

Division I NCCAA North Central Region Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2009 – St. Louis, MO

Present Jeff Raymond, Trinity Christian College
 Jody Martinez, Bethel College
 Matt Hill, Northwestern College
 Gary Newsome, Olivet Nazarene University
 Nancy Binger, Judson University
 Becky Stenning, Judson University
 Doug Faulkner, Greenville College
 Jill Rokosik, Trinity International University

Convention Topics

Several topics that had come forward during the convention were discussed.

Declaration of Intent

Each member institution will be required to fill out a declaration of intent for participation in the NCCAA postseason. There will be several options, but once filled out and signed, the declaration of intent will be binding. Failure to fulfill your commitments could result in loss of postseason opportunities for all sports.

DISCUSSION – Several members indicated that they will have stricter standards for participation in NCCAA postseason events in the coming year, primarily due to budget concerns. There were some concerns on whether the declaration of intent form allowed for a wide range of possibilities. It was determined the form does allow for great flexibility, but requires AD's and coaches to make some definite decisions prior to the start of the academic year.

Regional Realignment

The NCCAA handed out information on the potential realignment of various regions. This topic will be studied further in the coming year before any changes are made. The one potential change to the North Central Region was the Bethel College being moved to the Midwest Region.

Regional Tournament Rotation

The NCCAA has requested that each region look into the possibility of setting up a hosting rotation for each region championship. This would help spread out the travel (so one school is not constantly making long trips) and allow every school the opportunity to host an event over a period of time.

DISCUSSION – We decided it would be difficult to set a firm rotation for most of our region tournaments. However, we are looking into the possibility of offering at least one of our regional events to the two outlying schools (Northwestern / Greenville) on a regular basis. We currently have seven regional tournaments, so five of those would be at the Chicago-area schools or Bethel, and one each would be at Greenville and Northwestern. Since each school has its own stipulations for competing in NCCAA regional play, Greenville and Northwestern might not host an event every year. Events not automatically assigned to Greenville or Northwestern would most likely go to the top seed. **2009-10 Hosts sites for the North Central Region will be designated prior to the start of the fall semester.**

Jody Martinez brought up the idea of doing away with all regional tournaments and going directly to national-tournament play based on rankings. This option was presented to Jerry Malone from the national office. The two biggest issues were the loss of any postseason play for many NCCAA members and also the difficulty of having accurate rankings to pick national tournament teams.

National Championship Formats

The NCCAA is studying the formats for each national tournament in relationship to number of teams invited and the playing out of all positions (1st-8th) in some tournaments. No changes are being made at this time, but the issue will be studied during the upcoming year.

North Central Region Topics

2008-09 in Review – A review of the past year, including regional tournament results, All-Region players and a financial report was handed out to each person in attendance.

Dues – Dues for 2008-09 were \$300 per school, with the biggest single expense being \$840 for the region championship banners. Since three sports did not have a region tournament and most school do not hang the banners, a discussion was held about possibly alternatives. We are not required to purchase the banners from the NCCAA, but need to communicate with them in advance. We could either not give out any type of award for region champions, or we could look into getting plaques designed that would save the region money and also would be more likely to be displayed by each school. Jerry Malone offered to look into getting regional plaques from the same company that produces the national plaques. **Dues for 2009-10 will be set once this issue is decided.**

Championship Dates – The region championship dates for 2009-10 will be the corresponding dates to last year. They are:

Men's Soccer – Nov. 13-14, 2009

Women's Soccer – Nov. 13-14, 2009

Volleyball – Nov. 20-21, 2009

Men's Basketball – March 5-6, 2010

Women's Basketball – March 5-6, 2010

Baseball – May 10-13, 2010

Softball – April 23-24, 2010

Sports Chairs – The region sports chairs will remain the same, except for a possible change in men's soccer. The list of sports chairs will be confirmed later this summer.