

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION
ASSISTANT COACHES CAUCUS**

December 11, 2008

Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, Florida

The meeting was brought to order at 1:35 p.m. by Assistant Coach Representative Annie Smith, associate head coach at Mississippi State University. NFCA Director of Publications Christina Edgar staffed the meeting, with 160 coaches in attendance.

1. Welcome. Ms. Smith welcomed the group.
2. Hall of Famer address. Sue Enquist, NFCA Hall of Fame Member, addressed the assistant coaches as part of the NFCA's annual plan to have a different Hall of Fame member speak to the assistant coaches group. Ms. Enquist spoke about putting on your coaching armor and wearing it everyday – the idea that you come to work and show up for the team and leave everything else at the door. She also spoke about the 33-percent rule – there is the top third of people who do everything right, the middle third who can be helped (they just need a little push), and the bottom third who are negative and will drain you of your energy if you let them. Ms. Enquist's overall message was to “teach, don't critique, and to love and honor the game. Coach because you love the game, and you will stay in the game.”
3. Reports. Ms. Smith conducted a straw poll regarding *Fastpitch Delivery* and whether or not members would prefer to receive a digital version versus the current hard copy version. Approximately 10 members would prefer a digital version.
4. Hot topic breakout groups. Ms. Smith broke the membership into several hot topic groups, with leaders assigned to each group to facilitate discussion. Because of time constraints, no reports were given during the meeting, although the topics are listed below with comments from Ms. Smith.

A. NFCA Assistant Coaches Volunteer Project

1. Timing – several people suggested the fall, and players could be used. The suggestion was also made to choose one week or month where all the teams in the country have a volunteer day.
2. A possible suggestion was to join area schools for one event.
3. Will the NFCA have some sponsorship money to provide t-shirts?
4. How would we handle insurance issues?
5. Depending on the area, would we target inner city kids or rural kids, and where would we find the facilities?

6. It was also suggested later to have a clinic in relation to our convention.
7. Overall, everyone was in favor of the idea. We just need to figure out logistics.

B. How can NFCA benefit assistant coaches?

1. Provide for more networking/resume building.
2. Provide them with learning the ropes – i.e. breaking the barrier from being an assistant to becoming a head coach, budgeting, etc. What are the requirements for being a head coach?
3. Setting up a mentoring program for the assistant coaches so they can learn what head coaches want from assistant coaches and vice versa.
4. Making classes/clinics more financially feasible for assistant coaches – moving in the direction of online courses, specifically.
5. Putting more programs together for assistant coaches at convention – forums, roundtable discussions.
6. Have an assistant coaches clinic across a particular state.
7. Learn more about the history of the sport.
8. Have a leadership seminar with head/assistant coaches panel.
9. Have a financial planning seminar.
10. Keep having the Hall of Fame coaches speak at the caucus.
11. Have a forum on community service – see how we can give back.
12. Have a blog for assistant coaches.

C. Professionalism

1. Professionalism was briefly discussed in the groups. Specifically, some assistant coaches are unsure of how they are expected to conduct themselves without clear expectations from head coaches. The idea of the mentoring program (*see No. 3 above*) arose from this discussion.

5. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.