

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III CAUCUS MEETING**

November 29, 2007

Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, Nevada

Chair Sean Cotter, Division III representative to the NFCA Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with 107 Division III members in attendance.

I. Announcements

II. NFCA All-American Process - Deb Pallozzi, Chair of Division III all-American Committee

- a. Pallozzi briefly went through some of the online changes to the nominating forms and ballots.
- b. Pallozzi mentioned the possibility of an NCAA realignment of regions in the future and how that would affect the NFCA regions.
- b. Pallozzi presented some changes to the procedures that were discussed by the committee.
 - i. Pallozzi said that the minimum requirements for pitchers was discussed – was the 76 innings pitched requirement too high?
 1. Discussion supported the current requirements.
 - ii. Pallozzi wanted feedback on whether DIII would like to go to a split utility – pitcher/non-pitcher.
 1. Discussion centered around whether or not the requirements for nomination at the utility position should change, and conclusion was that current requirements are sufficient.
 - iii. Pallozzi also mentioned the possibility of giving regional sub-committees power to subjectively decide whether the quality of nominations at certain positions (specifically designated player/utility) is good enough to fill teams.
 1. Discussion as to whether we should give regional subcommittee power to change the utility/designated player position to at-large positions if the numbers of regional nominations are not sufficient to fill the teams.
 - a. Discussion did not support giving subjective power to subcommittees to change positions if committee felt that the quality of nominations was not sufficient.
 - b. Vote on whether to give regional subcommittees to change utility/designated player position to at-large positions if the numbers of regional nominations are not sufficient to fill the teams. PASSED with 52 votes (one vote per institution).
 - c. Suggestion to closely track numbers of nominations at utility/designated player to see if procedures should change in future.

III. NCAA Report

- a. Dee Abrahamson, NCAA secretary rules editor, discussed the upcoming rules issues for the 2008 season.
 - i. Abrahamson encouraged coaches to read the rulebook.
 - ii. Flow of the game. This is one of the major points of emphasis this season.
 1. After the last batter, the next batter and the pitcher have 10 seconds to get in position. The pitcher and catcher then have 10 seconds to prepare for the pitch, and once the hands are set, the pitcher has five

seconds to deliver the pitch. The intention of the change was to give more time to the batter to "agree" on a pitch.

iii. Strike zone. The strike zone will be the bottom of the sternum instead of the front armpit. This will lower the top of the zone approximately five inches.

iv. Sportsmanship. Once again a major emphasis. An all-time high of 217 incidents were reported in 2007.

v. Scoring. Twenty-four additions were made to the rulebook concerning scoring.

vi. Abrahamson mentioned that a recommendation has been made concerning raising the fence height from four feet to six feet.

viii. Bats. This is an on-going technological process. Testing has taken a giant step forward.

1. Tested bats at the championship this year. Results were very disappointing.

a. More bats exceeded the 98 mph standard than anticipated.

2. Some bats will be added to the non-approved list. Not sure when it will come out, but composite bats get better with age.

b. Kathy Strahm. Strahm is the coordinator of the softball improvement program for umpires. She said that they need help in selecting umpires for championship play.

i. Coaches need to get to the NCAA recommendations of umpires for postseason play.

1. Regional chairs on the NCAA Softball Committee were sent letters.

2. Asked attendees to encourage umpires to attend regional clinics. Five clinics will be held in January, and they are as follows: Jan. 5, Burbank, Calif.; Jan. 12, Hartford, Conn.; Jan. 13, Atlanta, Ga.; Jan 26, Chicago, Ill.; and Jan. 27, Dallas, TX.

c. Teresa Smith. Smith discussed playing rules, and mentioned to attendees that proposal forms are available on the NCAA Web site and they are considered in July.

IV. NFCA Top 25 Poll – Jan Forsty, Chair of the Top 25 Poll Committee

V. NFCA Hall of Fame Committee – Ruth Kmak, Division III representative on the Hall of Fame committee

VI. NCAA Committee Report – Kim Tatro, Committee Chair, and Jan Gentry, NCAA Representative

a. Tatro gave a brief report on the 2007 championship in Salem, Virginia.

b. Gentry covered the committee Annual Report – *Appendix A*

i. Regional re-alignment. This issue is being forwarded to the February championships committee meeting, and any coaches that have been submitted for regional realignment will be contacted.

ii. It was reported that the entire President's Conference has been moved to the Central Region, effective for the 2008 season.

iii. A Web site on the bottom right of *Appendix A* is the new official mileage counter for in-region purposes.

c. Tatro suggested a straw poll as to whether or not to extend the playing season one week and move the regional and national tournaments back one week. PASSED with 54 votes for, 7 votes against, 6 abstentions (one vote per institution).

VII. Leadoff Classic – Kris Herman

VIII. Division I Hot Topics

- a. 8-run rule elimination – overall discussion did not support. Members feel that eight runs is a sufficient number and a straw poll indicated 100% support in keeping the rule.

IX. Ethics in Recruiting – Deb Pallozzi

- a. Pallozzi mentioned confusion regarding a rule – is it permissible to speak to a parent while the recruit is still participating in an ongoing tournament? Cotter mentioned he would contact the NCAA and share his findings.

X. NCAA/NFCA legislation

- a. The Division I Head Coaches Committee was discussed, and the overall consensus was that if Division III cannot be a part of the process (perhaps through a representative on the committee), then at least the communication needs to improve.
- b. Discussion as to whether or not the DIII caucus should become the official DIII business meeting at the convention.
 - i. Overall discussion did not support the split. If anything, DIII would like more chances for discussion amongst all groups.
- c. Discussion as to whether or not a Division III HCC is realistic.
 - i. Consensus was that the DIII HCC would not be realistic in the same form that Division I uses.
 - a. A straw committee was suggested to further explore an HCC-like group.

XI. Hall of Famers – George Wares and Henry Christowski

XI. Other business

- a. Concern was voiced about the fact that some conferences force teams to play five games in a day during conference tournaments.
- b. Marge Willadsen briefly spoke on her upcoming retirement, thanking all Division III coaches.

XII. Adjournment. Cotter adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.