

**NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
HIGH SCHOOL CAUCUS 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 8:00 am PST. (47) high school member coaches were in attendance.

- 2. Meeting Summary**
 - a) There is great opportunity for NFCA growth through high school membership. Carrie challenged the high school group to try and connect with two coaches monthly. High School membership could easily reach 1,000 coaches. Would also like to see high school reach 250 attendees at convention, but realizes the cost associated with travel, accommodation, and fees can be prohibitive.
 - i) To help grow membership and to help spread information to the high school community, would like to develop focus groups. Ideally, there will be a regional liaison with each state in that region having a contact person. This "phone tree" type system would facilitate communication.
 - (1) Carrie asked for volunteers to serve as the regional liaison. Those who volunteered to head his/her region include John Keyes (South), Scott Hoffmeyer (West), Jeff Roberts (South Central), and Debbie Schwartz/Anthony LaRezza (East). A North Region representative still needs to be appointed.
 - (a) When looking for regional representation, the membership asked the NFCA to provide a breakout that shows all of the states within each region.
 - (b) Carrie then asked that whoever wanted to represent his/her state to email Kelley and express interest. Kelley will compile a list based on responses.
 - b) Briefly went over the results of the High School survey that was sent to the high school membership prior to convention. Outline of results was included in the agenda and are listed below:
 - 153 Coaches responded
 - 36% of those responding have been coaching HS for over 20 years
 - Most coaches age ranged from 35-64
 - 73% of respondents would prefer to receive a hard copy of the newspaper
 - 58% have never attended and NFCA convention and 62% have not attend an NFCC course
 - Cost and time are the biggest prohibitive factors for convention
 - Location is the greatest deterrent for NFCC courses
 - 36% feel the newspaper is the greatest benefit and 19% feel awards are the greatest benefit

- Online educational opportunities should be a benefit of membership and more regional educational opportunities should be offered
 - 74% feel \$70 is an appropriate cost the membership and its current benefits
- c) Carrie asked those attending the caucus to send testimonials of why they love the NFCA. Would like to use current member testimonials as part of the push to get new HS members. Members should email Kelley testimonials. Kelley will compile responses.
- d) Briefly discussed the “hot topics” from Division I. Carrie indicated everyone should have received the email from the NFCA informing high school coaches of the Division I focus groups. Caucus group further discussed the recruiting calendar topic.
- i) High School is glad the recruiting calendar is being addressed. Under current structure, athletes are missing too much school.
 - ii) How will this revised calendar impact those states like Colorado that have a fall season?
 - iii) If a new recruiting calendar is released, will all divisions have the same recruiting calendar? Because it’s a DI committee, will the recruiting dates apply only to DI recruiting?
- e) Briefly discussed the All-American process email that was sent to the High School membership asking for feedback on the All-American process.
- i) Challenge with the process continues to be members of the AA Committee missing calls and good athletes not being nominated because the coach is not a member.
 - (1) Question was raised as to whether coaches should be able to nominate another school’s athletes. General consensus was that HS does not want to go this route because there is no way of knowing if the athlete displayed non-performance related behaviors that would warrant the athlete not to be nominated. Also concerns over the accuracy of stats if it’s not the player’s coach who nominated the athlete.
 - (2) Need to work to get more coaches to become members so more athletes are nominated and more schools are represented. When athletes make All-Region/All-American teams it’s good PR for the school.
 - ii) Question was asked regarding how a 6A school is compared to a 5A school during the regional and national discussion.
 - (1) Those with committee experience indicated the comments/notes sections are crucial in instances like this. The more information given to the committee the better. The comments section is a good place to “sell” the athlete.
 - (a) Also suggested that a players “history” be taken into consideration. An example was given of a player who was a two-time All-Region/AA selection not make an All-Region team despite have better stats than in previous years.

- (2) It could also be beneficial to call the regional rep prior to the calls so that regional rep has all of the information.
- iii) Question was asked whether the committee had representation from the smaller schools within the region. When looking at the composition of the committee, yes, smaller schools have representation.
 - iv) Overall, feeling is committee wants to “get it right” when naming All-Region and All-American teams. The more information a coach can provide on an athlete, the better. In future, may want to find a way to highlight defensive accomplishments instead of so much emphasis being put on offensive statistics.
 - f) Caucus group asked that Carrie address the desire for HS membership growth and encourage the college coaches to connect with at least 2 HS coaches a month during the HS presentation at the Softball Summit.
 - g) High School would like to see the NFCA run a HS tournament as well as look into the possibility of endorsing state tournaments. HS rep from each state will look into the cost of having a booth at a state tournament.
 - h) Question raised regarding the use of a safety base as well as the process for mandating use in each state.

3. **Action Items** - Kelley to send breakout of states within each region to membership and find a regional point of contact for the focus groups from the North Region.

4. **Adjourn**- Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am PST.