

**MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III ALL-AMERICAN/COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR
COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 3, 2014; Bally's, Las Vegas, Nev.

Chair Cheryl Milligan, Tufts University, brought the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., welcoming the group. Others in attendance were Marie Curran (Buffalo State), Janae Shirley (East Texas Baptist) and Dave Hines (NFCA liaison), while Tim Syrek (Calvin) and Amy Weaver (Messiah) joined the conversation by phone. Brandon Elliott (Virginia Wesleyan), Leslie Huntington (Wisconsin-Eau Claire) and George Wares (Central) were unable to attend.

1. All-America conference call review. Ms. Milligan said using a Google Doc that all the members of the committee can see updated in real time online for the first time during the 2014 All-America selection call was helpful. She asked that regional reps clearly identify themselves when announcing their votes on future calls.
2. Video conferencing. The idea of doing the All-America selections via a video call, such as Skype, was suggested.
3. Calendar. The important dates to know for the All-America process will be online in plenty of time to plan, offering a more green approach than printed copies. A similar timeframe to 2014 will be used in 2015.
4. Subcommittees. Ms. Milligan stressed the importance of assembling regional subcommittees to choose the All-Region squads as soon as possible. Mr. Hines will provide each regional rep with a list of conferences within their region to assist in choosing coaches to serve on their respective subcommittee.
 - a. It is suggested that each subcommittee have a rep from each conference in that region, as well as someone representing the interests of that region's independent schools.
 - b. Representatives should be coaches that see teams a lot. Coaches that don't see a lot of softball aren't good subcommittee members.
 - c. The goal is to get a great All-Region team, so we have the players going forward to create a great All-America squad.
 - d. If a conference (or independent schools) rep isn't good, change to someone else. Reps need to be a good advocate for players in the group they serve.
5. Regional responsibilities. Ms. Milligan and/or Mr. Hines will provide the regional reps with a timeline, so they know when tasks need to be completed.

- a. Reps should contact non-member coaches in their region prior to the All-Region/All-America process to let them know they have to be an NFCA member to have their players recognized.
 - b. Reps should send out reminders to coaches in their region prior to the close of the nomination period and again before the end of All-Region voting. Coaches must BOTH nominate and submit a ballot in order for their players to remain eligible for these awards.
6. Character counts in selecting All-Region and All-America players.
 7. First team vs. second team. Weigh all the stats and information carefully when voting. It would be a shame to leave someone off the All-America team because they didn't make first team in their region.
 8. Coaching Staff of the Year. Having details about the accomplishments of each team that season to better weigh one coaching staff against another would be helpful. Make coaches think more about their vote, rather than just vote automatically for their conference coach of the year's staff, the regional champion's staff or the national champion's staff.
 - a. Could a change be made to allow subcommittees to nominate 3-5 coaching staffs in each of their regions (for a total of 24 or so on the actual ballot) in the future to better represent the very best teams? Such a change would have to be submitted for NFCA Board approval.
 9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Action Items:

- Mr. Hines will provide each regional rep with a list of conferences within their region to assist in choosing coaches to serve on their respective subcommittee.
- Reps should assemble their regional subcommittees as soon as possible.
- Ms. Milligan and/or Mr. Hines will provide the regional reps with a timeline, so they know when tasks need to be completed.