



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

Nov. 23, 2021

The meeting was brought to order at 11 a.m. ET by NFCA Division III Board Rep Renae Hartl.

Participants were Hartl (Luther) and NFCA Division III liaison Dave Hines; NFCA Executive Director Carol Bruggeman; NCAA Assistant Director, Championships and Alliances Micaela Liddane; NCAA Division III Softball Committee Chair Marie Curran-Headley; NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor Vickie Van Kleeck; Brad Posner (Susquehanna); Erica Hanrahan (DePauw); Kim Wilson (Rowan); Whitney Sowers (Millikin); Meghan Roman (Illinois College); Jody Gabriel (Macalester); George Wares (Central); Lauren Ebstein (Tufts); Diana Pepin (Eastern Connecticut State); Sara Curran-Headley (Oneonta); Jessica Hollen (George Fox).

1. Roll call
2. NCAA rules
 - a. Ms. Van Kleeck said if you haven't received your new NCAA Rule Book (they are out), get in contact with the NCAA.
 - b. There is a high school rule change which could impact the NCAA.
 - i. Pitcher can push off and may detach from the pitcher's plate (international softball allows pitchers to lose contact with the ground or pitcher's rubber as well)
 - ii. What does this group want to do about this? Change NCAA rule? Keep things the same?
 - iii. Ms. Van Kleeck will have a Convention presentation, "Today's Pitcher and the NCAA Rule Book," along with a group of pitching experts on Friday from 9-9:50 a.m. PT in Summit 215-221 to address many of your pitching questions.
3. NCAA Championship Update
 - a. Ms. Curran-Headley mentioned she and Ms. Liddane chatted recently with Ms. Hartl and Mr. Hines about last year's COVID-19-caused anomaly with the tournament structure and unique travel arrangements (last year's tournament occurred before Ms. Liddane came on board for softball), and her report at the Caucus will look ahead to getting things back to normal in 2022.
 - b. Reminder to the group that the first ranking of the year (in all sports) will be alphabetical, so don't be concerned over the order of teams at first.
 - c. Reminder that Ms. Liddane works with championships, not compliance or rules, so she may not be able to answer those questions for you without assistance.

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION

2641 Grinstead Drive • Louisville, KY 40206 • 502.409.4600 • 502.409.4622 fax • NFCA.org • NFCAevents.org
Education ◻ **Events** ◻ **Collaboration** ◻ **Growth** ◻ **Achievement**



4. Division III Caucus Schedule

- a. Planning 75-90 minutes for the NCAA presentation (Ms. Liddane, Ms. Curran-Headley and Ms. Van Kleeck).
- b. Caucus sponsor City of Salem, Va., will show a short video and say hello, as well as hand out flyers to member coaches in attendance.
- c. Planning breakout sessions with small groups to discuss various hot topics.
- d. Discussion of procedures in place for conferences and best practices for implementation this season of bat testing.
 - i. Ms. Van Kleeck noted that bat tester does not have to be an administrator. It can be a softball coach if that's what is agreed upon by your conference as the protocol. You can even designate a student coach to test bats.
 1. She said "the gauge doesn't lie. The bat either passes or it doesn't."
 - ii. Ms. Gabriel said the MIAC has multiple protocols. A, B and C. The protocol being used (A, B or C) must be declared 48 hours in advance.
- e. Ms. Hanrahan suggested that a reminder about submitting daily rosters (that went into effect during a pandemic) that might be helpful for the group to hear.
- f. Realignment and expansion of regions.

5. New business

- a. No additional business was discussed.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. ET.

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION