



## CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

**Saturday, April 18, 2009 – 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, April 20, 2009 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Kansas City Marriott Downtown

Kansas City, MO

All NAIA affiliated conferences and the association of independent institutions were represented. In attendance were: Jim Houdeshell, American Mideast; Lowell Pitzer, American Midwest; John Sullivan, Appalachian Athletic; Don Ott, California Pacific; Dave Haglund, Cascade; Denny Fox, Chicagoland; LaVern Jessen, Dakota Athletic; Mike Walker, Frontier; Cliff Hamlow, Golden State; Corey Westra, Great Plains; Thomas Howell, Gulf Coast; Larry Lady, Heart of America; Scott Crawford, Kansas Collegiate; Pat Mrozowski, Kentucky Intercollegiate (representing Bill Melton); JD Collins, Mid-Central; Al Waller, Midlands; Mike Pollio, Mid-South; Rick Sanders, Midwest Collegiate; Tony Stigliano, Red River; John Hudson, Sooner Athletic; Kurt Patberg, Southern States; Rob Miller, The Sun; Royal Goheen, Sunrise; E.L. Hutton, TranSouth; Bryan Rizzo, Wolverine-Hoosier; Ted Breidenthal, Association of Independent Institutions

NAIA staff members present for at least portions of the meetings included Jim Carr, Kevin Dee, Dennis Green, John Leavens, Marcus Manning, John McCarthy, Scott McClure, Israel Negron, Lori Thomas.

### Monday, April 20

1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by the CCA Chair, Rick Sanders.
2. INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS. The agenda was approved.
3. REPORTS
  - a. National Office Report – Kevin Dee, CCA Liaison  
Kevin updated the CCA on a variety of topics, including recent national office staff changes, a commissioner's module on NAIAHelp.org, recent corporate sponsorship announcements, and reminders on upcoming important dates and deadlines. He gave an update on membership recruitment and retention, reminding commissioners to communicate with the national office regarding prospective members. Lastly, he encouraged commissioners to attend the convention session for the online "character driven coaching" training module, which will officially launch this summer.
  - b. National Administrative Council (NAC) – Corey Westra, NAC Vice Chair  
Corey updated the CCA on the work and sub-committee structure of the NAC. The NAC completed its business at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Stan Harrison was commended for his work as chair, Corey will move into the chair position, and Bob Wilson from the GSAC was elected vice chair. Highlights from the meeting: the NAC is recommending the development of a process for the acceptance of late scholar-athlete nominations; the council approved expanding the national tournament field in women's golf; several NAC policy recommendations were approved, including one to create an event/game management handbook; other discussion topics included the timetable for final ratings and the timetable for declaration of intent submissions; reminder - there is a session on opening rounds/direct qualification on Tuesday morning.
  - c. Legislative Amendments Sponsored by CCA – Rick Sanders  
Rick reviewed the Bylaws Amendments #1 (co-sponsored with COP) and #9. After discussion regarding Bylaws Amendment #1, two recommended amendments to the legislation were approved by the CCA for

review by the COP. Slightly modified versions of these amendments were ultimately approved by the membership.

d. Marketing Committee – Scott Crawford

Scott distributed a document summarizing the recommendations from the marketing committee. The committee will meet on April 19, and Scott will issue a final report during the April 20 CCA session.

f. Conference Commissioner Surveys – Scott Crawford

Scott reminded the CCA about the results from three conference commissioner surveys: conference finances, officials fees, and conference operations. The summary of the conference finances survey was emailed to commissioners on Jan 5, 2009, and raw data from the other two surveys was sent on Feb 11, 2009 (summaries of these two surveys will be completed in May).

g. Competitive Experience – Thomas Howell

Thomas gave a brief summary of the work of the competitive experience committee. The committee's recommendations are reflected in Bylaws Amendments #11 and #12.

h. NAIA/NCAA Discussions – John Leavens

John gave an update on the conversations between the NAIA and the NCAA regarding programmatic partnerships (i.e. eligibility center) and the possibility for a broader partnership in the future. John stressed that no decisions have been made, input from the membership on these topics is crucial, and the membership will be kept informed as information becomes available.

i. Basketball Officials Nominations – Larry Lady/Lori Thomas

Lori reminded the CCA about the process and timeline for nominating basketball officials to work the national championships. She stressed the importance of transparency and encouraged commissioners to communicate with their basketball coaches regarding the process. Larry Lady reported that the pool of nominations was not very large this year – for example, there were 13 nominations to fill 8 spots for men's basketball. Several commissioners commended Larry Lady, national supervisor of officials, on his work, specifically on his communication with the officials who are not selected.

Monday, April 20

4. OLD BUSINESS – Postseason Restrictions

a. A legislative proposal that was tabled by the CCA in January was revisited. The proposal from January would have amended Article I, Section G of the NAIA bylaws to change the postseason restrictions provision for schools that apply for NCAA membership. Motion by Miller/Goheen to create an ad hoc committee to examine the topic and develop possible legislation for CCA review in September. Motion approved unanimously. Larry Lady will serve as committee chair.

b. Kevin Dee discussed postseason restrictions for NAIA members, specifically the topic of allowing institutions that are ineligible for NAIA postseason to compete in conference tournaments. Bylaws Amendments #8 and #9 address two categories of postseason ineligibility, and the question was raised about whether other categories should be considered by the CCA for similar treatment. No action was taken.

5. National Letter of Intent Study Group – Rob Miller

Rob reported that the National Letter of Intent Study Group has met several times since the fall of 2008, including a meeting during the convention. He reviewed several guiding principles and key definitions that the study group has developed. The study group will continue its work throughout the summer and submit a report with possible recommendations to the COP in September.

6. Championships and Direct Qualification – Lori Thomas

Lori reported that it was a good first year of direct qualification for fall sports. She noted that the financial estimates used to create direct qualification models were accurate, she thanked commissioners for all their work in securing officials for opening rounds, and she noted that one of the biggest challenges is making decisions on air travel during the weekend when group travel desks aren't typically available. The championships staff plans to provide

more clarity to commissioners and opening round hosts on officials' fees and mileage reimbursement policies. She encouraged commissioners to attend the National Championship Opening Rounds workshop on Tuesday morning.

7. Ratings – Scott McClure/Cliff Hamlow

Scott and Cliff gave several updates from the NAC Rules and Ratings Committee, including:

- Commissioners and conference oversight members should receive conference ratings each week from the conference rater. NAIA staff will explore the possibility of streamlining this process within SID Help.
- Coaches associations will be surveyed this summer to begin the process of developing ratings criteria for raters to use in assessing teams for their top 30 submissions.
- The Rules and Ratings Committee will explore the possibility of using third-party power ratings systems in various sports.
- The NAC has instructed the men's and women's soccer coaches associations to utilize the same formula for national championship team selection and seeding. Currently, men's soccer uses the Longo Rating and women's soccer uses TPI, a combination of Longo and the NAIA ratings. The coaches associations have yet to agree on a system. The NAC Rules and Ratings Committee will make a final decision for 2009-10 in June.
- A decision on when the final top 25 ratings will take place (before or after the conference tournaments) will be made by the NAC in June. Rick Sanders took a straw poll of the commissioners to see which was favored, and the straw poll was approximately 50% for each of the two options.

8. Model Constitution and Bylaws – Marcus Manning

Marcus reported that NAIA staff members have been developing a model constitution and bylaws document as a conference resource. The challenge has been providing a document that provides the proper level of guidance to a conference without creating a "cookie-cutter" approach to conference governance and regulations. The commissioners recommend the development of an outline of a conference constitution and bylaws document, with a focus on the conference standards that are approved by the membership. In addition, they recommended choosing governing documents from several conferences to provide as examples to conferences requesting guidance.

9. New Commissioner Orientation – Kevin Dee/Rick Sanders

At the request of the CCA, a new commissioner orientation session will be developed for future CCA meetings. NAIA staff is requesting assistance from CCA members on the content and presentation of these sessions. Motion by Miller/Pollio to form a committee to assist the staff on a new commissioner orientation. Motion approved unanimously. Kurt Patberg will serve as committee chair.

10. Marketing Committee – Scott Crawford

The ad hoc marketing committee met yesterday and has submitted its final draft of recommendations to the national office staff. The committee is recommending to the CCA the creation of a standing committee, the Sponsorships Committee, to work with the national office and other conference commissioners on corporate sponsorships. The current marketing committee members would serve on this committee, with possible additions for geographic representation. Motion by Lady/Sullivan to create the CCA Sponsorships Committee. Motion approved unanimously.

The marketing committee is also recommending roundtable sessions during the spring and fall meetings, for commissioners to share ideas and information with each other. NAIA staff will work these sessions into the meeting schedules.

The fall CCA meeting is scheduled for September 16-17 in Kansas City, Mo. Estimated start time is 2:00-3:00 p.m. on September 16, and the meetings will conclude at approximately 1:00-2:00 p.m. on September 17.

Meeting adjourned.