



**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III HEAD COACHES COMMITTEE**

Jan. 17, 2019

The meeting was brought to order at 12 p.m. ET by NFCA Division III Board Rep Renae Hartl.

Participants were Hartl (Luther) and NFCA Division III liaison Dave Hines; Atlantic Region representatives John Byrne (Moravian) and Brandon Elliott (Virginia Wesleyan); Central Region representatives Erica Hanrahan (DePauw) and Josie Henry (Case Western Reserve); East Region representative Lindsay Freitag (Misericordia); Midwest Region representatives Jody Gabriel (Macalester) and George Wares (Central); New England Region representatives Kelly Bevere (Middlebury), Kate Bowen (Springfield) and Diana Pepin (Eastern Connecticut State); Northeast Region representatives Deb Pallozzi (Ithaca) and Hannah Shalett-Quintana (Skidmore); West Region representatives Janet Lloyd (Chapman) and Jessica Hollen (George Fox); NCAA associate director of championships and alliances Jan Gentry; and NCAA national umpire coordinator Craig Hyde.

1. Roll call
2. NCAA update
 - a. Ms. Gentry reminded the group that the NCAA Division III Championships Committee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 6-7, and among its topics will be discussing moving to a 10-region model. If approved, there would be a year for schools and conferences to adjust.
 - b. She asked that coaches help identify officials worthy of postseason assignments. Ms. Hartl suggested that she and Mr. Hines to compile a list of suggested umpires, rather than have each person email Ms. Gentry individually. Please share your suggestions ASAP.
 - c. Additionally, Ms. Gentry reported that the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) are set and will begin their work soon.
3. NCAA rules
 - a. Mr. Hyde answered a question from Ms. Gabriel about the rules clarification PDF that NCAA softball secretary-rules editor Vickie Van Kleeck sent out recently. Her umpire assigner had a different interpretation of the “taking the sign” rule than was conveyed in the PDF, so Mr. Hyde got the name of the assigner and was going to follow up to make sure the right information was being shared by that assigner going forward.
 - b. He said to look for a new rules clarification post on the Arbiter site next week and encouraged coaches to sign up for free access to the information that he

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and Ms. Van Kleeck provide there about rules and umpires. Also, Mr. Hyde reminded the group that they must sign up for access to the Arbiter site once each year.

- c. Mr. Hyde said that he hoped an online clinic for umpires would be available soon, and he echoed Ms. Gentry's call for the names of umpires that coaches deem qualified to officiate the postseason.
4. 2020 NFCA Division III Leadoff Classic (March 6-8, 2020).
 - a. Ahead of the call, regional reps coordinated on a list of teams worthy of Leadoff invitations from their area, then discussed those teams with the full group on the call, and together settled on an initial list of 35 teams to invite to fill the 24-team field.
 - b. It was agreed that it was better to invite qualified teams that may have to decline due to school/conference rules or unavailability on the Leadoff dates, than to leave a team off the invite list.
 - c. The group felt that a month was a good amount of time to allow schools in the first round of invites to accept or decline a spot (on a first-come, first-serve basis), before additional teams, if needed, are invited to participate.
 - d. Mr. Hines said he'd like the NFCA to finalize a few more details on its end before the invitations go out, such as the entry fee, number of umpires, and format, so that schools can make an educated decision about whether they'd like to participate or not.
 - i. The hope was that invitations could be sent on Jan. 21, and have school responses due on or before Feb. 18, keeping in mind that all 24 available spots could possibly be filled ahead of the deadline.
 - ii. Once all 24 spots are filled, a waiting list will be created for any school that wishes to be considered in the event of an opening.
 - e. Ms. Gabriel suggested that the Top 25 Committee (who were tasked with choosing the Leadoff teams prior to the establishment of an HCC) recommend teams to invite in the future, since those representatives know very well the top teams in Division III.
5. Next HCC meeting.
 - a. The next HCC conference call will begin at 12 p.m. ET on Feb. 21.
6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m. ET.

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