

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION  
AWARDS COMMITTEE**

*December 2, 2015*

*Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA*

- 1. Meeting Introduction**- Awards Committee Chair & NFCA 4<sup>th</sup> VP, Joanna Lane calls the meeting to order at 10:00 am EST and round table introductions are done.

In Attendance:

Joanna Lane, Central Michigan (4<sup>th</sup> VP)  
Christina Sutcliffe, Northern Illinois (DI)  
Cheryl Milligan, Tufts (DIII)  
Darci Brownell, Sierra (Cal JC)  
Travis Wilson, Florida State (Assistant Coach)  
Kelley Fisher, NFCA liaison

Not In Attendance:

Greta Melstead, Augustana (DII))  
Elliott Sampley, Lyon (NAIA)  
Lana Ross, Iowa Western (NJCAA)  
Lauren Gustartis, Clear Falls (High School)  
Kevin Shelton (Travel Ball)

- 2. Meeting Summary**

- a. Joanna provided an overview of the 2015 awards reviewed by the Awards Committee. All Mary Nutter and Assistant Coach of the Year recipients are attending the convention. In addition, the wife and daughter of the late John Keyes will be in attendance to accept the Donna Newberry Perseverance Award on his behalf.
- b. There has been extensive discussion at the board level surrounding Player of the Year Awards. The board's feeling is that a Player of the Year Award should be given at every collegiate level.
  - i. Some potential challenges for the presentation of the Player of the Award include the cost and the presentation of the award. If the DI model were implemented, the flight costs would become incredibly expensive.
    1. Instead of flying in multiple candidates, the Player of the Year candidates would be voted on by members of their caucus group.
    2. The NFCA would work with the institution to find a time and place where the award would be presented with the athlete's friends, family, administrator, etc. present.
    3. Local NFCA members or NFCA staff would present the award and there would be little travel cost incurred.

4. The idea is to make it about the kid, the team, and community and not necessarily the tournament, etc.
  5. The institution would coordinate local media to promote the event.
- ii. The Awards Committee is all in favor of a Player of the Year Award and likes the idea of having the award presentation on the player's campus because it would allow for administrators to attend. The idea of presenting at convention was brought up, but everyone like the campus option and that the award would be unique and stand-alone.
  - iii. Discussed the nomination process and the timeline for voting and how it would work in conjunction with All-American selections.
    1. The general thought is that the "pool of candidates" would come from the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-American selections.
    2. One week after each division's championship series, any players who participated in the series would have their statistics updated. Once updated, the revised player stats would be sent to the head coach members of the respective caucus group for vote. Coaches would have 10 days to vote.
      - a. Question was raised whether all voting should be done at once. The consensus is to tier the vote based on when each championship series concludes. This would ensure each award is special and unique.
  - iv. Some ideas for the award itself included a vase, ring, or trophy and the question was raised as to whether the athlete should have the ability to select her award from several options or should the award be the same. The general feeling is that giving the same award promotes solidarity.
    1. The committee is going to ask several college coaches about which award they prefer and then report back to Joanna before she presents to the board.
- c. Committee discussed the review process for the Assistant Coach of the Year and Donna Newberry awards and the Mary Nutter Scholarship.
    - i. Overall like the process, but feel if a committee member is not going to be on call for the review, he/she must submit comments to the group prior to the call. It was difficult to review some of the awards this past year without everyone on the call or his/her comments submitted prior to the review.
    - ii. Liked having the NFCA forward nominations as they are received so they do not have to be reviewed all at once.
    - iii. There is poor Assistant Coach of the Year participation from many of the caucus groups. The committee representative will promote the award in his/her convention caucus group

meeting. Also look to promote more via social media, through publications, and as a question of the week/month.

- d. When reviewing the Assistant Coach of the Year nominations, noticed many had a strong community service element highlighted in the write-ups. Because of this, would like to create a "Humanitarian Award" in 2016.
- e. Discussed timeframe for next call. Next call will be Tuesday, January 26 at 9 am ET and then in April. Based on outcome of January call, a call prior to April may need to be scheduled.

**3. Action Items**

- a. Committee members to poll coaching members on ideas for Player of the Year Award.
- b. Committee members to promote the Assistant Coach of the Year Award in his/her caucus meeting.
- c. Joanna to present Player of the Year ideas to the Board of Directors.
- d. Kelley to send conference call details for January call.

**4. Meeting Adjourns at 11:04 am.**