

Empire 8 Women's Soccer conference call
Wednesday August 14, 2013

One the call:

Janelle Zera - E8 Associate Commissioner
Peter Bothner - Nazareth College Director of Athletics
Ashley Bingaman - Elmira
Aileen Ascolese - Alfred
David Lewis - Houghton
Gail Mann - Nazareth
Jill McCabe - St. John Fisher
Clare McLain - Utica
Jeff Parker - Stevens
Mindy Quigg - Ithaca
Matt Verni - Hartwick

1. New NCAA regional adjustment: the NCAA now requires that 70% of games are against in region competition. The radius was increased from 200 to 500 miles for a game to be considering in region.
2. NCAA recruiting workgroup: This group is working on improving the work life balance of coaches and improving the student athlete experience by changing some recruiting rules for Div 3. Discussions include:
 - Establishing a signed letter to enroll
 - Allow off campus contact at end of Soph year.
 - Prohibit home visits.
 - Implement recruiting calendar.
 - Permit on campus evaluations.
 - Permit contact at non scholastic events at end of each day.
 - Allow expanded use of social media.
 - Require D3 SA to register with NCAA eligibility center.
 - Increase initiatives to educate SA about D3.
3. Empire 8 officiating model: we discussed the idea of hiring an individual contractor to oversee the officiating of all E8 soccer games. They would hire and evaluate officials, run clinics and assigns games for all E8 matches.

Action: We voted 9-0 in favor of exploring this option with a working committee. Claire McLain volunteered to be on the committee and represent the E8 women's coaches.

4. Tape exchange policy: Policy will remain the same. **1 request for each school must be sent to Janelle at the conference office by Aug 23.** She will compile and send out to all coaches. Please try to have the film sent within 24 hours of the match.
5. Championship format and procedures: Discussion about changing our current Sat/Sunday format to Wed/Sat. Discuss the need for rest between games and also the fact that playing back to back takes a toll on the team that advances to the NCAA tourney. Discussed the difficulty with traveling twice in such a short period of time. If a trip happens to be to Stevens or Stevens traveling to Rochester, It is very difficult on the players and they miss a lot of classes.

Action: Mindy proposed changing to Wed/Sat format- Vote did not pass- 3 yes, 5 No, 1 absent.

We also discussed playing Friday/Sunday at one location. Advantages are Athletes would have a day to recover and not have to play back to back. Disadvantages, Students would miss class time and the financial factor of buses, hotels and food for the school staying an additional night. Gail pointed out that only one or at most two teams would incur that cost. **Action: Jeff proposed we move to Friday/ Sunday format. Vote: passed 7 yes, 1 abstain and 1 absent.**

Action: We agreed that we would like to have All tournament team t shirts for all championships.

6. All Conference: Format will remain the same. Rookie of the year must be a 1st year player in college but does not have to be a freshman. Timeline for this fall:
 - **Nominations due week of Nov 26**
 - **Ballot sent out Monday Nov 4**
 - **Vote sent back to Janelle Wed Nov 6**
 - **Team released on Friday Nov 8**
 - **All Conference Teams, players of year, rookie of year and coaching staff of year announce before the championship.**

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Mann