

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICAN MEETING**

December 5, 2014

Bally's, Las Vegas, NV

- 1. Meeting Introduction-** NFCA Board of Directors, High School Representative, Carrie Austgen called the meeting to order at 8:55 am PST.

In Attendance:

Philip Belfield (St. Margaret's School, VA)
Mike Carrozza (Bridgewater-Raynham, MA)
Kent Chambers (Bob Jones, AL)
Scott Hoffmeyer (Basha, AZ)
Brenda Holaday (Washburn Rural, KS)
John Keyes (North Ft. Myers, FL)
Anthony LaRezza (Immaculate Heart Academy, NJ)
Charles Pikas (Pacheco, CA)
Jeff Roberts (Lucas Lovejoy, TX)
Deborah Schwartz (Donovan Catholic, NJ)
Milton Simmons (Essex, VA)
Vince Trivelpiece (Hazelton Area, PA)
Carrie Austgen (Deerpark, TX)
Kelley Fisher (NFCA HS Liaison)

Call In:

Jim Rawlings (Sahuarita, AZ)

2. Meeting Summary

- a) As was highlighted in the HS caucus meeting, there continues to be a problem with HS AA Committee members missing the call to discuss and name the All-Region teams. It is not fair to the athletes in that region when all members of the committee are not on the call. Committee agrees the call needs to be priority and that failure to notify the committee when will not be able to make the call needs to be met with a consequence.
- i) If a member of the committee is unable to make a scheduled call, that committee member should make it known and every effort will be made to reschedule the call. If a committee member fails to notify anyone that he/she will be unable to make the call, he/she should be removed from the committee.
- (1) Should each person/region have an "alternate" to fill in if this instance occurs? It was decided that an alternate would not work because he/she may not be from the state/area as the member who failed to call in.
- (2) If a committee member is removed, can a stipulation be placed that he/she is not eligible to run for the committee for another 3 years?

- (3) If move forward with enforcing consequences for missed calls, committee feels it needs to be known upfront and included in the All-American rules for high school.
- b) Committee feels that often times membership does not know enough about the candidates running for the AA Committee to make best decision when voting. Liked the bios that were included on this year's ballot, but want to make it mandatory for all those running for an All-American Committee position.
 - c) Committee feels one call for All-Region is still adequate provided all committee members are given information in advance have reviewed the player stats prior to the call.
 - d) Would like the NFCA to continue to send updates of the athletes nominated for that week, each week leading up to the call.
 - e) When player stats and information are sent, majority of the committee likes to view the players by position and recommends each member have a "depth chart" by position prior to the call. Some committee members were not in favor of "pre-ranking" players because feel the group discussion is very important in determining who is nominated. Feel a pre-ranking may make coaches enter the meeting with predetermined opinions and make it more difficult to remain open-minded.
 - f) Once the overall chair is determined, committee feels that individual should be on all of the regional calls and not just the national call. It is important for that individual to hear the regional dialog.
 - g) Debbi Schwartz (Donovan Catholic, NJ) was named the Regional Chair for the East Region.
 - h) Committee engaged in dialog over who should be the Overall/National Chair for the HS AA Committee.
 - i) Overall chair should continue to be an individual familiar with the All-American process, but who is not actively involved.
 - ii) The idea of a retired coach who is a member of the NFCA Emeriti group to serve as the overall chair was raised. Committee was supportive of moving in this direction provided there is a member of this group willing to serve as the overall chair and who is available to be on all of the regional calls in addition to the national call.
 - i) When looking at the overall process:
 - i) Need to further clarify the definition of an "At Large" selection and ensure there is consistency across the regions when nominating an "At-Large" player.
 - (1) Kelley Fisher provided background on collegiate rules surrounding "At-Large". Indicated that when All-American teams are named, an "At-Large" player may only be named to the All-American team if the position player from that region has already been named. General feeling is that HS would like to move in that direction.
 - (2) There was some debate over how to list "At-Large" players with opinions divided. Some feel that At-Large can be a disservice to athletes and that the "At-Large" designation can devalue

accomplishments. Should the best athletes be selected regardless of position? Overall, the committee feels structure needs to be kept and that naming by position keeps the structure in tact.

(3) There will be further follow up with the committee members regarding the "At-Large" designation and the breakout of positions. Will revisit the inclusion of a "DP" instead of a "Utility" player for 2015.

j) The NFCA bylaws for the All-American Committee indicate members of the committee must be a "head coach". Question was raised whether an assistant coach should be allowed to run. AA Committee feels the committee should remain a committee of head coaches.

3. Action Items

- a. Kelley to send a copy of current HS All-American procedures to the AA Committee members.
- b. Kelley to provide timeline for HS AA process to committee members.
- c. Kelley and Carrie to reach out to the Emeriti Coaches group to see if anyone would be interested in serving as the national chair.
- d. Kelley and Carrie to develop a list of items that still needs further discussion and distribute to the committee.

4. Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am PST.