

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

December 6, 2017

The meeting was brought to order by NFCA Division III Board Representative Diana Pepin (Eastern Connecticut State) at 8 p.m. PT.

1. Roll call
2. Approval of November minutes
 - a. Angela Froboese (Southwestern) and Renae Hartl (Luther/incoming D3 Board rep) suggested minutes be approved. Group approved minutes.
3. Schedule for future conference calls
 - a. Ms. Hartl suggested a Doodle poll to find best times for HCC calls going forward.
4. Division III caucus
 - a. Set up room by regions
 - b. Get into regional groups at some point to debate three top issues (and perhaps discover other issues in respective regions) for 15 minutes per topic.
 - i. The three issues to discuss are:
 1. Non-traditional season
 2. Eight-team regional
 3. Transfers
 - c. Come up with likes/dislikes
 - d. Division III liaison Dave Hines will catalog lists
 - e. Come back into full group after regional discussions and present findings for each region
 - f. Other thoughts:
 - i. Jen Williams (MIT) noted it is important to talk to people more about issues that are important to them and their conference.
 - ii. Kim Wilson (Rowan) said they can't even host a four-team regional in the East, so her region wouldn't be in favor of going back to an eight-team regional setup.
 - iii. Janae Shirley (East Texas Baptist) was interested in finding out what's best for the entire group, rather than just one region.
 - iv. George Wares (Central) suggested asking the student-athletes what they'd like, since they are the most impacted (and they have the NCAA's ear). He said we need to involve players more.
 - v. Ms. Pepin said the HCC (on behalf of the full D3 membership) needs to figure out what its important issues are.
5. Issues survey
 - a. Josie Henry (Case Western Reserve) volunteered to put together the survey and start the conversation.

6. Communication

- a. Ms. Hartl said the HCC can do a better job sending out information to coaches to let them know what is going on and how to get in touch with their HCC reps.
- b. Erica Hanrahan (DePauw) suggested an HCC info sheet be sent out each October or November to remind new and veteran coaches what the HCC is, as well as who the reps are and how to contact them.
- c. Ms. Pepin said HCC reps need to send emails to coaches in their respective regions to keep those coaches updated.
- d. Archived HCC minutes are now available online by signing into the Coach's Box at NFCA.org.
- e. ACTION ITEMS: Send out HCC quick facts, HCC bylaws, plus another document clarifying what the HCC's purpose is (especially important for new members).

7. HCC positions

- a. The new NFCA bylaws make all committee positions except Board reps appointments by the NFCA Nominations Committee (of which the D3 Board rep is a member).
- b. Proper representation
 - i. There is a proposal for January to have each conference represented on the NCAA SAAC (so 43 members in D3). Would a rep from each conference get more done, or be too unruly a size?
 1. Ms. Pepin wasn't sure bigger is necessarily better (D1 HCC does have one member from each conference and that seems to work well). Perhaps increasing the number of reps in a region to better serve the number of schools in that region (more in some regions, less in others) would be a better solution for D3. Regardless, there needs to be someone representing independent schools' interests in each region.
 - ii. Atlantic suggested three reps for its region
 1. Brandon Elliott (Virginia Wesleyan) said maybe the HCC could work like the RAC, where the person replacing an outgoing rep has to come from a conference other than the one exiting.
 - iii. Central: Two reps (plus usual alternate)
 - iv. East: Three. Two existing reps, plus add Stella Porto (Staten Island).
 - v. Great Lakes: Existing two remains OK for this region.
 - vi. Midwest: Existing two remains OK for this region.
 - vii. New England: Three reps
 - viii. Northeast: Three reps
 - ix. West: Has three reps already.

8. Caucus continuation (on Friday morning) will talk about how scheduling affects postseason chances.

9. Next HCC meeting. Thursday, Feb. 8 conference call at noon ET.
10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. PT.