



Meeting Minutes

Date: May 8,
2013
Location:
Conference
call
Group: MAC
baseball
coaches

PRESENT

MAC Office: Ken Andrews					
Albright:	Jeff Feiler	Elizabethtown:	Cliff Smith	Manhattanville:	Jeff Caulfield
Alvernia:	Yogi Lutz	FDU-Florham:	Andy Paulus	Messiah:	
Arcadia:	Ken Spangenburg	Hood:		Misericordia:	Dave Martin
Del Val:	Bob Altieri	King's:		Stevenson:	Jason Tawney
DeSales:	Tim Neiman	Lebanon Valley:	Keith Evans	Widener:	Mike LaRosa
Eastern:	Jed Morris	Lycoming:		Wilkes:	Matt Hollod

Call to Order: Ken Andrews called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

<p>[Agenda Item]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving Commonwealth Championships to Sovereign Bank Stadium and Freedom Championships to Owls Field 	<p>Proposed by:</p>
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Ken Andrews: Both venues are ready to make the move next year. Still working out the cost details.

Dave Martin: Asked if dates are reserved.

Ken Andrews: Confirmed that dates are reserved.

<p>[Agenda Item]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push back the start of the conference season by one week 	<p>Proposed by: Bob Altieri, Delaware Valley</p>
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Bob Altieri: Proposed moving the start of the conference season back one week, from the weekend of March 14/15 to the weekend of March 21/22. Weather is the main issue, given that most teams were not able to compete their first conference weekend as scheduled this year due to inclement weather. This move would also allow teams to schedule more non-league games against the NJAC and Centennial Conference. Some schools are just finishing up spring break during the first conference weekend, and this move would allow them more breathing room. Because more games would be played in better weather, this change would likely reduce postponements. The winners of the conference tournaments would have less time to wait before beginning regional play.

<p>Motion: Bob Altieri</p>	<p>Seconded by: Tim Neiman</p>
<p>Andy Paulus: Agrees with points listed above but has concerns about inclement weather on the weekend of the conference tournament. If there is rain that weekend, would we still be able to complete the tournament? Last year, for example, an extra week was used to finish the tournament.</p> <p>Tim Neiman: Agrees that pushing the start back a week is a good idea. The current schedule gives teams a competitive disadvantage in scheduling non-conference games, and it is especially difficult to find games between the conference tournament and regional play, for those teams that advance. Final exams will likely be the biggest difficulty with the new schedule.</p> <p>Cliff Smith: Discussed whether a different conference game structure (like the Centennial or NJAC) might better accommodate moving things back a week. Also pointed out a disadvantage to pushing the schedule back a week: teams advancing to the NCAA tournament may be low on pitching and not have their top arms on full rest, depending</p>	

on how much they are used during conference tournament play.

Dave Martin: Thinks there will be healthy discussion among Athletic Directors, and that the points are very solid from a coach's perspective. Believes that final exams will be the biggest issue.

Bob Altieri: Reiterated that weather is the main reason for his proposal; teams in the current format are likely to get too "backed up" with rescheduling.

Ken Andrews: To address the point made by Andy Paulus, suggests that the Freedom adopt the Commonwealth's playoff structure of Thursday-Friday-Saturday games, with Sunday as a makeup date.

Matt Hollod: Agrees that Thursday-Saturday makes more sense in terms of weather, and would also give pitching an extra day of rest before regionals.

Mike LaRosa: Discussed the issue of finals. Already has difficulty rescheduling final exams for his players during the conference tournament, believes administration would be less likely to make such exceptions for regular-season games.

Cliff Smith: Asked if the proposal was intended to take effect in 2014.

Bob Altieri: Confirmed that he intended for the change to occur in 2014, but there is the issue of availability of Sovereign Bank Stadium and Owls Field.

Ken Andrews: Will check on the availability of the facilities a week later. Owls Field more likely to allow play in bad weather than York.

Dave Martin: Moving proposal to 2015 is the best way to go. Believes that the ADs are likely to approve the change for 2015.

Tim Neiman: Supports proposal and wants to see it discussed.

Cliff Smith: Suggests combining the proposal to move the start date back one week with a proposal to change the conference regular season format.

Tim Neiman: Believes the two proposals should not be combined.

For	Opposed	Abstained	Result
Albright Alvernia Arcadia Delaware Valley DeSales Eastern Elizabethtown FDU Lebanon Valley Manhattanville Stevenson Wilkes	Widener	King's Messiah	13:1:2

Other Business:

Ken Andrews:

- Reminded coaches to submit their nominees for sportsmanship award.
- Reminded coaches to contact their compliance officers before submitting hardship cases, and to be sure to fully understand the rules before telling a player he may have a case.
- One-on-one relationships with recruits via social media are allowed, but public or mass recruiting using social media is not.
- The NCAA is still examining work/life balance in regard to recruiting, but there has not been a big push for a recruiting calendar in DIII.
- Continued discussion of allowing on-campus tryouts for recruits.
- Reminded coaches that all students need a waiver or proof of a test to meet the sickle-cell requirements.
- Executive regulations will now be included in fact book; may be redundant but will likely be helpful
- York plans to submit application to host regional tournament

Umpiring:

Bob Gallagher: Biggest issue this spring was weather. They will be working hard this summer to recruit more umpires.

Dave Martin: Asked about new rules regarding ejections. People were unhappy with the rules this year.

Bob Gallagher: Because DI typically runs the rules committee, DII and DIII get little say in the new rules. Has some concerns about the automatic suspensions associated with ejections.

Tim Neiman: Asked how umpire evaluations are shared/handled. Has concerns about coaches' feedback remaining confidential.

Bob Gallagher: Evaluations come to him and to Stu Leon. Particularly egregious evaluations are addressed with the umpire in question. Processed over 3,000 evaluations this year, which makes it tough to address each one

individually.

Ken Andrews: Has concerns about umpire consistency in handling profanity.

Bob Gallagher: Umpires prefer to give a warning before an ejection if possible, but if profanity is directed at an umpire, the player will be ejected. Similarly, if profanity is loud enough to be heard in the stands, the player will be ejected.

Yogi Lutz: Understanding of the rule is that if umpires hear profanity, the player will be ejected.

Bob Gallagher: Many umpires are afraid to make the ejection because with the one-game suspension, it seems unreasonable for a player to miss two games because of the use of one word.

Ken Andrews: Suggests that more ejections early in the season might resolve the issue.

Matt Hollod: Asked about the appeal process for a coach's ejection, particularly in the instance in which an umpire makes a mistake.

Bob Gallagher: Umpires don't issue suspensions, they only submit reports. Suspensions come from the NCAA. Coaches are not officially suspended until they receive word from the NCAA. Has received some concerns about only one umpire being interviewed about a particular incident, rather than both umpires.

Ken Andrews: Suggested that the conference submit a statement from all coaches, expressing some of these concerns.

Bob Gallagher: Believes such a statement would be productive.

Dave Martin: Supports moving forward and believes the current policies are ridiculous.

Ken Andrews: Will contact Pete Egbert about putting together such a statement.

Bob Gallagher: Plans to endorse the statement.

Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline

Notes:

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