

**National Fastpitch Coaches Association
Division II Caucus Minutes**

Thursday, December 3, 2015 – Atlanta Marriott Marquis

1. Gary Bryce, Division II representative on NFCA Board of Directors welcomed members
2. Terri Holmes – Chair of DII Softball Committee
 - A. Presented NCAA Division II 2015 annual report
 - i. reviewed 2015 championship
 - ii. previewed 2016 championship
 - iii. announced Salem as 2017 & 2018 sites
 - iv. Explained revised selection criteria.
 - B. Explained how to recommend legislative proposals for softball
 - i. Two conferences or 15 teams
 - ii. Communication is key
 - iii. NCAA is on a tri-annual budget.

Was asked about dropping festival years – the student-athletes

3. Les Stuedeman – *A lot of discussion on the national committee. We have support from NCAA championship to move forward with a permanent home for Division II. Oklahoma City was a good example of why we need a permanent site. Practice and first day was incredible.*
4. Discussed NFCA Hall of Fame
 - A. Gary – We need to get more Division II coaches on the ballot
 - B. Les - urged the members to participate in the HOF process.
 - C. Gary introduced Hall of Famer Judy Groff (former AIC head coach)
5. DII HCC introduced themselves
6. Bylaws Proposals were explained to those in attendance
 - A. Will be packaged as one
 - B. Motion by Gary to accept changes - passed unanimously
7. Discussion about DII Leadoff Classic Dates
 - A. Gary urged coaches to vote. Only 68 coaches voted during DII Leadoff Dates online survey
 - B. Head coaches in attendance voted to have tournament Feb. 10-12
8. Discussed dates for postseason awards
9. Voted to add a pitcher of the year postseason awards – voted and carried (passed)
10. Allison Strange – President of PFX of Athletics
 - A. PFX – explained history, complex, spring games and non-profit mission.
11. Vickie Van Kleeck, NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor - presented rule changes for 2016

- A. Obstruction definition – changed from “about to receive” with “in the act of catching” – discussed between coaches, Vickie & Donna Vavrinec
 - i. long discussion ensued
- B. Coaches need to respond to surveys and be more involved
- C. Artificial Turf
- D. Backstop Padding – required for 2016
 - a. No regulation on size of padding
- E. Field Side Enclosure – Open faced dugouts need to have fence facing field (2018)
- F. Foul Pole should contrast ball & background (example used optic orange) needed by 2018
- G. Non-traditional fields (indoor) those not 190 line and 220 center; ball hit over will be ground rule double
- H. Runner’s Lane – cannot interfere with fielder receiving throw at first
- I. Stepping on Tarp – played considered to have entered dead-ball territory
- J. Bat Barrel Color cannot be yellow
- K. No restriction pitcher’s glove
- L. Cannot wear highly reflective helmets – headgear must be same predominant color
- M. Spectator Interference
- N. Tournament Video Streaming – Hosts may stream all games not just games participating in
- O. Artificial Noisemakers – Team warning instead of individual warning
- P. Suspended player – game will be forfeited if suspended (ejected already listed) is caught participating
- Q. Illegal Pitch – immediate dead ball (no pitch)
- R. Donna did hit by pitch presentation
- S. Batter interference
- T. Sliding out of Baseline – runner is out and ejected; return baserunners to last base legally touched
- U. Equipment misuse – head coach warned; second – coach ejected and equipment removed
- V. Points of emphasis
 - a. Hit by Pitch
 - b. Obstruction
 - c. Questioning strike zone
 - d. Questioning umpire’s judgements

Pitching rule came out Tuesday morning (Dec. 1) 10.2.2 (Must be a noticeable pause of at least two seconds)
- W. Donna announced bat lists dates – Second Monday of Dec., March, April and July
- X. Common Practice updates

12. Donna Vavrinec, NCAA National Umpire Coordinator

- A. Arbitersports.com (free) – you can submit question to Vickie & Donna... There is a rule proposal link (go directly to rules committee) – Need feedback from Division II in order to go forward (have the majority). Form for umpire recommendations and evaluations
- B. Elaborated on check swing mechanics – stay focused in the game (umpires), especially with two-man crews. They can make that call (did she open her hips)
- C. Live umpire clinics available – San Jose, Atlanta, Indianapolis (first year) for DI umpires are required.
- D. NCAA championships – must have umpired DII games to umpire in postseason. Will have to bend a little if umpire is not available in region (regionals & supers)

Question: Does the UIC stress things at NCAA postseason that is not stressed during the regular? – They should not. Donna instructs (stressed) NCAA reps to work with UICs to evaluate umpires. She does not instruct to stress a certain rule.

Les – stressed the evaluations are important. Have a conversation with your site rep. Take your time or if you go too fast make sure to have that conversation. If you're not comfortable doing it on paper, talk to your rep.

Donna – answered question about is the strike zone between and DI and DII. Can only do so much with what is called.

12 - Kevin – Florida Sports commission (Clearwater) – gave brief presentation for DII Leadoff Classic. Eddie C Moore Complex.

13. Attorney (Gary) – Keep one on retainer. To help in many different issues. How much more you would be willing to pay towards?

A. Motion by Patti Gerkens, seconded by Edith Gallagher to agree to dues increase should the NFCA decides to hire a lawyer.

14. Bat Testing – Two conferences will conduct bat testing at all home game during the season. Results will be results throughout the season.

15. Scholarship increase – will help DII grow. Look at the big picture. Take a proactive position and it will happen.

1. Richie Bruister – new sports are getting 50 percent scholarships of their roster. Softball is at 37 percent of participants on scholarship. Far behind in the scholarship game.

2. Discussion amongst the coach about the issue

3. Big separation between certain conferences

Les – opportunity for more kids with the increase (big picture) what is the best

16. Sharon Cessna, NCAA Director of Championships

1. Explained the single site option and three games in one day issue

a. Not in the interest of the NCAA to have teams play three games because of weather and revert back to the original seeding. Want the champion to be determined on the field.

b. Finances –

c. Two to four-year plan – come up with a strategy with where you want to be. This is what we want to see in five. Piece by piece.

Les – What is the process of getting out of the festival and how are the athlete's polled? Every athlete of the 64 is polled each year.

d. Not getting out, but pushing back the dates so it doesn't disrupt the regular season schedule. Start there and then go forward.

Lori Meyer - Let's move it back. You're not going to stop the sports festival. It's affecting opportunities for the student-athlete's to play

Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.