

Action Items – Division III Membership Meetings

2011 NFHCA Annual Convention

Moderated by Andy Whitcomb, Division III Representative

The Division III Membership took action on the following items during the meetings held January 7-9, at the 2011 NFHCA Annual Convention:

1. Voted to approve Action Items from Breakout Meetings held at the 2010 NFHCA Convention.

Vote: Passed

75	Approved
0	Opposed
0	Abstentions

Committee Reports

All-American

- ◆The All-American Committee reported that they struggle with proper representation for players on the national call.
- ◆The committee felt the regional coaches ballot was a useful resource.
- ◆The Division III group agreed to allow Gabe Moliken to continue to do the write-ups for the All-American press release.
- ◆The committee expressed concerns with on-line process and it was noted that those changes are already being looked into.
- ◆The committee reiterated the fact that the subjective portion of the ballot must be thorough and informative to help the committee make the best decisions.

Coach of the Year

- ◆It was noted that despite the ease of the process to vote that Division III recorded the lowest voting %.

Senior All-Star Game

- ◆It was suggested that we look into using the officials from Saturday's games for the senior all-star game. There were concerns about the officials used for this year's game in that they were not college officials and that was reflected in their calling of the game.
- ◆Those coaches from larger regions would like to see a coach added to their regional committee so there would be two representatives from those larger areas.

2. Motion to have another team added to the senior all-star game, bringing the number of competing teams to three, with three 25-minute games – each team playing twice.

73	Approved
3	Opposed
0	Abstentions

- ◆There was discussion in regards to the NFHCA being able to provide more funding for the senior all-star reception.

NCAA Discussion Items

◆ We briefly discussed the lack of institutions putting forward a bid to host the National Tournament. In that discussion the prospect of “piggy-backing” onto the Division 1 final-four with Division II and Division III was proposed informally. By a straw vote, Division III was in favor of delving further into the proposition of making the National Championship a “Championships Weekend” with all three divisions. With that said, there was also considerable concern that Division III would be treated like second-class citizens and get the worst times for practices and games as well as a general concern of when we would host three different all-star games. Division III is in favor of a neutral site like Virginia Beach, but as a group, there is caution as to our place at such an event.

Play-in Games: It was understood that weaker conferences have play-games but some members feel there are more deserving teams that did not get into the tournament simply because of the regional factors of Division III and the differences in teams. There was interest to keep the NCAA tournament bracket size the same but to get into the bracket, two of the weaker power ranked conference champions would “play-in” for one bracket spot, thereby keeping the same number of AQ’s but more at-large options.

Revision of Pool A Criteria: This was another alternative presented to accommodate the above situation. Some members would like to revisit the requirements for a conference to qualify for an AQ. Currently, there is a minimum of seven teams needed for a conference to qualify, but if the numbers were raised to have between 8-10 teams for a conference to qualify this would lower the number of AQ qualifiers thereby allowing more at-large bids to be entertained. It was noted that there are two different philosophies at work in regard to AQ’s and there is a disagreement within the membership of opportunity vs. having the strongest teams represented for tournament play. It was noted that the philosophy of Division III overall may have to be revised to consider such a change.

Recruiting Dead periods – no comments

Background checks on officials: If an official is registered with US field hockey, that umpire is automatically checked – our group felt that each official should have to undergo a background check in order to umpire at the college level considering the access that umpire has to our players.

◆ The moving of the convention date was brought forward and there were two options given: January 13-15 2012 or January 20-22 2012.. We discussed many scenarios including, but not limited to the lacrosse convention, indoor qualifying tournament, Martin Luther King Day, cost of attending two conventions at the same time (positive and negatives), as well as the NCAA meetings. In the end, our group was in favor of the January 20-22nd dates for 2012.

3. Motion to have the 2012 NFHCA convention take place the weekend of January 20-22nd.

29 Approved
12 Opposed
32 Abstentions

Rules – Below were the following rule changes presented to our group. Many were met with opposition as the group wanted to hear more from whomever submitted the changes and why. To simply state they comply with current FIH rules was not enough to sway our group to adopt them. Further explanation and rationale would have helped in the decision making process. Regardless, we voted on several of the issues and the results are below.

- a) Banning white below the knee
- b) Outlawing white GK equipment
- c) Outlawing white stick tape
- d) Pending FIH rules changes – 2 minute green card
- e) Coach carding

- f) Consistent clock countdown during pre-game
- g) Pregame – Intercollegiate spirit team huddle vs. FIH walk-out
- h) Allowance for umpires to use communication devices between themselves
- i) Require each institution to have in place a ball net 6” high running the length 5m off the sideline from 23m lines to 3m from centerline in front of each bench area.

4. Motion to ban white below the knees.

- 0 Approved
- 78 Opposed
- 1 Abstentions

5. Motion to ban white goalkeeping equipment.

- 58 Approved
- 4 Opposed
- 13 Abstentions

6. Motion to ban any white stick tape.

- 0 Approved
- 75 Opposed
- 7 Abstentions

2 minute green card – no motion made

Clarification of the red card – coach receiving a red card is suspended from the next game and must leave the field after receiving red card. If the red card is issued at last game of season, the coach will be suspended first game of following season. We discussed what recourse a coach has, if any. The issue was brought forward in collegiate breakout as well and a committee is being assembled by the Division I group for an appeals process.

Consistent clock and pregame protocol: we spent a considerable amount of time discussing the FIH walk out and pregame routine. Chip Rogers had put forth what is below in regards to timing etc. and our vote follows:

Proposed Regular Season Pre-game Protocol - modifications

<u>Time before game</u>	<u>Game Clock</u>	<u>Action</u>
53 minutes	45:00	<u>Teams must be guaranteed 45 minutes on field</u>
8 minutes	00:00	Captains and Umpires meet.
8 minutes	00:00	<u>Starters submitted and exchanged.</u>
7 minutes	00:00	Teams clear field. Public address welcome. Introduction of officials and players.
3 minutes	00:00	National anthem.
Game begins		

Teams are led onto the field in two lines by the two umpires. The umpires are the first to be introduced. The captain of each team heads the line of players (both starters and nonstarters.) The officials will stop at midfield. At midfield, the teams, in single file, will turn 90 degrees and move toward their respective goals, ultimately forming a single line at center field facing the direction as determined by the venue.

The announcer then introduces the visiting team’s starters, assistant coach(es) and head coach. The announcer then introduces the “home” team using the same format. After both teams have been introduced and the national anthem has been played, the players should return to their respective benches to prepare for the start of the game.

7. Motion to have consistent countdown during pregame.

77 Approved
4 Opposed
1 Abstentions

8. Motion to allow team to walk out as opposed to the spirit team huddle thereby following FIH standards.

55 Approved
26 Opposed
2 Abstentions

9. Motion to announce the substitutes before the starters during regular season pre-game protocol.

7 Approved
71 Opposed
6 Abstentions

◆We had casual discussion in regards to the letter 'I' proposal of requiring each institution to have in place a ball net 6" high running the length 5m off the sideline from 23m lines to 3m from centerline in front of each bench area. No one reported to be in favor of this item and those speaking out were quick to point out that no other sport has such restrictions for their coaching staff and bench and that those umpires need to be able to control the bench area just as any other referee or umpire is asked and paid to do. In short, there was strong opposition to this proposal.

Numerical Advantage for an On-the-Road Win: Conversation followed and a motion was put forward below.

10. Motion to give a numerical advantage of an on the road win versus a home win.

15 Approved
69 Opposed
1 Abstentions

NCAA Division III Field Hockey Bulletin Items

NCAA Proposal of Realignment of Regions: The discussion surrounding the realignment of regions was met with much uncertainty and confusion. The rationale that accompanied the realignment proposal was neither clear nor correct in many instances and the group felt blindsided with little time to investigate and discuss the implications of such a major change. It was also disconcerting to the group that those serving on the NCAA committee were not able to articulate the reasoning behind the change nor were they fully aware of what those changes entailed.

The Division III group feels strongly that an NCAA representative needs to be at convention and needs to attend breakout meetings, especially when a change of this magnitude is presented with little explanation or underlying principle. The group was encouraged to go to the links provided and talk to their athletic directors as well as e-mail our field hockey representative from the NCAA directly with our unease and concerns of such realignment. In the end, it was a clear that our group was not in favor with such a change and we ask the NCAA to table this item until further information is given to all coaches.

Miscellaneous Notes:

- ◆ A job posting board will replace e-mail blasts from Jenn Goodrich and we will also have a schedule posting board as well. Our group was appreciative of those being so accessible.
- ◆ Discussed prospect of a Community Service Award – two schools of thought – either one player be recognized with a committee deciding or several players similar to Academic All-American with the same criteria used for each nominee. Recognized further discussion is needed before making a decision.
- ◆ Discussed a Scholar Athlete Award – criteria would be much less subjective with only two components – overall GPA and either earning All-American 1st, 2nd or 3rd team. Group was in favor with no formal motion put forward.
- ◆ ”Homefield”, a video server came in and gave a brief description of their services.
- ◆ Reviewed Sneak Peak and announced Rules Briefing will be shown on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Whitcomb

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Division III Group Representative