



LSC SOFTBALL COACHES MEETING
Tuesday, May 22, 2012, Courtyard Marriott, Allen, Texas

Those participating were:

Abilene Christian: Bobby Reeves; Angelo State: Travis Scott; Cameron: Beth Watson (chair); Eastern New Mexico: Lauren Sigwing; Incarinate Word: not represented; Midwestern State: Brady Tigert; Tarleton State: Julie Mata; Texas A&M-Kingsville: Ricki Rothbauer; Texas Woman's: Richie Bruister, Chalese Connors (liaison); West Texas A&M: Kevin Blaskowski, Michael McBroom (liaison); LSC Office: Stan Wagon, Jay Poerner, Melanie Robotham.

1. **SCHUTT SPORTS SPONSORSHIP**: Dianne Baker talked with the group regarding the conference's agreement with Schutt, which is the Official Helmet of LSC Softball. She reminded coaches of caveat in three-year agreement that all LSC teams will wear Schutt Helmets during clinics, practices and games and spend a minimum of \$500 annually. Addendums to agreement this year include offer of t-shirts for teams instead of mini-helmets, and will provide two (2) catcher's helmets with aqua tech or set of fundraising (breast cancer, military) helmets. She requested that everyone order early.
2. **2013 LSC SPRING FESTIVAL**: Coaches shared concern about players in hotels with baseball and track and field teams.
3. **2013 LSC POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT FORMAT**: It was moved (ASU) and seconded (TWU) to recommend a format that includes practice and opening ceremony/banquet on Thursday, quarterfinal games on Friday at 11:30 AM (3v6), 2 PM (2v7), 4:30 PM (4v5) and 7 PM (1v8), semifinal games on Saturday at Noon and 2:30, and a championship game on Sunday at 1 PM. **Passed unanimously.** *Note*: Discussion on moving championship game to Sunday included making title game an "event", and not having teams play after semifinal games.
4. **NCAA DIVISION II SOFTBALL COMMITTEE REPORT**: Beth Watson (CU) reported on her service as chair of the regional committee. She noted that the regional alignment is changing for 2012-13, and that bat testing occurred everyday at NCAA Championship and thinks that will occur at regional and super regionals in the future as well. Previously, bats were tested only once before competition at regional and super regionals. Discussion included conference bat testing during the season.
5. **UMPIRES**: Group discussion resulted in the following feedback: 1) concern about losing umpires to Division I; 2) noted that training is working for three-person crew; 3) possibly adding per diem for retention; 4) noted late assignments with two of three set and third is added day before game; 5) discussion on coaches treatment of umpires and that leading to turned down assignments; 6) commented that Dora Martinez, LSC Supervisor of Softball Umpires, does respond to calls.
6. **2014 SCHEDULE**: It was moved (WT) and seconded (ENMU) to have a nine-week schedule starting March 1-2 with Rivalry Week to be played as a single game Thursday and doubleheader Saturday in the same week (instead of split Tuesday's) the week after Easter. **Passed 8-1.**
7. **FUTURE SCHEDULES**: Discussion on number of softball schools for future schedules and conference games needed. If eight teams play doubleheader home and away with playing partners in 10 weeks (nine in festival years) for 28 games. Possibility of Heartland Crossover, which HC prefers in middle of season or scheduling alliance to include four games (two home/two away) in two sets, preferably second and third weekends of February.
8. **PRE-GAME PROTOCOL**: It was moved (TAMUK) and seconded (WT) to adjust Operating code No. 10 to start pre-game warm-up 90 minutes prior to game time, using the following schedule. **Passed unanimously.**

90 Minutes Prior to Start	Visitors -- Cages or On Field BP
	Home -- Field Available for Running/Throwing
60 Minutes Prior to Start	Visitors -- Field Available for Running/Throwing
	Home -- Cages or On Field BP
30 Minutes Prior to Start	Share Field
25 Minutes Prior to Start	Visitors -- 7 Minutes Infield/Outfield
18 Minutes Prior to Start	Home -- 7 Minutes Infield/Outfield

11 Minutes Prior to Start

Clear Field for Grooming

8 Minutes Prior to Start

Pre-Game Meeting; Umpire bat check

5 Minutes Prior to Start

Announcements, Line Ups, National Anthem

9. **OFFICIAL SOFTBALL:** Consensus agreement was to renew ball agreement with Worth, the official NCAA softball.
NOTE: Coaches would prefer free balls instead of mitt, which is currently in agreement, and stipulation that buy so many, get some free.
10. **FUTURE MEETING DATE:** Consensus agreement was to conduct the next meeting on Monday, June 17, 2013.
11. **CONDUCT:** It was moved (TSU) and seconded (ACU) to implement a conduct policy whereby the Conference shall issue a warning letter and conduct a review upon any coach being ejected. Coaches shall be suspended for the next regularly scheduled game after two (2) ejections. **Passed 8-1.**
12. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The following officers were approved for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years.
Vice-Chair: Richie Bruister, Texas Woman's. **Passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Robotham