



Rules & Officials Committee Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 --- 1:30-2:30 p.m. (Palace 2)

I. ROLL CALL

Tim Kiernan	Sacramento City College
Jimmy Hendrix	Chipola College
John Smart	Affiliate Umpire
Jay Nelson	Rutgers
Vickie Van Kleeck	NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor
Maria Winn	Tyler Junior College
Lisa Navus	South Carolina
Mickey Dean	Auburn, NFCA Board
Kris Ganeff	Notre Dame, NFCA Board

II. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE GOING FORWARD

A. BE PROACTIVE – getting ahead/change for the future

B. EDUCATION FOR COACHES AND UMPIRES

1. How is it read & interpreted
2. Arbiter web site
3. Rules Page on NFCA.org (link to arbiter, bat lists, other links)
4. Discussion:

Lisa Navas and Mickey Dean lead a discussion surrounding the questions “How can this committee help the NCAA? What is the role this committee should have going forward?”

Vickie Van Kleeck mentioned that it was up to the NFCA members to decide if the committee has value. Vickie said that the NCAA rules committee’s job was to implement rule changes based on recommendations from NCAA coaches. Her job as secretary is to disseminate information to coaches. If there are rule changes for 2020 then membership needs to be talking about them now.

Lisa asked for input as to whether the NFCA committee should or could be another step for rules discussions before a rule gets put into place by the NCAA. Can the NFCA committee help rules get debated before they are implemented and how and when can that be done?

Vickie Van Kleeck indicated that the NFCA Caucus meeting and Summits should be talking about rules and bringing feedback back to this committee.

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION



NCAA Committee meetings are in June for rules discussions

Question: How can we have discussions about rules before they get moved forward?
Lisa Navas expressed Rachel Lawson's concern that coaches do not respond to survey.
This committee could help in getting info back from coaches.

Will bring the question of how this committee can help serve in rules proposals to the NFCA Board to see what direction to go.

John Smart - Suggestion is to use the NFCA committee to advise the NCAA rules committee on feelings from the coaches

Vickie – The NCAA rules committee adjusts rules based on proposals made by coaches
There is a comment period for NCAA coaches for rule proposals, surveys
Requests the NFCA to publish the NCAA calendar for rule changes

III. UMPIRE EDUCATION

- A. Looking for video from institutions
- B. Please send video of obstruction calls for education to: Craig Hyde – NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires: hyde5570@att.net
- C. Or send to Vickie Van Kleech- NCAA Rules Secretary: ncaasbsre@gmail.com
- D. Discussion that took place:

Umpires – want to know, what is the rule and how should it be called?
Example batters box rule – says an umpire can give perspective on a rule change

Vickie – NCAA will post more video than prior years on arbiter
Be able to see how to call a rule visually

Mickey – who is educating the Umpires?
Vickie – NCAA is going to be educating the umpires
Had an Umpire Clinic already
3 Umpire Clinics in January, D1 have to attend
NCAA D1 Umpires have to have attended a rules meeting in order to the NCAA tournament

John - Land mines are going to be that USA Umpires and NCAA umpires have different mechanics

Training umpires is being done by Arbiter posting video and tests and quizzes, and by conference assigners



Jay Nelson- Is there a way to find out if an umpire is a certified D1 umpire such as a patch?

Vicki - not now

NFCA needs to continue to try to educate coaches about where to find rules, bat lists

Goal is to try to educate coaches on how they can get the rules.

Coaches need to register with arbiter. NFCA could help remind coaches to register with arbiter and that they can find info about the new rules.

Future Umpires –

Vickie would like to get more former players to become umpires

Question was asked how is the attendance at Umpires Clinics?

Coaches should ask Conference coordinators to make or encourage umpires to go to rules education seminars

IV. Vickie Van Keeck – Secretary Rules Editor

V. Set up Conference first call of 2018

1. Email will be sent out for first conference call after the board talks about the role of this committee

VI. Other Business

1. Discussion about obstruction rule

Mickey Dean

Expressed the frustration that there are rules in the book that are not being called.

If people don't like the rules, then change the rules but call the rule until the rule is changed

Question – What is the obstruction rule?

- You must have to have the ball before you can block the base. You can block the base once you have the ball.
- Throw at second base from catcher, you can straddle the base.
- Player is supposed to show half the base until the player has the ball.

VII. Adjournment – 2:15 p.m.

Prepared by Karen Linder