

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
DIVISION I ALL AMERICAN & COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR
COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 3rd, 2014

Bally's Las Vegas, NV

Committee Chair, Melinda Fischer, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

In attendance:

Melinda Fischer, chair, Illinois State University, Mideast Region

Matt Meuchel, Univ of Nevada, West Region

Michelle Gardner, Indiana University, Midwest Region

Christy Connoyer, St. Louis University, Mid-Atlantic Region

Amanda Rivera, IUPUI, Central Region

Lonni Alameda, Florida State University, Southeast Region

Jamie Pinkerton, Univ of Montana, Pacific Region

*Beth Torino, Louisiana State University, South Region

Carol Bruggeman (NFCA Associate Executive Director)

**Denotes attending meeting via conference call.*

Not in attendance:

Jess Allister, University of Minnesota, Great Lakes Region

Mickey Dean, James Madison University, Northeast Region

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Summary

a. Innings required for pitcher nominations.

i. Committee members discussed and then recommended going back to 100 innings as the requirement for pitcher nominations. More programs use pitching staffs so the committee did not want to have the previous inning requirement keep valid nominees off the ballot.

b. Third-team All-Region.

i. Third-team All-Region was implemented in 2013 to make sure representation was included for all positions

ii. There were some concerns in regions (ie- 3rd team All Region selection is named All-American.) Also, committee feels the All Region teams must be by position (not just a certain number limit on each team) as it is easier to understand and also better for publicity.

- iii. Committee feels head coaches need to be aware that 8 members of their team can be nominated. They also feel strongly the All Region voting needs to be done with diligence and care.
- iv. Committee member Michelle Gardner will speak at the Division I Caucus to explain the All-Region and All-American process and to emphasize the importance of quality voting based upon strength of schedule, RPI, etc.
- c. Tie-breaker procedures for Freshman of the Year.
 - i. Committee agreed tie-breaker procedures are needed for this award. Committee agreed to:
 - 1. Do a secondary vote of final two nominees.
 - 2. If still tied, have NFCA person in the room break the tie.
- d. Adding one more region.
 - i. Committee discussed the new All-Region placements based upon new conference alignments. (see attached)
 - ii. Need to look at strength of regions to determine if committee needs to add a new region or restructure current regions. Lonni Alameda will review past five years of All-Americans and see if there are trends that need to be addressed.
 - iii. Committee recommended no changes for 2015 season. This topic will be discussed in Oklahoma City after reviewing trends and any new conference realignments.
- e. Pitchers/Players of the Year automatically to 3rd team, not 2nd team.
 - i. Committee discussed advantages and disadvantages to the current format. It gives a more national look to All Region and All American teams. It also puts the Pitchers/Players of the Year at the base level.
- f. All Region and All American Time Lines.
 - i. Committee recommended to eliminate sending a letter via mail to coaches. Email will be the only form of communication.
 - ii. Committee would like stats earlier in the process; approximately 7-8 days prior as there are 13 days between the All Region team being named and the in-person All American meeting.

g. Adding strength of schedule (SOS) along with RPI and Comparisons of Top 64 RPI vs comparisons of 64 teams in the NCAA field.

- i. Committee felt when comparing stats, SOS means more than RPI.
- ii. Committee felt it was important to compare stats on how nominee fared vs. Top 75 RPI vs how they fared vs 64 teams in the NCAA field.
- iii. Suggestion to send regular stat line and 1-75 RPI stat line for All-Region nominations.
- iv. Committee discussed pros and cons of each comparison.
- v. It was recommended once All-Region teams are named, to include statistics vs Top 64 in the NCAA field to the previous statistical information provided in all region voting.
- vi. In summary, for All Region nominations, include SOS, RPI, season stats, season stats vs 1-75 RPI (conference tournament and post-season does not count). For All-American nominations, compare how they fared vs Top 75 RPI and vs 64 teams in the NCAA field.
- h. Terms for All-American & Coaching Staff of the Year Committee.
 - i. Suggested changes to terms for the committee. The process for electing chair (suggested chair be in 3rd or 4th year of term) and time lines for committee members needs to be addressed. Very involved committee and do not want constant turnover as the process takes time to understand. This will be discussed on conference call in March.

3. General Comment

- a. Committee members strongly encourage every coach to publish stats.

4. Action Items

- a. Conference call Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 10:00am central time.
- b. Discuss Committee chair election process and terms on committee.
- c. Update time line for All-Region and All-American selections (attached)
- d. Review Committee Manual and update bylaws section.

5. Adjournment-meeting adjourns at 11:15 am.