

2008 NFHCA ANNUAL CONVENTION
Division III Membership Meeting Action Items
January 15-16, 2009

Moderator: Andy Whitcomb, Division III Group Representative

The Division III Membership discussed and took action on the following items during its January, 2009 meetings:

◆Voted to approve Action Items from Breakout Meetings held at the 2008 NFHCA Convention.

Vote: Passed 36 (Y), 0 (N) 0 (A)

Committee reports:

All-American

◆The All-American Committee reported that they would like to see the dates pushed back a week in regards to the Regional and National calls. This would decrease the chances of multiple committee members being on the road, etc. as there are only four teams remaining during this time. Division I reported that this has taken 2-3 hours off of their conference call. Additionally, all statistics will be updated and accurate with this timeline.

**Motion: That the All-Region call takes place the Monday after the Final-Four and that the All-American call takes place the Monday after Thanksgiving.*

Vote: Passed 37 (Y), 0 (N), 0 (A)

◆We discussed the necessity of having those coaches on the All-American committee to be present at the Final Four. The rationale was they would be able see many of those nominated players over the course of that weekend so as to make more knowledgeable and well-informed decisions.

**Motion: The National All-American Committee is to be required to attend the Division III Final-Four.*

Vote: Passed 36 (Y), 0 (N), 1 (A)

(The executive director agreed to change the times and also reported that committee members will have up to 2 nights at a hotel compensated for and a meeting room, if needed, will be reserved at site as well.)

(It should be noted that the mandatory meeting of the All-American committee during the final-four weekend would take the place of the conference call from the past. If a member is not able to attend the final-four weekend, then he/she must find a substitute member to take their place)

◆We discussed the All-American release and everyone seemed pleased with the format and no suggestions were made. In regards to the header and footer, it was suggested that those doing the release discuss such.

◆There was discussion of those nominating to begin using Stat Crew – the rationale is that it will be easier and more accurate. This will not be mandatory, but recommended.

Coach of the Year

◆Coach of the Year committee reported no concerns. We discussed as a group the need for accuracy from those on the committee when spelling colleagues names and to pay attention to detail when acquiring records, etc. Additionally, deadlines must be kept in regards to reporting to the executive director.

Senior All-Star Game

◆ There were no concerns from the committee, except for a reminder for coaches to please label their nominating e-mails with the title of “Senior All- Star game” and in the same “subject” space, indicate their respective college/university to make it easier for the committee to navigate through all of the e-mails.

National Coaches Poll

◆ There is still disappointment with those institutions that do not report – especially those who do not report at all. We discussed a few different possibilities including a reminder, or having only certain institutions vote, or having a voting committee, etc. In the end we put forth the following motion to see if this will improve voting.

**Motion: To open the coaches poll on Sunday night at 7:00PM (EST) and keep it open until Tuesday at 10:00 AM. (EST)*

Vote: Passed 50 (Y), 0 (N), 0 (A)

Agenda Items:

◆ Senior All-Star nomination process.

**Motion: To change the senior all-star nomination deadline from October 15th to October 22nd.*

Vote: Passed 50 (Y), 0 (N), 0 (A)

◆ Alcohol and the high school athlete.

We were asked by the high school representative to discuss the amount of alcohol being presented to high school players while on their college overnight visits. We discussed those schools that have contracts in place and coaches shared their current rules as well as what issues they face.

◆ Adding a subcommittee for senior all-star game.

Talked to Executive Director and she advised us to stay in line with the All-American process. A committee member then explained said process.

◆ Goalkeeper ranking – All-American Call.

Discussed having the regional selection criteria to reflect the same selection process as the national selection criteria. The rationale was that the national criteria allow GK's to be pulled and evaluated separately, regardless of rank.

**Motion: To change the Regional All-American Goalkeeper selection to reflect the National process. Those GK's could be ranked within their team by their coach, but can be evaluated separately.*

Vote: Passed 37 (Y), 0 (N), 0 (A)

◆ Voting sensibilities.

We were asked to look into the voting sensibilities of our DIII voters and the following inquiry followed: "someone submitted a 1st place vote for a "team A", despite the fact that, when ranked #2 last week, they were defeated by the then (and still) #1 ranked team. That defies logic and common sense. It's one thing to make a subjective judgment among teams that haven't played each other, but if someone doesn't want to take the responsibility seriously, they shouldn't have a vote." We briefly discussed and hoped it was an isolated incident, but encouraged all to keep updated on competition and results before voting. Again, reminded the group of Chip Rogers web site.

◆ Junior varsity programs.

One coach wanted to know more information about JV teams, specifically NCAA rules, how many people have JV programs, how does one divide the teams and how are contests counted. Discussion followed. No motion presented.

◆ Selection of Officials

There is concern that in some regions teams are getting the same two officials for every home game and at neutral sites as well. This seems to happen because some schools self-assign and therefore do not have an assignor who balances how many times any one team has the same officials. There is a perception of "hometown" officials". It was recommended by those concerned that no official be allowed to do more than 50% of any teams home games.

◆ Home team providing warm –up balls.

**Motion: That the home team provide 30 warm-up balls for the away team at home contests.*
Failed 16 (Y) 28 (N) 2 (A)

◆ Meet and Greet with High School Coaches.

We briefly revisited this discussion and decided that the coaches luncheon and other social events give us ample opportunity to meet those high school coaches.

◆ Recruiting Dead Periods.

There was considerable discussion regarding the National Championship weekend as well as creating a dead period during the Christmas holiday break. The impetus was a recent addition of a recruiting event on December 29th. Quality of life issues were raised and dead versus quiet periods were defined.

**Motion: That Division III make Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Final Four tournament a recruiting dead period.*

Vote: Passed 46 (Y), 10 (N), 4 (A)

**Motion: That between the dates of December 24 to January 2 that this is considered a quiet recruiting period in Division III.*

Vote: 34 (Y), 15 (N), 9 (A)

◆ The Forehand Edge

Some coaches feel we need to bring back the legality of the forehand edge. The rationale was that it is felt to be a safer and more efficient way to move the ball on a turf field, especially more so than the now legal reverse edge hit. We would like the other two Divisions to way in on this as well so if we need to put something formal forward to the NCAA rules committee, we are prepared to do so.

No motion put forward until feedback from other Divisions.

The President has agreed to bring this item forward to Steve Horgan, NCAA/FIH/USAFH Rules Interpreter.

◆ Press Release of Regional Players.

We again inquired about the Regional Players of the Year being announced and were told it was an oversight last year and will go into effect next year.

◆ NFHCA National Player of the Year/Honda Broderick

We discussed this topic at the commencement of convention and at the end. It is felt that we may be overlooking quality Division III candidates by only being allowed to put one name forward from our Division. Additionally, it is felt that statistics should not be the only criteria to base such on. It was deemed that statistics are very important as is being an All-American, but that player who is also well rounded with grades, community service and other altruistic endeavors in addition to outstanding statistics and All-American status, that she would be a more viable candidate.

We would like to further inquire with those at Honda what the listed criteria are, in fact, and if it is possible to have more than one candidate so as to be in line with Division I who are permitted four candidates.

We took a straw vote in regards to being able to nominate more than one student-athlete for the Honda award and the vast majority was in favor of having up to four nominations.

***Motion: That Division III name a National Player of the Year from the #1 ranked players of each of the 6 regions.**

36 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention

◆ Academic All-American

We discussed the "watering down" of how many players made the Academic Squad - we had our annual debate of GPA etc. A formal motion was not brought forward, but the group was very much in favor of recognizing those players who made the academic squad all four years.

Furthermore, we were in favor of recognizing 2nd and 3rd year winners as well with an asterisk or symbol of some sort after their name.

◆ Peer Nominations

Coaches were encouraged to remember those deserving of Hall of Fame induction and were also encouraged to look beyond coaches and remember those umpires, AD's, etc. who may have been pivotal in the promotion or support of the game of hockey.

◆ Committees

Veteran members encouraged coaches to volunteer for NFHCA Division III open committee positions as well as having more coaching representation on the NCAA committees.

◆ Handouts -

NCAA Division III Field Hockey Bulletin with key actions taken by the NCAA committee during the past year was handed out.

There is a clear consensus amongst the Division III body that we are not offered ample time to mull over issues that Division I wants passed as expeditiously as possible. For the second year in a row Division III felt somewhat ambushed to push through the Division I item, but felt no reciprocity for time to present any Division III items. Additionally, there was no time left to hear any concerns or opposing opinions. We would like to have any items brought forward for voting either listed as an agenda item at the commencement of convention or, at least, be given some time to discuss it at a breakout meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Whitcomb

Andy Whitcomb
Division III Group Representative

