

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
COACHING EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 2nd, 2015

Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

In attendance:

Tony Ciccarello, SUNY Fredonia, Division III
Pam Fink, Oklahoma Baptist, NAIA
Kat Ihlenburg, Georgia Gwinnette College, *NAIA-elect*
Patrick Murphy, Chair, University of Alabama, Past-President
Breanne Nasti, Adelphi University, Division II
Ray Noelte, Fury Softball, *Travel Ball-elect*
Sean Payne, Floyd Central HS (Indiana), High School, *via conference call*
Annie Smith, Georgia Southern, Division I
Joe Yegge, Kirkwood Community College, NJCAA

Carol Bruggeman, NFCA Interim Executive Director & NFCA liaison
Cindy Bristow, Softball Excellence, NFCA member, guest
Robin Pokoj, Softball Excellence, NFCA member, guest

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Summary

- a. Coaching Tools (Softball Excellence) Partnership
 - i. Coaching Tools (Softball Excellence) Year One package was launched in late-October. Marketing plan for high school, travel ball, and youth coaches will begin in January 2016. Membership has already increased in the youth categories since the Coaching Tools launch.
 - ii. NFCA will become more visible within High School Coaches Associations across the country and promote Coaching Tools package.

- b. Tip Tuesday
 - i. Tip Tuesday has been a huge educational hit with the membership.
 - ii. Ideas for future tips were discussed.
 - iii. Goal is to keep Tip Tuesday “fresh” to continue user-friendly format.

- c. Website
 - i. Education page/tab is available on new website.
 - ii. Refer all speaking requests to Speakers Bureau, which is also currently listed on NFCA website.

- d. NFCA Coaches Clinic
 - i. First ever NFCA Coaches Clinic will be held on January 8-9, 2016 in Elizabeth, IN (right outside Louisville, KY).
 - ii. Discussed future clinic ideas and speakers
 1. Rapid Fire Topics – different format from other clinics
 2. Around the Horn/60 Second Clock
 3. Live Polling or Live Tweeting.
 4. Offer alumni specials (reward returning year after year).
 5. Offer member vs. non-member benefits/discounts.
 6. Pitching Summit smaller format – mini couch discussions in front of the whole clinic
 7. Collect Q/A before the couch sessions

- e. NFCC Courses
 - i. Had no fall on-site campus classes because of NFCA leadership transition.
 - ii. Return rate and retention of coaches is very high. Many take multiple courses.
 - iii. Highest participant numbers are pre and post-convention.
 - iv. Suggested instructors provide content on thumb drive and send out ahead of class and eliminate class book/print outs.
 - v. Offer Grass Roots courses.
 - vi. Consider offering the classes for purchase online, etc.
Discussed the possibility of sharing parts of the class for free but would have to subscribe for more.
 - vii. Have a “Coach of the Month” subscription with different coaches each month available for purchase.
 - viii. Have the courses available for purchase on DVD.
 - ix. Shared ideas for improvement and growth of future courses.
 - x. Future sites/dates for 2016-2017
 - 1) NFCC 404 – September 9-10, 2016 at SIUE (Carol Bruggeman, Deanna Gump, Rhonda Revelle)
 - 2) NFCC 405 – September 30-October 1 at Sacramento State – TBA
 - 3) NFCC 402 –TBA
 - 4) 2016 Convention Classes – New Orleans. Possible on-field host LSU in Baton Rouge.
 - 5) Online options (Championship Productions vs. NFCA Productions.

- f. Mentoring Program
 - i. Convention new format discussion.
 - ii. Currently offer a year-round program matching mentors/mentees.

- g. Educational Publications
 - i. Keep a new/improved look to current publications.
 - ii. Currently offer on-line and hard copy options for members.
 - iii. Discussed value of calendar and/or planner option or some other type of member give-away.
 - iv. Do away with speaker handouts and email pre-Convention.
 - v. Provide a Convention App for 2016

- h. Future Educational Opportunities
 - i. Educational Sponsorship Options
 - ii. 2016 Convention Speaker and Pre-Convention Suggestions
 - 1) Molly Fletcher – Sports Agent, Keynote
 - 2) Kevin Elko – works with professional teams
 - 3) Rhonda Rousey – My Fight Your Fight
 - 4) Positive/Effective Coaching
 - 5) Coach from another sport
 - 6) Get Outside Your Comfort Zone Day
 - 7) Managing Players
 - 8) Kids who are burned out
 - 9) Themes throughout the day
 - iii. Leadership Freak – 300 word email every day. Quick Messages
 - iv. Presence of High School Coaches Association Clinics
 - v. On-line education options such as Webinars
 - vi. Coaching Certification
 - 1) Have designated levels of certification
 - 2) Adjust the star system
 - 3) Who/how to make this enticing.
 - 4) Where do elite coaches go to get better?
 - 5) Discussed a de facto requirement with kids/parents who want to play for youth organizations.
 - vii. NFCA App
 - viii. “Steal of the Week” discounted educational option.

- i. Educational Schedule- action item.
 - i. Create timeline for committee member articles, tips and drills.

3. **Adjournment-** meeting adjourned at 10:00am.