Minnesota College Athletic Conference

2019 Softball Coaches End-of-Season Meeting Minutes

Roll call:

- Present- ARCC, CLC, ICC, MSFF, MnW, NCTC, RRCC, RC, RCC, RCTC, SCTCC, VCC, S. Crittenden, Reg. XIII BOR.
- Not Present- HCC, Mesabi

Review of end-of-season meeting protocol:

- Noted by Conference office, end-of-season calls are best platform for sport code changes, proposals, concerns.

North Dakota Independent play-in process / concerns (multiple):

- Steve C. spoke to the history behind situation with non-MCAC teams and access to Region tournament play. Distinct differences between Century (baseball) and North Dakota DIII schools in terms of intentional decisions to gain competitive advantage. Also noted that at the national level, schools may be required to select a level (DI, II or III) at some point in future.
- Concerns raised by several schools, including NCTC, ICC, RRCC, SCTCC and MSFF as to distinct advantage held by Dakota DIII schools. Concerns also raised and noted by Conference office as to possibility of scholarship athletes playing on non-scholarship teams. Noted by Steve C. that teams with concerns on roster/scholarship issues should address those at an earlier stage in season. Noted by some schools disparity in budgets and competitive equity components; this situation is also found within Conference schools as well.
- Further discussion on future of multi-division schools and opinions. No formal motion made at this time.

Region Tournament dates / conflicts with graduation (Northland)

- Paul P. (NCTC) presented concerns regarding SA's having to choose to attend graduation or Region tournament. Other schools, including RCTC and RC noted challenges with end of school year schedule, finals, national tournament date. Options used by various colleges and Conferences presented to help mitigate this issue; spring sports invariably are negatively affected by graduation date conflicts. Itasca shared a best practices option used by their campus. No formal motion made at this time.

Pre-game music (Rainy River):

Dieter H. noted challenge of having multiple sources of pre-game and/or in-game music during competition at some venues. Noted by group that this issue is not at all venues, but has presented itself on occasion.

Motion by Dieter H, second by Ray Austin (CLC), to designate that home teams are solely responsible for music at facility. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

- 2020 Sport Code will reflect the addition of language designating home team responsibility for music.

All-Division release timing (SCTCC):

Greg T. (SCTCC) noted that the timing of All-Division teams may, at times, have an affect internally on some teams based on selection. Discussion evolved to also include timelines for nominations, awards and releases. Noted by Conference office that current softball award timelines generally reflect other MCAC women's sports; this is done to allow for printing of All-Division teams in game programs. Noted by some schools that softball may have other roll-out timing than WBB and VB in region competition. Also noted by Conference office that All-Academic teams and related awards are dependent on academic timelines (i.e. grade submissions at member schools with different end of semesters).

Further discussion on timing of awards and releases. No formal motion made at this time.

Region Tournament umpire reimbursements:

Reminder by Conference office for Region hosts schools to submit reimbursement invoices.

Other items as Presented:

Cori R. (RCTC) solicited information from group regarding 2020 Crossover Tournament dates and interests. Noted that RCTC will plan on hosting Crossover on April 3 & 4; tournament will be opened up to teams outside of MCAC. Additionally, Dave A. (ARCC) noted that Minnesota Classic will be held week of March 23, 2020. Contact ARCC with interest to attend.

Paul P. (NCTC) proposed looking at an additional date of fall competition. Noted by the Conference office that NJCAA language on alumni contests results in allowing for two scrimmage dates, as well as an alumni event. Motion to add 3rd scrimmage date was presented by NCTC. Motion did not receive a second and failed to move forward.

Motion to adjourn (NCTC), second by Dieter H. (RRCC). Passed by voice vote.

- Other items as submitted