



CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Wednesday, September 17th – 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 18th -8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NAIA National Office

Kansas City, MO

In attendance were:

Jim Houdeshell, American Mideast; Lowell Pitzer, American Midwest; John Sullivan, Appalachian Athletic; Don Ott, California Pacific; Dave Haglund, Cascade; Rob Miller, Florida Sun; Mike Walker, Frontier; Cliff Hamlow, Golden State; Corey Westra, Great Plains; Thomas Howell, Gulf Coast; Larry Lady, Heart of America; Scott Crawford, Kansas Collegiate; JD Collins, Mid-Central; Al Waller, Midlands; Rick Sanders, Midwest Collegiate; Kurt Patberg, Southern States; Royal Goheen, Sunrise; EL Hutton, TranSouth; Bryan Rizzo, Wolverine-Hoosier; Ted Breidenthal, Independent

Additional NAIA Staff:

Jim Carr, Kevin Dee, John Leavens, Marcus Manning, John McCarthy, Scott McClure, Israel Negron, Ruth Stein, Chad Waller

1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by the CCA Chair, Rick Sanders.
2. INTRODUCTIONS/REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS.
3. REPORTS
 - a. Conference Liaison Responsibilities – Kevin Dee
NAIA has hired four new staff members including, Rob Hayworth-VP-Champions of Character, Kristin Knopik-Manager of Championship Sports, Marcus Manning-Director of Membership Services and Sue Robinson-Director of Membership Resources. NAIA Help will be available for commissioners by January 1. Fine Designs will be new merchandise provider for national championships. Schools hosting opening rounds have an opportunity to buy apparel at cost.
 - b. Committee on Presidential Leadership – John Leavens
Discussed minimum criteria and standards for conferences. Points of emphasis were selecting a commissioner not affiliated with any conference member institution, accountability within the conferences that basic criteria for membership are being met.
 - c. Committee on Conference Administration – Corey Westra
Discussed the new policy for the CCA. Points of emphasis were an amendment to Bylaws I, Section S- Governing documents must include a clearly defined application process for conference membership and a sub-committee has been established to explore options and create recommendations for implementation timeline and accountable mechanism. The sub-committee will consist of Corey Westra, Rick Sanders, Dan Harris and Jim Phipps.
Discussion: Inquiry about a timeline on new conference administration and policy specifically if approved by the COP in April the impact it will have on conferences. Single sport conferences and their impact on the membership. Specifically the Mid-States football conference. Unaffiliated groupings could lead to stronger multi-sport conferences.
 - d. Committee on Conduct in Competition – Larry Lady
Discussed minimum standards and best practices established by this committee. Points of emphasis were the creation of game management manual and the sports that garnered the most attention, basketball, football and soccer.

Discussion: How will individuals and schools be held accountable? Incident reports and year-end reports submitted to the National Office. What will the National Office do with these reports?

- e. Committee on Rules Education and Accountability- Israel Negron
Discussed the involvement of the FARs at the conference level and meeting at once a year. Discussed the possibility of rules education test for coaches, still in the infancy stage.
- f. National Administrative Council Update – Corey Westra
Discussed the new structure of the NAC, made up of 35 members, every conference is represented. Stan Harrison is the chair and Corey is Vice Chair.
- g. Direct Qualification Update-Scott McClure
Discussed the newly created DQ FAQs page. Fall qualification plans are due October 1. Discussed the proper procedures for an inclement weather contingency plan. In reference to unaffiliated groupings 75% of the members must be in agreement of the qualification plan.
Discussion: Concern over how this plan was implemented. 75% should be used as a point of reference and a way to settle an argument. Ultimately it is up to conference commissioners to decide.
- h. Ratings Update-Chad Waller/Cliff Hamlow
Discussed the 2008-09 ratings timeline. Recommendations and things to remember for conference/All and unaffiliated ratings oversight. Provide a support system for first time raters.

Thursday, September 18 (8:00am-12:00pm)

- 4. Approval of CCA Minutes from Louisville - Moved and seconded. Approved 20-0
- 5. REPORTS
 - a. Undeclaring for postseason-Subcommittee (Chair-Don Ott, Cliff Hamlow, Dave Haglund)
The subcommittee distributed a proposal to lessen the severity of the penalty for those schools that did not honor declaration of intent in cross country and golf last year. Recommendation provided by the subcommittee will go the NAC.
Clarification on current bylaw: Institutions can make a second appeal under specific circumstances if the initial appeal was denied. Commissioners can offer a letter of support.
MOTION-Submit plan to NAC
CCA Vote: approved 17-0-3
- 6. New Business-Proposal
Al Waller-conference structure
A conference must be made up of five schools and the number of schools that must sponsor a sport is five.
Handout provided.
Discussion: Al Waller will chair, Royal Goheen, Jim Houdeshell, Kurt Patberg, Dave Haglund, and Tony Stigliano will serve. National office staff liaisons will be Marcus Manning, Director of Membership Services, and Ruth Stein, Manager of Championship Sports. A proposal by January is suggested.
- 7. Building Conference Awareness-Staci Schottman
Discussed creating consistency amongst the schools, conferences and NAIA in branding the NAIA. Asked commissioners to encourage SIDs to send the National Office student-athlete stories. Possibly develop an NAIA buffer website with the conference websites with the assistance of Greg Black at SIDHelp. Member institutions branding the conference with boilerplates.

Marketing and Corporate

- a. Role of National Office and Conferences-Jim Carr
Vice President Mike Campbell has left the NAIA-two director level positions will be created two fill his void. Discussed what the best structure is for the NAIA and the conferences. Discussed collective marketing, better communication and ball adoptions and the impact it has on conferences and the National Office.

Marketing/Sponsorship committee-Chair-Scott Crawford, Dave Haglund, John Sullivan, Kurt Patberg, Ted, Mike Pollio and Mike Walker. National office staff liaisons will be Kevin Dee, CCA liaison, and Amy Stover, Manager of Marketing and Convention Services.

- b. NACMA Update-Amy Stover
Discussed using the marketing resource page, NAIA/NACMA best practices and NAIA fact sheet.
Discussed recruiting NAIA representatives to serve on the NACMA members.
- c. OAI Corporation-John McCarthy/Mark Barnett
Discussed price points and advantages of their product.
8. Champions of Character-Rob Haworth
Introduced himself and spoke briefly about Champions of Character planning and the Champions of Character Integration Committee.
9. Updates and discussion
 - a. NAIA/NCAA discussions-John Leavens
Continued discussions in three areas: NLI program, First year eligibility (NEC) and Amateurism/Competitive experience.
Discussion: Critical issue among the commissioners was scheduling with local/regional NCAA teams.
 - b. Competitive Experience-Thomas Howell
Working on comparing and contrasting competitive experience with NCAA DII's outside competition.
Asked the questions: Are we making too big of an issue out of this? Should the certification of student-athletes be under one operation-at the National Eligibility Center?
Discussion: NCAA Eligibility Center fees for student-athletes.
 - c. Fifth Year of Eligibility-Israel Negrón
The committee is composed of ADs, FARs and coaches. A survey will be distributed to the membership soon.
 - d. Basketball Officials Nominations-Larry Lady
Submit top 15 officials' ratings annually to the National Office and be sure to nominate qualified officials for basketball national championships.
 - e. Conference Directors & Officers Insurance-Kevin Dee
Eight commissioners have submitted applications for insurance. Can complete applications at any time during the year.
 - f. NAIA Basketball Showcase-Scott McClure
Encouraging neighboring basketball conferences to establish a cross conference challenge across the nation. **The CCA tabled this discussion.**
 - g. Annual Conference Survey-Scott Crawford
Discussed the survey and the areas covering dues/fees, salary stipend, official fees, travel expenses for conference personnel, rules and letter of intent program. This survey will be distributed to commissioners in October.
 - h. Membership Applications-John Leavens
Discussed the membership application process and the FAQs, Basics and Membership Guidebook.
10. Other

Rick Sanders-discussed a commissioner's webpage being a resource for the commissioners.
Kevin Dee discussed developing a commissioner's handbook ready for publication by next summer.
Next CCA conference call-Thursday, November 13 at 10:00am (Central)
Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm