



## **NAIA – Softball Coaches Association Business Meeting Agenda**

***December 10, 2020***  
***1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern***  
**NFCA Virtual Convention**

- I. Call to Order** – Laura Klutsarits, NAIA-SCA President
  - A. Introduction of Officers
  - B. Approval of December 2019 minutes
- II. Reports**
  - A. NFCA National Office Report – Kathleen Ihlenburg
  - B. NAIA National Office Report – Marc Burchard
- III. Proposals** – Laura Klutsarits
- IV. Discussion Items** – Laura Klutsarits
  - A. Open Discussion
- V. Election of Secretary** – Laura Klutsarits
- VI. Speakers**
  - A. Jamie Hazel – NFCA
- VII. Adjournment**



## **NAIA – Softball Coaches Association Business Meeting Agenda** ***8:30-11:30 am – December 5, 2019*** **Atlantic City, NJ**

- I. 8:39AM Call to Order** – Kat Ihlenburg-Georgia Gwinnett, NAIA-SCA President
- A. Introduction of Officers
    - Laura Klutsarits-Siena Heights
    - Aaron Jackson-Carrol College
    - Steve Babinski-Indiana Wesleyan
  
  - B. Introduction of Attendees –
    - Tonya Medders-Georgia Gwinnett
    - Bailey Dillender-University of the Cumberlands
    - Brandie Pahl-Martin Methodist
    - Shannon Wathen-Campbellsville
    - John Weeks-Bethel (TN)
    - Karin Gadberry-Park(AZ)
    - Aurelia Gamch-Doane
    - Deb Thompson-Spring Arbor
    - Lindsey Derry-Park
    - Debbie Jameson-Columbia
    - Wendy Spratt-Columbia
    - Ellena Cott-Laurie-Indiana Tech
    - Stephanie Zimny-Indiana Tech
    - Amber Affholer-WVU Tech
    - Dave Lopez-Calumet College
    - Jessica Mattia-Lyon
    - Taylor Kuhn-Lyon
    - Mac Christensen-Houston-Victoria
    - Mirander Kiser-Siena Heights
    - Michala Cimino-Bellevue
    - Paul Hunt-Benedictine(KS)
    - Gene Rearon-Central Methodist
    - Pat Reardon-Central Methodist
    - Mike Christner-William Penn
    - Jonatthan Lynch-Central Methodist
    - Wayne McCoy-Indiana Tech
    - Sara Allen-Columbia Int.
    - Kristine Burton-Webber Int.
    - Kendall Core-Webber Int.
    - Taiyana Poore-Lindenwood University-Belleville
    - Tony Saldivar-Mcpherson
    - Samantha Mendez-Ottawa(KS)
    - Cadie ODonnell-Ottawa(KS)
    - Hal Wynn-Faulkner

- C. Approval of December 2018 minutes  
Dave Lopez-Calumet College Motion to approve  
Wendy Spratt-Columbia seconded

## II. Reports

A. NFCA National Office Report – Hal Wynn  
Spoke on 60-70% of NAIA Head Coaches are members in the NFCA  
Encouraged all to attend Mentor/Mentee meeting at the convention later that night.  
Encouraged everyone to attend Friday's HOF event.  
Spread word on NFCA to HS, Summer, College coaches in an effort to grow us.  
Explained NFCA's Samantha NFCA Attorney/Counselor as an inexpensive resource for NFCA.

B. NFCA – Jamie Hazel  
Explained the Revamped Coaches Box on the NFCA website. She walked us through how to navigate through the restructure Coaches Box leading to an instructional YouTube video.

Explained there is a committee to revamp the All-American procedures across all divisions. Starting Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 all divisions will be uniformed. Uniformity includes 8 nominations per team, a coach can't vote for their own team, and unify statistical data. Each Region's all region team may have more than 12 with the Region's Player and Pitcher of the Year are automatically added. Now you can have 1<sup>st</sup> team or 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-Conference players eligible to be nominated for NFCA All-Region/All-American teams.

Membership-if the NFCA's NAIA Head Coaching membership falls under 50% we drop to 1 All Region team instead of 2. Jamie said she would email the members a current list of members to help solicit new members. She then gave her contact # 614-561-0809

C. NAIA National Office Report – Mike Higgins  
Mike explained he was "pinch hitting" for Marc Burchard who had other NAIA National obligations Softball Rep is from the AII Ted Breidenthal(sp). Site of 2020 World Series Championship- Columbus, GA. Last year's host Springfield, double booked us with State Championship so NAIA changed to Columbus

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 was the bid deadline for the 2021-22 World Series The NAIA got some great bids for the next 2 years. What the NAIA is looking for in an eligible bid for a Championship: 2 Criteria  
-The facilities feel like it's a College National Tournament.  
-Host to incorporate NAIA into their own communities. Welcome signs and such. Mike explained its Hard to measure but it's a "our recipe for our secret sauce".

Mike was excited to share in years past the opening round bids were left lacking as some sites didn't have tarps and/or lights. Fast forward to today and we have upgraded facilities and standards that the opening rounds now have a National feel. With the NAIA's certification of facilities they use a A B C certification. A's are facilities that have everything the NAIA is looking for to host an opening round, B's are laking a few things, while C's are far away from the NAIA standards. The past for softball had many B's and some A's and some C's. Now a lot more A's, some B's and hardly no C's.

Carol Bruggeman from the NFCA spoke for a few minutes-Reminding coaches NFCA is here from you. Thank you for all we do and for investment. She asked that we would not hesitate if there is anything the NFCA can do for us.

Mike Continued after Carol left-He wants the NAIA to be pushed in the NFCA. He believes, like in baseball, the organization might rally around an initiative to push professional development. If someone is passionate about a mini marketing campaign withing the NFCA for the NAIA so we have a 'seat at the table' it could go a long way. The committee member would be pushing other coaches with a mini marketing plan and couple that with for an increase of membership and growth within the NFCA with Head Coaches.

Kat-Explained this spring the NAIA will have a Selection Committee to showcase Regional strength and making a National profile based on the Regional profile in the Area Rating Committee. The Arc would consist of 5 Regional groupings with all NAIA teams in their own grouping. The raters in the groupings would maintain weekly dialog and the ARC's rep would be decided inside the ARC. They would be a current rater but assigned to have biweekly conference calls with the ARC raters and oversight committee.

Mike Added-ARC people are important and there would be a benefit if they were members of the NFCA. But...leaving that decision for us coaches to decide. Pushing NFCA membership.

Mike Continued news on the NAIA

1-Eligibility Center was rough this summer. When it started it had bugs. A lot of bugs have been ironed out but this summer was rough and took a while to clean up.

2-Council of President decided to use NAIA governing structure to evaluate National Championships This structure is comprised of 3 entities: 1-FARA (Faculty Athletic Representatives Association) is on task to evaluate missed classed time at championships. Collecting good data from all sports. 2-CSA (Counsel of Student Athletes)- were focused on the health and wellness of the student athletes. For example: Soccer playing back to back days at Nationals with the level of stress and fatigue. Another example was Volleyball plays Semi Final and Finals on the same day. 3-NAC (National Administration Counsel)-Heaviest lifting of this group. Soccer, volleyball, swimming/diving, Baseball, Softball have been the first sports targeting. New look to a regionalization of championships. They are studying soccer for a travel partner model. Saving money is important. Last year's 45 baseball's teams had only 3 flights and they saw that as a huge success. So they are looking to use baseball's model with other sports. With the process of the ARC they want equality but it will forgo a little because of the restructuring for regional.

No Questions

B. 2019 National Tournament Report – Tony Segovia wasn't here so Kat stepped in. Congratulations to Southern Oregon University 2019 NAIA Champions and Oklahoma City University as runner up. Springfield/Evangel did a great job last year. The NAIA is thankful and appreciate to Springfield and Evangel University.

Mike Higgins spoke of this year's National Tournament-Reinhardt University is Cohost this year with Columbus. If Reinhardt does not get an automatic berth they would get an at-large if they win 60% of their games. Reinhardt would have a certain date early spring to commit to the host bid regardless of their win percentage. If they commit to host and are below the 60%, they would still have to host but their team would not be able to participate!

Kat-More on the Selection committee. National office dictates groupings of area ratings committee. Currently the raters are in an area rating committee. Each committee has a chair who is a rater. Then there is a face to face meeting. Weekly communication inside the regions and then bi weekly ratings calls with Regional raters. Making the process more fluent.

Mike Higgins interjected-The ARC will be important in who gets in and determining seed lines.

Wendy Spratt-Do raters still rate or just the region chairs.

Mike-They will still rate but it will not be the primary way to determine the teams.

Wendy-How many Regional Chairs are there

Mike-5

Wendy-Are those part regional coaches able to be part of the 40 coaches who play in the opening round?

Kat-It can be the coaches in the 40. Examples of Georgia Gwinnet Soccer and Baseball coaches as hosting coaches and also in the room as ARC raters.

Wendy-When does this start and who are the regional raters.

Mike-The area within the ARC will pick the raters from names the NAIA provides. 2-year terms. There are also At-Large positions with Ted Breidenthal. That group will focus on Travel, Geography, and handling disputes. The Chair is important in those meetings. Jim Bovi, Current FAR and former college baseball coach, is Baseball's Chair and he holds the room and is well respected.

NFCA Samantha from NFCA-Representing Legal Counsel then took the floor-She explained how all of her clients are coaches as she is a coach's attorney and advocate. She explained how she could be utilized in contracts, parent disputes, or all things legal. Reach her through the NFCA website and set up a time on her calendar and she will reach out to you.

Mike Higgins-The legal counsel is another reason to be in the NFCA. Go to the Coaches Corner on the Softball site for the NAIA. It will have documents of the new protocol.

Kat added-There was an email sent June 3<sup>rd</sup> from Marc to the NAIA coaches with a document explaining the ARC process and the structuring of the regional alignments.

Mike Higgins-He will have Marc resend the document. Baseball uses an analytic metric for comparisons. Encouraged us if we want to add that additional tool. Softball might like the BoChip. Men's Basketball have had their struggles with their Massey metrics.

Stephanie-Indy Tech-Asked do we have any update on metrics. OPEN Discussion ensued on different ratings companies, transparency with formulas and the importance of using a metric for a secondary gauge.

### **III. Proposals – Kat Ihlenburg**

A. Sport Motion #1 – Change from 28 play dates to 56 games

Laura explained motion.

Discussion:

Calumet-Why not increase games? So we can play 3 game days and benefit.

Mike Christner-Look at the wording Scrimmages to games from Days

Hal-Baseball dropped down to 53

Mike Higgins-I can see this being tabled but sending a message

Christner-Helps with missed classes with solo games instead of dates

Aaron-Are there an average game number the average NAIA team plays?

Mike-No but the committed might be looking into it.

Steph Indy Tech-Motion to push it forward

Christner-Opened conversation with Dates/Games terminology

Vote

19 for

3 against

2 abstained

B. Sport Motion #2 – Home team designation during Opening Round

Kat explained Motion

Questions-

Mike Higgins encourages it

Dave Calumet Pushed it forward

Jess from Lyon Put up for a vote

Discussion /Vote

For 13

Against 6

Abstained 5

Mike Higgins opened discussion for what needs to change to have against and abstained revote-

Discussion opened up about taking uniform mandates out.

New vote with striking out uniform changes

For 17

Against 2

Abstained 7

C. Sport Motion #3 – Opening Round Rain Date

It was never presented because no formal motion was submitted.

**IV. Discussion Items** – Kat Ihlenburg

A. Open Discussion

Gene Central Meth-Asked if we can webstream the meeting for NAIA coaches

Mike Higgins-Maybe through the coach's portal but the NFCA might veto that

Dave Calumet-Asked is there anyway for equality and Conference Tournament consistency

Discussion resulted in uncovering the independence of each conference deciding their automatic berths and conference tournaments.

**V. Election of Secretary** – Kat Ihlenburg

Steve Babinski-Explained job description requirements of the role

Proposals of new Secretaries and who proposed them...

1 Paul Hunt by Mike Christner

2 Baily Dillender U of the Cumberland by Kat

**VI. Adjournment**

Mike Christner Motioned

Pat Reardon Seconded



## Coach's Guide: Legislation, Policies & Sport Rules

A coaches association takes action through sport motions, but different processes apply for motions that implicate sport rules, policy changes and legislative amendments.

**Sport Rule:** Sport rules are those specific rules that dictate on-field conduct and playing rules of the game. The NAIA has adopted the NCAA rulebook in nearly all sports (exceptions: tennis, golf, competitive cheer and dance, and bowling), though specific NAIA rule modifications can be made by the coaches association and National Administrative Council (NAC). The NAIA may have some general policies that apply to game management or conduct in competition (e.g. suspensions resulting from ejections, etc.), but these NAIA policies only apply if the sport rule is silent or more lenient. Sport rule books can be found on each "Coaches Corner" page ([www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org))

### How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Must be approved by NAC
- Will be considered an NAIA rule modification

**Policy:** Regulations found in the official policy sections of the handbook. Each governing council of the NAIA has a policy section that covers specific topics within that council's purview. The NAC oversees all coaches association and any issues arising from coaches associations. Policy can be changed at the will of the council. NAC, COP, CFAR and CSA policy can be found in the NAIA Handbook ([www.naia.org/legislative](http://www.naia.org/legislative))

### How to make a change:

- Sport motion by coaches association
- Changes to NAC Policy: Must be approved by full NAC (occurs at convention or NACDA). Will be added to the NAC policy.
- Changes to COP, CFAR or CSA policy: Coaches associations do not have a direct line to propose changes in these policies. Should a sport motion apply to one of these policy sections, the sport's officers and national office liaison can share the motion with the applicable council as a recommendation. It will be that council's discretion to determine if any action is warranted.

**Legislation:** Anything found in the NAIA Constitution or Bylaws. Any change or amendment to the constitution or bylaws can only be done through a vote of the full membership at the annual NAIA national convention. The constitution and bylaws can be found in the NAIA Handbook ([www.naia.org/legislative](http://www.naia.org/legislative))

**How to make a change:**

- Any association, council, standing committee or conference can sponsor a legislative amendment, and in some cases a co-sponsor is required. (Coaches associations must receive co-sponsorship from any of those groups except another coaches association.)
- Proposals must be submitted to the office by mid-January.
- All submitted proposals that have requisite co-sponsorship will be voted on by the full membership at the annual convention.

