

Official Minutes – NFCA High School Caucus

NFCA National Convention, Marco Island, Florida (Marriott)

Meeting Called to Order at 8 a.m., Friday, December 12th, 2008

Chair: Wade Wilson, High School Representative (28 coaches in attendance)

- I. Call to Order – Personal introductions
- II. NFCA Business
 - A. Discussion of *Fastpitch Delivery*
 - i. Coaches are asked for their input on the *Fastpitch Delivery*. Coaches are asked to submit and interact more often with the Question of the Month Feature. In addition, other feature ideas are discussed.
 - ii. A brief debate is held involving potential on-line distribution of *Fastpitch Delivery*. By show of hands, five coaches said they would prefer an on-line delivery of the newspaper. Several coaches felt like it would be extremely beneficial if they could receive both a print copy of the paper and an on-line version that they could refer back to at a later time.
 - B. Web Site redesign
 - i. The NFCA is looking at web site re-design in 2009. Coaches are asked to consider what they like and/or dislike about the web site. Suggestions and ideas are asked to be formulated in the year ahead. These suggestions are asked to be forwarded to NFCA Director of E-Services Scott Walters at scott@nfca.org.
 - ii. Web Site Overview:
 - a. Would like more features and news stories
 - b. Interested in more blog and chat-type sessions
 - c. Easier to access data bases for honors and awards
 - d. Very interested in potential of email newsletter
 - C. Convention Overview

In a general discussion of the NFCA Convention, coaches were well-pleased with Marco Island as the host. Since most high school coaches cannot take the time off, their first major function is the high school caucus on Friday. However, the coaches suggested an informal meet and greet on Thursday night – an opportunity to visit and discuss topics for those coaches already in town.

III. High School Business

A. Pitcher's Mound (40 feet vs 43 feet)

Presently six states have adopted 43 feet as the regulation distance for the pitcher's mound in fast-pitch softball. One additional state is doing it this year on a trial basis.

- i. Alabama schools have difficulty scheduling games due to inconsistency of neighboring states
- ii. Some school districts start with the varsity and do not allow junior varsity and middle school players to play with same distance
- iii. Florida schools have used the new distance for six years and it been widely popular within the association
- iv. Advantages include preparing players for college ball and it adds a desired element for better games
- v. Disadvantages include some high school players will not play college and the rule changes also may impact travel ball

Recommendation: The National High School Federation adopt the 43 feet pitcher's mound. Recommendation passed 25-1 with two abstaining.

B. Pitcher's Contact with Rubber

High School coaches want the national federation to adopt the ASA rule that a pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitcher's mound before making a pitch. (There was no discussion).

Recommendation: The National High School Federation adopt the ASA rule that a pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitcher's mound before making a pitch. Recommendation passed 26-0 with two abstaining.

IV. Adjournment