

Empire 8 Conference Call
Minutes
For February 25th, 2013

Present on the Call:

Len Maiorani, Head Coach, St. John Fisher College
Gino Olivieri, Head Coach, Alfred University
Erica Mehalick, Head Coach, Stevens Institute of Technology
Rhonda Faunce, Head Coach, Elmira College
Jeremy Shepherd, Head Coach, Houghton College
Pat Mineo, Head Coach, Utica College
Shari Gerevics, Asst. Coach, Nazareth College
Deb Pallozzi, Head Coach, Ithaca College
Michelle Manning, Assistant Athletic Director, Ithaca College
Janelle Feuz, Associate Commissioner of Empire 8

- I. Reviewed 2014 schedule:
 - a. Elmira (Rhonda Faunce) had a question regarding Stevens/Ithaca. It was very difficult to host on Sunday after being on the road Saturday. **So after some discussion between Ithaca, Elmira and the Associate Commissioner, Ithaca College will play Elmira College on Friday, April 11th 2014.**
 - b. Schedule was approved by everyone else.
 - c. Spoke about rescheduling: everyone agreed that the first open date on each coach's schedule should be used first; the open conference weekend should be for the teams that have to travel longer distances so classes are not missed.
 - d. Reviewed policy regarding rescheduling a weekend game to midweek. This has to be approved by both AD's and Chuck Mitrano the commissioner of the conference. You cannot take away a weekend game and not fill it with another game to create fairness for the conference opponent you would be playing the next day.

- II. Empire Softball Business
 - a. Empire 8 conference tournament date in May 3rd-4th, 2013. For 2014 it is May 2nd-3rd.
 - b. **VOTING ITEM: Deb Pallozzi proposed for the conference tournament to have the top seeds be the home team throughout the tournament, with the caveat that once if a top seed ends up coming out of the loser's bracket that the team that remained undefeated would then be the home team for the finals. But if the "if necessary" game comes into play the higher seed would be home.**
 - Voting results: one in favor and 7 against. Not adopted for conference tournament play. Will still use the NCAA formula for deciding home and away for each game. As it stands now the top seed in the first round of play is home and then the formula takes place for the remainder of the tournament.
 - c. Reviewed Empire 8 by-laws for determining regular season champion if tie occurs.
 - Janelle Feuz explained to us that all the by-laws are online and explained how to access the admin page.

- d. Reviewed home/away policy – if team A is hosting the game, team A is home for both games. This was changed in 2012.
- e. Reviewed tie breaker policy – we are following the NCAA Rule Book for the International tie breaker rule – it is to take place in the 10th inning.
- f. Reviewed inclement weather decisions during regular season games – the halted game rule will take place for all Empire 8 regular season games.
- g. Reviewed the responsibilities for hosting the Empire 8 tournament. You must have a tarp crew, a practice facility for all teams still in the tournament if inclement weather occurs.
- h. **We would like to have Worth supply the conference with game balls for the tournament. Michelle Manning, Assistant Athletic Director, Ithaca College, is looking into trying to secure a contract for the 2014 season. Everyone was in favor of this.**
- i. Reviewed the game ball minimum that is now in our NCAA rule book for all double headers. Need to have a dozen. Two new game balls, one for each game and you can use game balls from previous games if the ball is still in good shape.
- j. Reviewed the Feb 10 memo from the conference office regarding Conduct Fouls and how that memo pertains to softball. We do not have conduct fouls, but if a coach or player is ejected from a game, that coach or player must miss the following game.
- k. Talked about the patches and the time frame for having them placed on our uniforms. Hopefully by next year all uniforms will have the Empire 8 patch sewn on.

- III. Reviewed our Conference Nominating and voting procedures / Scouts on each other
 - a. All of the nomination and voting is now online. Coaches can nominate their players for each position but cannot vote for their own players when voting is done. The timeline was discussed and would be open immediately following the last weekend of conference games.
 - b. **Voting item – Unanimously voted for not giving scouting information on conference teams to anyone outside the conference. 8-0 in favor for not giving scouts.**

- IV. Officiating
 - a. We want to get an online evaluation tool for officials. We will then have an idea which officials are doing work on the field and begin to have a pool to go to for the Empire 8 tournament. We do not get the better officials for our tournament. The SUNYACS seem to take precedent over us.
 - b. We need to secure officials in February for the tournament. Waiting until the tournament site is decided is too late.
 - c. Reviewed the points of emphasis in the NCAA rule book. These are the areas the officials will be paying closer attention to this season.

- V. NCAA/NFCA Updates
 - a. Reviewed the NCAA bat list procedures for 2013. Coaches need to highlight the bats they are using and indicate the number of bats they have of each model. The bats will be checked for each game of a double header but you can use the same list as the first game.
 - b. Reviewed championship dates: 2013 May 5th selections, May 6th is the announcement of the NCAA tournament field.

- c. Reviewed the new format for 2014 post season. Division III softball is going to the Regional, Super Regional, Nationals format. This will extend the post-season by one week.
- d. NFCA All American / Coaching-Staff-of-the-Year chair is Deb Pallozzi.

VI. Other business

- a. Went over pregame warm-up etiquette as stated in the NCAA Softball Rule book. Must give equal time in the cage and if you only have one bullpen then it must be shared if the opposing team wants to use it.
- b. We talked about respect for our conference and of each other. We need to take pride in what we are all doing and respect each other more.**
- c. Post-game handshake – one issue was brought up – if team circles around to “high five” each other – do not follow the opposing coach. There have been times when inappropriate things have been said with the opposing coach two steps in front of the team.**
- d. The role of the on-site administrator was discussed. Must have one for the arrival of the traveling team to go over the policies and procedures for that day and site.
- e. Discussed traveling without an ATC. We had many problems last season, hopefully with this in place for a full year all of the issues have been ironed out. The biggest problem was the ATC not getting to the site to tape the other team in a timely manner.

VII. New Chair for the Empire 8 softball committee was “elected”. Erica Mehalick, Head Coach, Stevens Institute of Technology is the new chair starting the fall of 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Pallozzi, Head Coach, Ithaca College and Chair of the Empire 8 softball committee.