



CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

September 16-17, 2009

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; Dave Laketa, Chicagoland; Kent Paulson, 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; Andy Jugan, 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, Lori Thomas, Chad Waller, Staci Schottman, Dustin Skidgel, Amy Stover, Sue Robinson, Tony Bybee, Rob Haworth.

Wednesday, September 16

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Rick Sanders, CCA Chair.
2. Introductions and Agenda Review. The agenda and the June minutes were approved.
3. National Office Report – Kevin Dee
 - a. Kevin updated the CCA on 2009-10 resources including the Administrator and Commissioner Manual, coaches manuals, membership directory and the Official Handbook and Policy Handbook. The CCA was updated on the upcoming COP meetings and the 2010 Convention. Kevin discussed the strategic plan and reimbursement percentages in various sports. Kevin encouraged commissioners to continue using the Commissioner's resource page.
4. Standards-Marcus Manning
 - a. Marcus discussed the new standards passed at the April 2009 Convention. Marcus discussed the importance of using the standards to increase the level of engagement of NAIA institutions, starting with the presidents being involved at the institutional and conference level. Discussed conference administration delivering key services and programs to conference members including rules education and Champions of Character initiatives. The latter part of the report focused on the new Conduct in Competition standard. Marcus discussed the process of when a student or coach is ejected, and what can be appealed.
5. Reports
 - a. National Administrative Council Update – Corey Westra
 - i. Corey updated the CCA on the four NAC sub committee chairs, Bob Wilson is currently vice-chair. Corey discussed the post-season plans being a month earlier. Corey stated there were 59 sport motions and 11 appeals at the NACDA meetings.
 - b. New Commissioner Orientation Group – Kurt Patberg

- i. Kurt updated the CCA on the activities that were involved in the orientation. Kurt expressed to the CCA that this is a good program for the commissioners and having a mentor helps make the transition easier for a new commissioner.
- c. Media and Social Networking Survey – Staci Schottman
 - i. Staci updated the CCA on the media relations survey that was sent out to the membership in August. Based on survey results 35.7% use video stream for conference events and 69.2% do not broadcast their games over the internet. Staci discussed the importance of communicating with today's student-athlete using social networking avenues like Facebook, Myspace, Twitter and Youtube. The MBB DI Tournament has a Facebook Fanpage.
- d. Ratings – Scott McClure/Chad Waller
 - i. Chad and Scott briefly discussed the ratings process and the improvements it has shown over the last year. Reminded commissioners that the NAC Rules and Ratings Committee policies require all raters to send their ratings to their group oversight committee prior to their online submission. Discussed the cross-country ratings issue.
- e. Collegiate Sports Information Directors Assoc. – Chad Waller
 - i. Chad reported that CoSIDA is trying to develop better lines of communication with various groups, including NAIA conference commissioners.
 - ii. Chad stated that in 2013, CoSIDA will be a part of the NACDA Convention.
- f. Sponsorships Committee – Scott Crawford/Dustin Skidgel/Amy Stover
 - i. Scott, Dustin and Amy gave a recap of their call in July. Discussed the flowchart and the communication tree.

6. Corporate Partnerships

- a. Overview – Dustin Skidgel/Amy Stover
 - i. Dustin and Amy discussed the procedures for prospective sponsors and role of commissioners and NAIA staff members. They also briefly reviewed the current sponsorships and ball adoptions and gave a brief update on the Musco Lighting conversations.
- b. OAI Corp.
 - i. OAI was pleased with the business last year and looks forward to working with the commissioners and their conferences in the future.
- c. Midwest Trophy
 - i. Midwest Trophy discussed their history, turnaround time for their products and displayed a few samples for the commissioners.
- d. Career Athletes
 - i. Discussed what they can do for student-athletes and their futures. Also discussed why this service is valuable for individual institutions.
- e. Environmental Turf Services
 - i. Discussed the history of the company and the creative ways in which ETS helps institutions raise funds for their fields.

Thursday, September 17

7. NAIA Presidential Congress –Jim Carr

- a. Jim briefly discussed the history of the NAIA, the origins of the NCAA discussions and what transpired from the April convention up to this point. Jim stated that much was learned during the NCAA discussions, however, the COP wishes to move forward and focus on the NAIA. Jim stated the Presidential Congress will give NAIA presidents the opportunity to discuss the following:
 - i. Detailed information about the conversations with the NCAA.
 - ii. Insights gained of NCAA DII and DIII membership goals.
 - iii. Key factors in membership affiliation decisions.
 - iv. Identify and explore key issues for NAIA.
- b. Each commissioner gave a membership update within their own conference.

8. Task Force on the NAIA Eligibility Center – John Leavens
 - a. John updated the CCA on the four proposals submitted to the task force; he gave a brief summary of each one highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. The task force decided to narrow the choices down to two. John also told the CCA that the NCAA Eligibility Center did not submit a proposal. John briefed the CCA on the new competitive experience rule effective August 1, 2011, stating it would focus on elite level competition and not remuneration.

9. National Letter of Intent Study Group-Rob Miller
 - a. Rob updated the CCA on the actions of the NLI study group including why the group supported a letter of intent program. Rob stated four reasons including:
 - i. Standardization and legitimacy of the NAIA recruiting process
 - ii. Improved public relation opportunities for member institutions
 - iii. Commitment between the institution and prospective student
 - iv. Limit the continued recruitment of signed prospectsRob discussed a potential timeline for the letter of intent program which included proposed legislation at the 2010 Convention, if approved; the program would begin in fall 2011. CCA supported the concept 23-0-2.

Note: The COP is supportive of the letter of intent concept, and it prefers legislation for the 2011 Convention. The NLI Study Group will continue its work, including the consideration of whether a letter of intent program could be administered by the NAIA Eligibility Center.

10. Ad hoc committee on postseason restrictions
 - a. The intent of the proposed legislation was discussed. The CCA agreed that the language should be more stringent and not rely on the various NCAA membership definitions. The CCA discussed the possibility of disallowing post-season opportunities for members one year after the institution applies for NCAA membership. The CCA agreed unanimously to support the concept and review proposed language on the next conference call.

Note: The COP is supportive of a more stringent bylaw and requests the opportunity to review and possibly co-sponsor the proposed legislation.

11. Champions of Character-Rob Haworth
 - a. Champions of Character Overview
 - i. Rob discussed the Champions of Character legislation passed at the April Convention and what it means to each campus and conference. He discussed with the CCA how each conference should have a COC committee. Rob also discussed the online training, specifically who should be going through it and the July 15, 2010 deadline. Rob discussed details about the COC scorecard.

12. Conduct in Competition-Lori Thomas/John Sullivan
 - a. Lori and John discussed the “Make the Call” document that was sent to all conference commissioners and national officials associations. They also discussed the online ejection report form and the steps that are involved in reporting ejections. Lori stated that 90 reports had been turned into the National Office thus far.

13. Championships – 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 - a. Direct Qualification-Lori Thomas
 - i. Lori updated the CCA on the bid process for opening rounds in soccer and volleyball. Lori briefly went over the direct qualification FAQs.
 - b. Emerging Sports– Kristin Knopik Gillette

- i. Kristin discussed the criterion for recognized, emerging and championship sports. Kristin discussed the timeline for competitive cheer and dance.

14. Updates and discussion

- a. Basketball Officials Nominations – Larry Lady
 - i. Larry reviewed the nomination process and fielded questions from CCA members.
- b. NAIAHelp.com – Tony Bybee
 - i. Tony updated the CCA on what information is available to them and what conference information has to be completed and submitted by commissioners.
- c. Membership Resources – Sue Robinson
 - i. Sue discussed the various resources available to the commissioners including the commissioner’s resource page and conference profile.
- d. For-profit institutions– Kevin Dee
 - i. Kevin briefly summarized NAIA membership criteria and provided background information on why for-profit institutions have been prohibited from NAIA membership. Kevin stated the task force recommends a proposal to eliminate the membership criterion requiring not-for-profit status. Motion by Royal Goheen to support this proposal was approved 24-0-1.
Note: The COP is submitting a legislative amendment for the 2010 Convention that would remove the not-for-profit requirement from the NAIA membership criteria.
- e. Training for scoretable personnel and statistical crews – Dennis Green
 - i. Commissioners discussed best practices within their conferences.
 - ii. An ad hoc committee was formed address this topic. Committee members are John Sullivan (chair), Scott Crawford, and Royal Goheen. NAIA staff liaisons will be Dennis Green and Chad Waller.
- f. Membership Application Process– Marcus Manning
 - i. Marcus discussed the membership application process from beginning to end including members of the evaluation team and their responsibilities. The CCA brought up two suggestions including involving a commissioner on every site visit and the person should be a neutral commissioner.
- g. Annual Conference Survey – Scott Crawford
 - i. Scott provided the CCA with surveys on conference tournament admission pricing, miscellaneous operational items, assignor and official stipends and fees.
- h. Financial aid policy – Corey Westra
 - i. Corey discussed the impact of allowing junior varsity student-athletes not to count toward a program’s institutional aid limit.

15. Other

- a. Corey discussed the possibility of implementing set practice dates for fall, winter and spring. No action was taken.

Future CCA meetings

NAIA Convention, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 9-13, 2010 (CCA meeting times TBA)

Fall Meeting, Kansas City, September 15-16, 2010 (dates are tentative)

Meeting adjourned at 1:48pm