

National Fastpitch Coaches Association
Internet Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 2, 2015 – Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Meeting called to order by Gary Bryce at 7:37 pm

In attendance: Gary Bryce (DII Liaison), Brian Stanley (NFCA liaison), Patti Gerckens (UCSD/CCAA), Sheilah Gulas (Ashland/GLIAC), Kelli Williams (Wheeling Jesuit/Mountain East), Sue Kunkle (Southern Indiana/GLVC), Miles Mallette (Kentucky Wesleyan/GMAC), Susan Anderson (Central Missouri/MIAA), Erin Kinberger (Saint Leo/Sunshine State), Gretta Melsted (Augustana/Northern Sun), Shena Hollar (Lenoir Rhyne/SAC), Richie Bruister (Texas A&M-Commerce/Lone Star), Dervin Taylor (Adams State/RMAC), Will Atkinson (West Alabama/Gulf South), Patrick Peasant (Miles College/SIAC), Lataya Hilliard-Gray (Winston-Salem State/CIAA), Tonya Medders (West Georgia), Brittany Bennett (UNC Pembroke/Peach Belt), Mairin Dudek (AIC/NE-10), Susan Cassidy-Lyke (Molloy/East Coast), Dan Gierlak (Edinboro/PSAC), Bill Baber (Cal Baptist), Lonny Sargent (Western Oregon/GNAC).

A. Hot Topics

1. **Bylaws** – discussed it as a package, three-year term, audit every five years, retired (Emeriti) can run for office, addition of fifth vice president.
2. Gary announced attendance at convention is around 128 DII members need to start working towards 50 percent participation
 - a. We need to be able to push things through. Make ourselves better as a DII

B. Lawyer

1. Used Jacquie Joseph as an example of a need for a lawyer. We don't have much protection. –
 - a. Discussion ensued
Dan – having the availability/advice of an attorney will help.
Erin – on board with it. In this day and age, we need the protection
Patrick – What is the purpose? Clarity. Protect us against, institutions, players, parents. We can lose our jobs for hearsay. What would the increase (dues) be? A lot of things we need lawyers as coaches. What is the scope and what are we limited to?
Gary – No guarantee that your university will support you
Richie – Who would I call? Great to get advice.
 - ii. Committee voted in favor of a lawyer.

C. Discussed NCAA proposal towards not playing three games in one day during NCAA postseason

1. Not good for the welfare of the student-athletes
2. Sue Kunkle used example of UMSL regional

3. Will Atkinson - No other sport asks to play three games in one day. Welfare of the student-athlete.
 4. How do we go about proposing it
 5. Brittany Bennett – add no playing 3 games in one season (would help)
 6. Mairin/Dervin – we have to play three games in one day to get games situation
- D. Discussed permanent site for national championship
1. Gary – Try to get it located in central part of the country. A place easy to travel to.
 2. Dan – permanent site would have to have permanent fences
- E. Introduction of every coach
- F. Bat Testing
1. Brittany Bennett brought the Peach Belt’s bat testing policy.
 - a. Bat testing at all home games. Explained the brand new policy and its pros and cons. Open to discussion. Will share with committee during season.
 - b. Patrick- need training for the machine (who will do it)
 - c. Lonny – who will be doing it
 - d. Several coaches discussed the pros and cons of the policy; who is testing, is the machine correct
 2. Richie Bruister – explained the Lone Star’s bat testing policy. A lot of similarities with Peach Belt. Possibly testing bats after games (bats can get hot during game)
- G. Nine Scholarships
1. Discussed pros and cons – Richie explained process that the Lone Star tried to push it but needed a second league to go forward with it (2012)
 2. Patrick – Program that are full will move to nine. Programs at three will stay at three. Make legislation that forces institutions to increase funding. The disparity will increase, but agrees we need more. Unless there is legislation to enforce it, it won’t happen. Makes the well-being for the entire DII better.
 3. Richie - Average 37 percent scholarship and along with soccer the top two in numbers amongst DII. Two most popular sports.
 4. Push for 9 or 10 will legitimize our sport. What is the best interest for DII softball.

F. Other Business/Discussion

Gary - Firm believer that NFCA represents all levels of softball. We need to step up as a division. More involvement at the convention. Not be stagnant.

Need to be more involved - How do they choose speakers?

Even need more presence. We need to be known and increase awareness so people know who we are. Nobody knows who are.

All have great ideas and we need to do something about it.

1. Gretta – Brought forward idea of Player and Pitcher of the Year. HCC agreed it would be a good idea to separate award. Recognize another student-athlete.
 - a. stipulations were discussed (could same player win both awards)
 - b. would need backing of Schutt Sports and approval from NFCA

Hall of Fame – discussed pushing people

Conference calls in the spring will be every third Monday at 12:15 p.m. ET

Meeting adjourned at 9:12

Next meeting Jan. 19th at 12:15 pm ET