



National Christian College Athletic Association Division II Baseball

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NCCAA D-II Region Baseball Chairs, Head Coaches and Athletic Directors:

The following is the minutes from the NCCAA D-II Baseball Annual Meeting held in Dallas, Texas this year along with “action items” listed in **RED**.

1) ABCA Convention (Dallas, TX) - Over 3,600 coaches attended this year's American Baseball Coaches Convention in Dallas, Texas. Twenty-five of the best clinicians in the world provided coaches with knowledge for becoming better leaders of their programs. Former major league pitchers Tommy John and Nolan Ryan also spoke to the crowd about their experiences and how they crafted their skills. In addition, over 300 exhibitors showcased their products to the attendees. Next year's convention will be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN from January 6-9, 2011.

Again, I would like to encourage all of our coaches to join the ABCA and do what they can to attend next year's centrally-located convention. Every year, I come away with at least one or two new coaching ideas for my team. This year, I also connected with a couple new baseball equipment suppliers that should save me some big bucks off next year's budget. So, from a professional development and programmatic standpoint, the trip is well worth the investment.

2) NCCAA Annual Meeting - The NCCAA Division II held its annual meeting at the ABCA Convention. The first half of the meeting was run in conjunction with D-I and then we broke out to discuss D-II specific issues. Here is what we covered.

- 2010 NCCAA World Series: We will once again be returning to Mason, OH for the NCCAA D-II Baseball Championships. Here are some specifics about this year's tournament
 - Legacy Field Changes (synthetic turf field)
 - Added 200 seat bleachers
 - Added electronic scoreboard behind left field
 - Added walkway behind backstop
 - New pitching mound
 - New umpiring crew from last year
 - The financial package will be the same as last year which included:
 - Travel
 - Reimbursement for a % of miles driven (details forthcoming)
 - Lodging (until team is eliminated from tournament)
 - 6 free hotel rooms per night
 - Meals (until team is eliminated from tournament)
 - Free breakfast at hotel
 - One free meal per player per day at field
- NCCAA World Series Future:
 - Our current contract with the Arlington Foundation (who sponsors the D-II World Series) ends in June. It was recommended by those in attendance at the Annual Meeting that we renew our current contract with them. The NCCAA D-I contract runs through the 2012 season, so it was recommended

to continue our contract with the Arington Foundation for at least the same timeline. Any member school desiring something different than this should voice those concerns with the D-II Baseball National Chair Doug Yager asap. Otherwise, the NCCAA will move forward in renewing the contract before this summer.

- It was proposed at the joint D-I / D-II meeting that making the NCCAA World Series a wood-bat tournament might bring an added excitement and interest to the tournament. Although some D-I programs thought this might be worth further discuss, D-II (citing adding costs for bats and too much of a change in the game from aluminum bats) was not interested in consider this change at this time.
- Region Realignment: Starting next season (2011), the NCCAA will be making some minor region realignments. The only D-II baseball schools directly affected by this are in the Central and Southwest Regions. Starting in 2011, Ozark Christian College and Manhattan Christian College will both be in the Central Region. Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College and Dallas Christian College will remain as the members of the Southwest Region.
- Regionals: There was a concerned voiced in the joint meeting that Regional playoffs host selection may be unfair for many members. It was discussed whether or not the rotate the host site among member schools are always stick with the "best team" hosting the Regional. This appeared to be more of a D-I issue than a D-II issue since most of our Regions are only 2-member regions. D-II will not take any action regarding this unless the membership voices a greater concern to the National Chair.
- Rankings: Currently, the Burbridge Ranking system is used to rank our teams in D-I and D-II throughout the season. This system is also used (along with other metrics) in the selection of at-large bids to the NCCAA World Series. Although the Burbridge is helpful in a situation like ours where we don't all play each other, there are still several holes in it. Mike Manes of Cedarville University (and D-I Vice-Chair) will be looking at how to modify this ranking system to more accurately reflect the caliber of our teams. Any ideas you have may be directed directly to Mike or Doug Yager.
- NCCAA Baseball Voting: Justin Pollock (Toccoa Falls College; D-II Vice Chair) will be handling all voting issues this year including Regional and National voting (All-Region Players, C.O.Y., All-American, etc.) In addition, he is in the process of review our voting procedures to see if there are any amendments or clarification to our process that need to be made. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this topic, please direct them specifically to Justin.
- Corporate Sponsorship: The NCCAA's only current corporate sponsorship for baseball is with WILSON SPORTING GOODS. The current benefit to the NCCAA is exclusively for the World Series. This contract, however, expires after this year. Therefore, the NCCAA office is looking for a new and/or better contract with WILSON or another supplier for the foreseeable future. Our hope is that in exchange for exclusively using WILSON (or another brand's) baseballs for our Regional and Championship tournaments, we can receive some benefit back to the entire membership (ie discounted or free merchandise). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Doug Yager. We will keep the membership abreast of any progress as it happens.
- NCCAA Baseball D-II Bylaws: There were NO proposed changes to the D-II Baseball by-laws at the Annual Meeting. However, the Burbridge Ranking system review as well as a review done by Justin Pollock on our voting system may be added at a later date. If there are any specific areas outside of these two that D-II members think needs address, please contact Doug Yager as soon as possible.