

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 3, 2014

Bally's, Las Vegas, NV

*Incoming Committee Chair, NFCA 4th Vice-President, Joanna Lane

**Because the 4th Vice-President was vacated and Joanna does not assume her 4th Vice-President responsibilities until post-convention, the convention Awards Committee meeting was run by NFCA Awards Committee Liaison, Kelley Fisher.*

In attendance:

Joanna Lane (Incoming 4th Vice-President, Awards Committee Chair, Central Michigan University)
Christina Sutcliffe (Division I, Northern Illinois)
Gretta Melstead (Division II, Augustana College)
Elliott Sampley (NAIA, Lyon College)
Darci Brownell (Cal JC, Sierra College)
Travis Wilson (Assistant Coach, Florida State University)
Sandy Montgomery (Outgoing Division I Rep, Southern Illinois-Edwardsville)
Diane Miller (Outgoing Assistant Coach Rep, University of Nebraska)
Kelley Fisher (NFCA Liaison, Director of Membership)

Not in attendance:

Cheryl Milligan (Division III, Tufts University)
Lana Ross (NJCAA, Iowa Western CC)
Lauren Gustartis (High School, Clear Falls HS, TX)
Kevin Shelton (Travel Ball, Texas Glory)

1. **Meeting Introduction**- At 10:00 PST Kelley Fisher calls meeting to order. Introductions are done and Kelley explains as the incoming 4th Vice-President, Joanna Lane will conduct all Awards Committee meetings moving forward, but as the NFCA liaison for the past year, she would conduct the convention meeting.
2. **Meeting Summary**
 - a) Kelley provided an overview of the new awards the Awards Committee was instrumental in creating in 2014. Awards included the Assistant Coach of the Year, the Donna Newberry "Perseverance" Award, and Travel Ball Regional Coaching Staff of the Year Award. The committee also assumed responsibility for the application/nomination review of the Mary Nutter Scholarship recipients.
 - i) As we move forward, the Awards Committee will continue to review all Donna Newberry and Assistant Coach of the Year nominations, as well as the Mary Nutter Scholarship applications/nominations.
 - ii) In 2014, after a thorough review of the current awards being offered, the Awards Committee determined there needed to be more recognition

opportunities for Travel Ball coaches. While the Travel Ball Regional Coaching Staff of the Year was started based on recommendations from the Awards Committee, the regional recipient was decided on by the Travel Ball membership and not by the Awards Committee. This is in accordance with the process followed by the other caucus groups that have a Regional/National Coaching Staff of the Year Award.

- iii) In 2014 committee discussed website recognition for a team's/coach's community service endeavors, but this was not implemented.
- iv) Reviewed spreadsheet highlighting all of the NFCA awards and the breakout by division. This prompted discussion by the incoming Awards Committee over the equity of awards across divisions in particular around the "Freshman of the Year" and "Player of the Year" awards.
 - (1) During discussion, it was brought up that the "Player of the Year" award is not an actual NFCA award and the question was asked whether the ASA had ever been approached about a "Player of the Year Award" for all divisions. *Note: The "Freshman of the Year" award was an NFCA initiated award, but the award did not originate through Awards Committee discussions.*
 - (2) The 2015 Awards Committee will further discuss whether a "Freshman of the Year" and a "Player of the Year" should be awarded across all divisions. Committee understands there is a cost associated with the implementation of these awards and is aware the "Player of the Year" award is not an NFCA award.
 - (3) Committee asked about the NFCA "Distinguished Service" award, how the award is promoted, who reviews the award, and who the recipients have been. Committee felt the Hall of Fame Committee decided the recipients of this award, but details surrounding the award are unclear. Kelley to research and report back to committee.
- 2) Discussed the timeline for when Assistant Coach of the Year, Donna Newberry, and Mary Nutter Scholarship applications/nominations were due. In 2014, all Donna Newberry and Assistant Coach of the Year nominations were due 1 August and Mary Nutter applications/nominations were due on 1 September.
 - a) As the coaching membership becomes more aware of the awards available, it is anticipated more applications/nominations will be received. Because of this, the committee may need more time to review the applications/nominations received and the timeline for submission may need to be adjusted accordingly.
 - b) It was requested the NFCA submit a complete timeline for all awards submissions to include scholar athlete and EVC to the Awards Committee.
- 3) Kelley and outgoing Awards Committee members, Diane Miller and Sandy Montgomery highlighted all that the Awards Committee was able to accomplish in 2014. The committee made the conference calls a priority, reviewed materials before the call, and actively participated in discussions offering suggestions and insights.

- 4) Discussed the timeline for 2015 conference calls. Committee would like to keep the same timeline as was used in 2014. Calls will take place in January, April, August, and September on Monday's at 12:00 EST.

3. Action Items

- a) Kelley to provide committee with a complete list of all award submission deadlines.
- b) Kelley to provide details to group surrounding the "Distinguished Service" award.
- c) Joanna to develop Awards Committee agenda for January meeting and all meetings moving forward.
- d) Kelley to send meeting reminder for January meeting and all meetings scheduled in 2015.

- 4. Adjourn**- Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am PST.