

Empire 8 Softball Conference Call Minutes

December 18, 2013

3:30pm

Present on the Call:

Bari Mance, Head Coach, St. John Fisher College
Gino Olivieri, Head Coach, Alfred University
Rhonda Faunce, Head Coach, Elmira College
Deb Pallozzi, Head Coach, Ithaca College
Pat Mineo, Head Coach, Utica College
Jack Carpenter, Head Coach, Nazareth College
Nora Duffy, Head Coach, Houghton College
Erica Mehalick, Head Coach, Stevens Institute of Technology
Michael Lippencott, Associate Athletic Director, Stevens Institute of Technology
Janelle Zera, Associate Commissioner of Empire 8

- I. Scheduling
 - a. Reviewed 2014 Schedule- no one had any issues
 - b. Reviewed and unanimously approved 2015 Schedule
 - c. Review policy for rescheduling games: The first open date on each coach's schedule should be used first and the open rain date weekend should be for teams that have to travel longer distances to reduced missed class time. When moving a weekend game to midweek, both AD's and Chuck Mitrano need to approve it. You cannot take away a weekend game without filling it with another game.
- II. Empire 8 Softball Business
 - a. Empire 8 Conference Tournament date is May 2 & 3, 2013
 - b. Game balls for conference championships- Janelle Zera is going to confirm whether Chuck Mitrano has started the process of securing a contract with Worth.
 - c. Reviewed Empire 8 by-laws for determining regular season champion if tie occurs: All E8 bylaws can be found on the E8 website
 - d. Reviewed home/away policy: the team hosting will remain the home team for both games
 - e. Reviewed tie breaker for conference regular season games: ITB will be used in the 10th inning per the NCAA rule book
 - f. Reviewed inclement weather decisions during regular season games: We will be using the Halted Game Rule for all conference games

- g. Empire 8 patches: Most team currently have patches on their uniforms. All teams will have the patches by the beginning of the 2014 season
 - h. Reviewed responsibilities for hosting Empire 8 tournament: In order to host the E8 Championship, you must have a tarp crew and an indoor practice facility in the case of inclement weather
 - i. **Voting Issue: There was discussion about changing our current All Conference Voting Policy. The group voted unanimously to hold a call to discuss our nominated players and vote online immediately following the call. We also voted to unanimously to keep the call/voting after the conclusion of the regular season and prior to the conference tournament.**
- III. Officiating
- a. We discussed compiling a list of officials for the E8 tournament. Each coach is to email Erica Mehalick the name of 1 “good” umpire and a list of umpires that they do not want at the tournament. This is due by Jan. 15 so we can secure umpires by February.
 - b. The arbiter-(sup.arbitersports.com): There is a free section that has rule book changes, bat list, rule interpretations, DP/Flex rule for dummies, and an online rule book.
 - c. We discussed the Points of Emphasis in NCAA Rule Book. The NCAA will now be making a distinction between behavior and administrative ejections for coaches. Coaches will still have to sit out a game for behavioral ejections but you can appeal to the Conference office in order to not miss an additional game for an administrative ejection. If multiple players are ejected for a brawl, the team can stagger the future suspensions if approved by the conference office. Home plate celebrations must now take place in FOUL Territory so the umpire can see the player touch home plate. The first offense will be a warning. If a second offense occurs in the same game, the run WILL NOT COUNT.
 - d. There is a possibility that our game ball will be changing to a littler but livelier ball. Contact Dee Abrahamson if you are interested in testing the balls.
 - e. The Bat List was updated on Jan 11 and can be found on the Arbiter and the NCAA websites
- IV. NCAA/NFCA Updates
- a. 2014 Championship Format and dates: Selection Sunday is May 4; Regionals are May 9-11 (14 four-team sites and 2 three-team sites); Super Regionals May 16-17 (8 regional sites, best of 3 series); Championship May 22-27 at UT Tyler
 - b. In region requirement: 70% of games must be in region. In region radius is now 500 miles
 - c. All contests against DIII opponents will count in primary criteria

- d. Region rankings: Once ranked always ranked as been replaced with “ranked at time of selection”
 - e. New Regional Alignment: Skyline and NEAC are now a part of the NE Region
 - f. Division III mobile website: <http://blog.ncaa.org/d3mobile>
 - g. NCSA recruiting software
 - h. Other issues
 - i. The NCAA is discussing changing the recruiting calendar and allowing tryouts for recruits.
 - ii. The NFCA will be sending a survey about the convention.
- V. Other Concerns
- a. Batting cage etiquette, bull pen, field usage per NCAA: Must give equal time in the cage and if you only have 1 bullpen it must be shared if the opposing team wants to use it.
 - b. Role of on-site administrator: Must have one for the arrival of the traveling team to go over the policies and procedures for that day and site
 - c. Traveling without athletic trainers: There were no issues last season for teams traveling w/o athletic trainers
 - d. Julie Lenhart from Cortland will be inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame year that the convention in Las Vegas.

Respectfully submitted by Erica Mehalick, Head Coach, Stevens Institute of Technology and Chair of the Empire 8 softball committee.