allowed in the dugout for the postseason.

Discussion: Worry for those schools who may not have increased their roster/coaching size is that a disadvantage?

This helps to "reward" the volunteer assistant coaches who have worked with the kids all year. When you have the staff and they put in the work day in and day out it is unfair to make them a spectator and not a coach.

Vote: 43-0-0 APPROVED

IV. **Discussion Items** – Steve Babinski

A. Open Discussion

Tabled Motion from 2015: Individual practices for 10 hours per week (to basically be on par with NCAA DII) Sense among leadership that student-athletes at small colleges, athletics should continue to be a part of the experience instead of the entire experience

The membership's response to this seems to be: If we approve this we have to approve it for every other sport: dealing with this for 5 years... etc.

Motion: Creating a taskforce to investigate Individual Practices through the next year.

Vote: 36-0-0 APPROVED

NAIA Rep to Rules Committee: the rules committee from the NFCA is looking to change illegal pitch and intentional walk rules, please participate in any surveys you see from NFCA.

V. **Secretary Nominations** – Steve Babinski

Laura Klutsarits, Siena Heights

Laura Heberling, USC Beaufort

VI. **Speakers**

A. Carol Bruggeman – Executive Director NFCA

If there's anything we can do to help grow the membership please let us know.

B. Sean Connors – eTeamSponsor

See attached presentation.

VII. **Adjournment**