

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR COLLEGE CAUCUS MINUTES

December 3, 2015

Atlanta Marriott Marquis, GA

Tommy Ramos, NJCAA representative called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

- I. Welcome – Mr. Ramos introduced himself to the group along with NFCA liaison Michelle Vasquez. Attendee's signed in on designated sign in sheets and were given an agenda.

Old Business

- II. Approval of 2014 NFCA Caucus minutes submitted and approved
- III. Topics discussed
 - a. NJCAA Polls – posted every two weeks and final poll after regionals
 - b. Final poll after all regional tournaments are completed
 - c. Having a softball coach involved in the process
- IV. National Tournament
 - a. Starting one week later
 - b. Starting tournament on Saturday and finishing on Tuesday
 - c. Streaming of all games at the tournament
 - d. Awards for the top 4 finishers
- V. Canadian Open
 - a. There will be no Canadian Cup this year as the World Cup is in Canada this year.

New Business

- I. NJCAA Representative (Mary Ellen Leicht)
 - a. Mr. Yegge (NJCAA Representative) reported to the group the meetings were hard to attend because they were held in April (softball season). As well as he felt they did not have a voice.
 - b. Mary Ellen Leicht (according to Mr. Yegge) also felt there wasn't adequate representation. There isn't a voice. She suggested a survey for communication not just for NJCAA I but also need representation for NJCAA II and III.
- II. Rules Changes
 - a. Obstruction 1.36 – changed wording to assist umpires
 - b. No running lane
 - c. Foul pole color
 - d. Required padding on backstops made of wood, cement, or brick will go into effect spring 2016
 - i. Coaches can refuse to play if padding isn't sufficient

- ii. There is concern about chain link fencing and having to replace outfield fencing, the finances might not be there at certain junior colleges.
 - e. Bringing back the safety base?
 - i. NJCAA doesn't want to look "high school"
 - ii. There will be some confusion on what base they can touch
 - iii. Confusion with umpires
- III. Canadian Open
 - a. Presented by Joe Yegge: The World cup is being held in Canada and will forgo a junior college team
 - b. Continue to let the funds multiply
 - i. Approximately \$30,000 to participate
 - c. The 2015 team defeated Team Mexico
 - d. Selection to participate on this team needs to improve
 - i. Selection committee, not a huge pool to choose from
 - ii. Need to stream games
 - iii. Possible nominating of athletes
- IV. Changing the signing date for NJCAA
 - a. Would like to move up the signing date
 - i. Help with recruiting
 - ii. Cannot control kids from verbalizing when they want. They want to sign in November with NCAA Division I & II athletes.
 - iii. High school would like to promote their athletes and other sports are moving up to accommodate
 - b. Vote to move up/change the signing date?
 - i. 32 in favor
 - ii. 1 opposed
 - iii. Motion passed
 - c. Rick Church to write material for Mary Ellen. Could be effective as early as November 2016
- V. Review of National Tournament Dates
 - a. DI – May 18 – 21, 2016 in St. George, Utah
 - b. DII – May 18 – 21, 2016 in Clinton, Mississippi
 - c. DIII – May 19 – 21, 2016 in Rochester, Minnesota
- VI. Open Discussion
 - a. NJCAA All American
 - i. The NJCAA excluded the softball representative for the All American Committee. The administrators on the calls selecting All American are not

softball aware and are not always selecting the best representative for All American

- b. Motion to have NFCA representatives on NJCAA All American calls to get the best athletes the opportunity for All American
 - i. 33 in favor
 - ii. 0 opposed
 - iii. Motion passed

VII. Softball Rankings

- a. NJCAA polls are not effective and a true representation of the team talent
- b. Coaches are not the ones ranking the teams
- c. They try to take the top ranked team in the region regardless of record

VIII. Notes inserted from NJCAA representative Tommy Ramos

- a. We agreed that our NJCAA Rep should be a part of the polls committee. This Rep needs to make the effort to attend the Spring meeting and/or make sure that our recommendations are on the spring NJCAA meeting agenda, the rep must work with the NJCAA on putting together a survey that would give them feedback pertaining to our current concerns about start of season, regional tournaments, and district games, format of National Softball Tournament for DI, DII, and DIII. A bracket using only two fields will be submitted to the NJCAA office. This is for the National Tournament. We want the participating players, coaches and fans to be able to watch more games. This tournament does not need to be rushed.
- b. Asking the NJCAA to establish a bat testing procedure for all Regional and District games as well as for the National Tournament.
- c. In years past an NJCAA rep would attend the NFCA conference, we would like for someone from the NJCAA office or our NJCAA rep to be present at our caucus.
- d. Finally, as coaches we need to be more involved with the NFCA and NJCAA. A signup sheet went around the room asking coaches to sign if they are interested in volunteering for NFCA. Our NFCA committee's rep Jayne Clem was going to submit the list to NFCA. We asked all coaches to communicate better with their NJCAA Regional reps. We want to establish a better line of communication with the NJCAA office.
- e. I will be forwarding all of our recommendations to the NJCAA as well as NJCAA Coaches Rep.

Attendance

NJCAA I

Jack Byerly, Northwest Florida State College
Marti Littlefield, Northwest Florida State College
Amanda Van Vranken, Northwest Florida State College
Jayne Clem, Wallace State – Hanceville
Keri Delcambre`, Galveston College
Misti Nims, Jeff Davis Community College
Katelyn Groves, Western Nebraska
Maria Wynn, Western Nebraska
Lucus Grider, Frank Phillips College
Amber Miles, Darton State College
Jeff Filali, Butler Community College
Elaine Covin, Wallace State – Hanceville
Rick Church, Blinn College
Jami Ingram, Blinn College
Courtney Miller, Seminole State Florida
Gregory Cary, Monroe College
Ally Hatterman, Gordon State
Ken Deyton, Gordon State
Jordan Sjastrand, Pensacola State
Melvin Jenkins, Vernon College
Jay Miller, Lake- Sumter SC
Freddie Glass, Gordon State
Kelly M. Sylvester, Harford CC
Nicole Dickerson, Tyler JC
Kary Kankey, Maple Woods
Laura North, Indian Hills
Kylie Vry, Indian Hills
Lauren Gaskill, Pensacola State
Amanda Ala, Tallahassee Community College
Patti Townsend, Tallahassee Community College
Beth Wade, Gulf Coast State
Tommy Ramos, Midland College

NJCAA II

Brian Dewey, Mercyhurst North East
Chris Robinson, Jones County Junior College
Janelle Higgins, North Platte Community College
Hanako Kilburn, Hinds CC
Bryan Komlms, Cuyahoga Community College
Joe Yegge, Kirkwood Community College
Jill Gigliotti Cuyahoga Community College

NJCAA III

DJ Johnson, Rock Valley College

Chad Kulpa, Rock Valley College

Darin Monroe, Rock Valley College

Francine Roseman, Montgomery County Community College

Ryan Connell, College of DuPage

