

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

December 3rd, 2014

Bally's- Las Vegas, NV

The meeting was brought to order at 7:30pm PST. Those present were:

Danielle Henderson, America East Conference, *Alternate*
Kyla Holas, American Athletic Conference
Lonni Alameda, Atlantic Coast Conference
Bridget Orchard, Atlantic 10 Conference
Jen Steele, Atlantic Sun Conference
Stacy Gemeinhardt-Cessler, Big 12 Conference
Pat Conlan, Big East Conference, and NFCA Board Rep
Barb Sherwood, Big Sky Conference
Dot Richardson, Big South Conference
Amanda Lehotak, Big Ten Conference
Linda Garza, Big West Conference, *Alternate*
Jaime Wohlbach, Colonial Athletic Association
Shonda Stanton, Conference USA
Lynn Curylo, Horizon League
Lisa Van Ackeren, Ivy League
Melissa Inouye, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Karen Linder, Mid-American Conference
Amy Hayes, Missouri Valley Conference
Steve Johnson, Mountain West Conference
Jane Worthington, Ohio Valley Conference
Heather Tarr, Pacific-12 Conference
Michelle DePolo, Patriot League
Jo Evans, Southeastern Conference
Stephanie Hughes, Southland Conference
Rick Fremin, Southwestern Athletic Conference
Annie Smith, Sun Belt Conference
Holly Van Vlymen, The Summit League
Nikki Palmer, Western Athletic Conference

Dee Abrahamson, NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor, *Guest*
Vickie VanKleeck, incoming (Sept 2015) NCAA Softball Secretary-Rules Editor, *Guest*
David Batson, NFCA Legislative Consultant, *Guest*

Natalie Poole, NFCA Division I Representative
Carol Bruggeman, NFCA Associate Executive Director

Heidi Cavallo, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Roy Kortmann, Northeast Conference,
Mandy Burford, Southern Conference, and Jessica Rodgers, West Coast Conference were not in attendance.

1. Approval of November Call Minutes. It was moved (Holly Van Vlymen) and seconded (Lonni Alameda) that the November call minutes be approved.

2. Division I Caucus Review. To prepare HCC members for the Division I Caucus, Carol Bruggeman, NFCA Associate Executive Director, reviewed the Division I Caucus agenda. NFCA Legislative Consultant David Batson reminded HCC members regardless of straw vote results at the Division I Caucus, the entire Division I membership would need to be surveyed regarding legislative issues.

3. Working Groups/Hot Topics. NFCA Division I Representative Natalie Poole informed HCC members about the order of Working Groups presentations (followed below) at the Division I Caucus. Chair(s) of each working group would present the hot topic, allow time for discussion, and take informational straw votes as needed. Time limits will be set for each topic so each working group will have an opportunity to present their research and information. HCC members felt it was important to present a united front on issues in order to move legislation forward.

A. Recruiting Calendar (Lonni Alameda, Karen Linder)

1. Two Models:

a. Model 1

(6 weekends counting back from Thanksgiving weekend)(October 17th – November 23rd)

Eliminate the 50 days

The fall we are only allowed to recruit Saturday and Sunday

We can work camps and clinics on campuses

3rd party camps and clinics can only be worked on Saturday and Sundays

Calendar would look like:

WCWS – Dead Period June 4th

Recruiting Contact Period June 5th – August 3rd (9 weekends)

Quiet Period August 4th – October 16th (10 weekends)

Recruiting Contact Period (w/ dead period of LOI) October 17th – November 23rd (6 weekends)

Quiet Period November 24th – June 4th (w/ dead period WCWS and April LOI -- 27 weekends

b. Model 2 (No Fall Recruiting)

Eliminate 50 days

No limit on camps and clinics during the summer

WCWS – Dead Period over June 4th

Recruiting Contact Period June 5th – August 10th (10 weekends)

Quiet Period August 11th – June

HCC members discussed whether or not to tie camps and clinics with the Recruiting Calendar. Majority of HCC members felt it was important to do so. Straw votes will be taken at Division I Caucus to see which model has most support.

B. Certification of Events (Heather Tarr, Natalie Poole)

1. Survey was sent from NFCA national office on Nov. 3rd with separate links for head coaches and assistant coaches to gather feedback on Certification of Events. Results will be shared at Division I Caucus.

C. Slowing the Early Recruiting Process Down (Nikki Palmer, Holly Van Vlymen)

1. Very strong support for change.
2. Final proposal to discuss at Division I Caucus reads:

There shall be no recruiting contact (unofficial visits, phone calls, text messages, recruiting conversations at camp) with a PSA until July 1 after their sophomore year of high school. There shall be no contact with a third party (high school coach, club coach, friend, teacher, etc.) regarding unofficial visits/scholarship offers. We would like to move the official visit to their Junior year with the same current parameters (13.6.2.2.1 and 13.6.3). We would also like to move the NLI Signing Period to their Junior year with the same current parameters (13.9).

D. One-time transfer rule (Shonda Stanton, Barb Sherwood)

1. Working group developed lists of pros and cons regarding exemption of the one-time transfer exception and will share at Division I Caucus.
2. Survey was developed by working group and sent to HCC on Nov 4th. Results will be shared at the Division I Caucus.

E. Moving the Season Back (Steve Johnson)

1. Steve Johnson shared information from ESPN. ESPN does not favor softball moving the season back because of existing contracts with baseball, NBA Finals, X Games, and other sports.
2. The four options for moving the season back that will be discussed at the Division I Caucus are:
 - a. Keep the schedule as is
 - b. Move the start date back one week and keep 56 games
 - c. Move the start date back one week and reduce to 52 games (this option received minimal support)
 - d. Move the start date and end date back one week and if there was enough support from the membership, take to the NCAA with a collective backing to push for change.

4. Other Business.

- A. There will be a special Travel Ball curriculum at NFCA Convention, held on Saturday, December 6th from 2pm-5pm. HCC is encouraged to attend.

5. Conference Call. The next HCC conference call will be held at 10:00am Central time Tuesday, January 13th, 2015.

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm PST.