

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL CAUCUS**

December 4, 2015

Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA

1. Meeting Introduction- Deer Park Head Coach and NFCA High School Board of Director's Representative, Carrie Austgen calls the meeting to order at 7:00 am. (37) High School coaches in attendance as well as Bill Edwards, Coach Emeriti member and National Consultant to the HS All-American Committee.

Carrie reiterates to group that she is their liaison and to reach out if they have needs or concerns.

2. Meeting Summary

- a. Technology and video analysis in the dugout is a hot topic at the collegiate level.
 - i. In 2014, the NFHS put guidelines in place that allowed the use of technology for educational purposes. Many state associations have developed their own rules regarding the use of technology. If a state does not have individual guidelines in place, that state must adhere to what is directed by the NFHS.
 - ii. In instances where the state does have guidelines in place, those guidelines are generally more restrictive than those set by the NFHS.
 - iii. There is continued debate over what should and should not be allowed and what is fair. It would be beneficial to have information detailing how each state directs technology in the dugout.
 - a. Suggest using phone tree to find how each state is addressing technology in the dugout.
- b. Discussed the new NFCA website and how to improve the high school page. Would like to explore the option of an online forum where all coaching levels can post and exchange ideas.
- c. Softball Excellence – The Coaching Tools (Softball Excellence) materials were developed as a benefit for high school and travel ball coaches. Carrie encouraged all those who have not taken advantage of the benefit to download the information and provide feedback. That feedback can be given to Softball Excellence as they begin to develop year two materials.
- d. The phone tree/state liaison program was started last year. Liaison's for the majority of the states were identified, but there is opportunity to expand this program further.
 - i. It was suggested that the current state liaisons be listed on the NFCA website so that HS members know the representative from their state.

- e. Review of group membership and benefits. Group memberships are available to HS, Travel Ball, and affiliate organizations. Would like the NFCA to extend the group membership to youth and junior high as well.
- f. Informed the HS caucus that the HS All-American Committee will discuss some proposed changes to the current procedures. The goal is to continue to refine the procedures and to put guidelines in place to help facilitate the overall process as the committee reviews and selects athletes.
- g. Miscellaneous topics
 - i. There is an overall feeling that NFCA member High School coaches will never be elected to the NFCA Hall of Fame because they cannot “compete” with a college coach’s accolades and overall resume.
 - 1. There must first be nominations before there can be inductions. There have been no High School nominations in the last two years.
 - 2. High School coaches will evaluate their coaches and look to nominate.
 - 3. Kelley Fisher will send the link to the Hall of Fame nomination form and the criteria to the HS membership.
 - 4. Also have the state liaisons communicate with the members in their states. It might mean more if the communication comes from a peer instead of from the NFCA.
 - ii. There is an overall feeling that High School is unique and that the set NFCA guidelines do not always fit the needs of every NFCA membership group. High School is different and there needs to be an acknowledgment. High School is the largest NFCA membership group and the high school membership needs to find power in their voices.
 - 1. Carrie feels there is a change in the NFCA and that the NFCA leadership and the Board of Directors are truly listening to the membership’s concerns.
 - iii. The HS caucus is scheduled for 7:00 am on the Friday of convention week to try and maximize participation of high school coaches. Would like to explore switching the time of the caucus and the All-American meeting.
 - iv. Look to find a way to better partner with HS state associations. For example, have state associations put the NFCA logo on their website to try and drive membership.
 - v. Would like to revisit how the HS poll is conducted and find a way to make it better.

3. Action Items

- a. Kelley to send HS Hall of Fame procedures to the membership.
- b. Kelley to work with Carrie on how to better utilize the state liaisons in order to gather and disseminate information.

4. Meeting adjourns at 8:15 am.