

2017 NCBA League Meeting Notes

Saturday Jan 28th, 2017 12:30 pm

Teams in Attendance:

- Wright State
- Eastern Michigan
- Columbus State
- George Mason
- UM Flint
- U Fort Lauderdale
- Loyola
- Oakland
- Pittsburgh
- Michigan State

Meeting Video can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NCFAClubFootball/videos/>

Meeting Presentation can be downloaded here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NCFAClubFootball/files/>

Annual League Meeting Notes

- 2017 Schedule Request Forms
 - o Wright state – if you've already coordinated with another team, put it on the schedule request form and we will try to accommodate that request
 - o Eastern Michigan – if you don't have the info about your home field availability, how do you handle filling out your schedule?
 - Look at your varsity schedule, and just give as much information as you can – key is to communicate with us about it
- 2017 Conf Championships
 - o Nic Bongers brought up having the Great Lakes become multiple conference for better chances of getting to the championships – agreed to bring up later in the meeting.
- 2017 Bowl Game

- Oakland Coach Menas – love West Liberty; thought everyone involved was great; the WLU staff was very accommodating
- Tracy Reardon - Fundraising – what has worked for other teams?
 - MSU: Facebook AD campaign – paid facebook minimal amount to consistently post fundraising ads; you don't have to worry about it – says it's cost effective; can have it promote anything you want directly from your Facebook page
 - Pitt: uses account through the university;
 - Oakland: gorilla marketing approach; fundraisers, bowling, xenith commercial, golf outing; signing with The Hub to help out with events; silent auctions; much more social things; ask for donations from local places to auction off items
 - Sandy: his psu team would write to the pirates and got free stuff to auction off
 - Loyola: same as OU; this past year had Jim McMahon? Golf outing; have a team store to sell items
 - Ft Lauderdale: lots of local sponsors; has some NFL connections; sponsor a 7v7 tournament
 - Flint: reaching out to the ann arbor campus for donations and older uniforms
 - George Mason: has an online crowd funding going; thinking about doing a 7v7 tournament
 - Columbus: red bull tournament that charges for a flag football tournament; sells team apparel; sell coke products
 - Eastern Mich: 2 bowling fundraisers; wants to do a golf tourney on the eastern course; local businesses for sponsorships; selling apparel at a local store
 - Wright State: local business sponsorship; has connections with the Dayton Wolfpack for sponsors
- Alex Kane – Travel Sponsoors
 - Loyola and Oakland use vans all others rent buses

BREAK

- Issues!!
 - AFCA: going to consider having NCFB becoming “legitimate”; Wright State says we need to step forward as a league to be recognized – they are getting d2&3 school kids who can't afford the tuition at playing at the school of their choice; encouraging the coaches to reach out to them – get them to know who we are
 - Sandy requests all NCFB coaches and officers contact the AFCA to inquire about membership so that the Collegiate Club Football buzz is in their ear.
 - Slow growth: how can we change university feelings about club football?; have the good teams help nurture the new ones
 - Loyola: do we have a packet to send to schools telling them who we are
 - Sandy reaches out to the club sports coordinator
 - Eastern is a great example; take away every reason for them to say no
 - Pitt: felt like JMU just didn't care, even though he gave all the reasons why; maybe have representative from the NCFB contact

- OU: if you don't make it important to the student body and the community, you're not going to be successful; got to make it bigger than yourselves; created a brand away from the school
 - Wright: struggles with your school already having a varsity team; competing with other club teams
 - MSU: feels bullied by his school because athletics doesn't respect club teams
 - Have to compete with IMs as well
 - Looking to work with high school teams
 - We should as a league keep track of all the obstacles
- Roster size: should it be lowered lower to 45?
 - OU: Who does this actually hurt?; thinks a smaller team allows you give your guys a better experience; also a smaller roster makes sure you're getting the best of the best; argues costs are going to go down; argues that going to 45 affects so little amount of students
 - FL: he recruits, so the max would affect him; asking if there is a "dress" rule;
 - Sandy said it's hard to regulate the dress amount of people
 - Roster max makes it easier
 - Pitt: they hold their own max number at 45; helps with budget and competitiveness; coaching staff is easier to deal with; wants the league to go to 50 – going too dramatic could cut the funding of those larger teams
 - MSU: limiting roster cuts dues and thus their budget; thinks too drastic of a drop will gut the program; wants a more gradual cut of numbers; doesn't see how this helps the smaller teams. Prefers we go to 50 rather than 45 right away.
 - Flint: smallest roster; looked at Oakland and MSU as inspirations to grow their program
 - Columbus: had to forfeit a game because they wouldn't compete against a roster 60 deep; thinks the intimidation isn't good for the league; he's also the club director for Columbus
 - Loyola: likes the david v goliath feel; doesn't think it's fair to keep putting it off; thinks the competitiveness of the league and the threats are more important than having to let some kids go; NEED TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT to help with the competitive balance; thinks this has the potential to change this
 - GMU: thinks the large roster is intimidating; points out that the NFL has smaller roster counts;
 - **BALLOT: keep it, drop it to 50, drop it to 45**
 - Eastern: Doesn't think going to 50 doesn't look different to him as a player; doesn't understand how the roster change is really going to help the smaller teams
- Scheduling
 - **Put proposed on ballot**
 - Flint was used as the example from this past year
- Officials:
 - Wright: circumstances do arise where you might be short, but thinks the officials should all be certified

- OU: had the same situation in UW Milwaukee; thinks the officials can make or break the game
 - **Verified to add to the ballot**
 - Academic Eligibility increase to 9 credits
 - Flint: doesn't think it would be feasible; commuter campus
 - GMU: doesn't think he could field a team with a lower credit requirement
 - OU: some players are taking credits at other institutions at the same time
 - **TABLE FOR ANOTHER YEAR**
 - Eligibility
 - Letter from Clarkson- has one player who has been with the program to be eligible for one year because he doesn't go to Clarkson
 - No one supported Clarkson's request for exemption
 - Sandy doesn't like special treatment for one team, so proposes a grandfather rule for all first year teams
 - OU: doesn't like exceptions either; brought up wright state kid who was ineligible, wanted him to play, but understands it wasn't part of the rules
 - **CLARKSON EXCEPTION – rejected**
 - **Grandfather rule – rejected**
 - **New Academic Eligibility LETTER – keep as is**
 - Columbus: thinks its going to be too complicated for registrar offices
 - MSU: thinks it is unnecessary
- **OPEN DISCUSSION:**
 - Nic/OU- 8 teams is too much for the Great Lakes; odds are too skewed to getting to the conference and national championship
 - East & west to be separate conferences
 - 5 conference champions going to the playoffs
 - In their conference, they only get one loss and then they are out
 - RMU doesn't get the recognition they should by going 4-0 in their division
 - Wants to even the playing field
 - You can go 8&1 and not go anywhere
 - It's a good problem to have
 - Adding another week to the postseason
 - Wright State says to do a NFL style bracket; look to redistrict; make an own Michigan conference of sorts; proposes that the #4&5 play each other to make the match up with #1; 4 hosts 5; argues that you should always be budgeting for playoffs
 - **Wants the teams for the next year figured out before we have this meeting**
 - Make the teams added after this independent?
 - UFL – why would a team want to join as an independent if they don't have a playoff chance.
 - Loyola: thinks getting rid of the neutral sites isn't cost effective
 - **Proposed to bump dues (\$100) for everyone to have a reserved playoff pool of \$ to help those that have to travel for playoffs**
 - Asking that teams have paperwork done by this meeting

- Sandy brought up huge traveling costs of a bracket proposal for playoffs; proposed that they play their teams twice – you would sacrifice non-conference games
- OU: proposal of a 6th wild card team for playoffs
- MSU: doesn't think it's realistic to have to budget for such an unknown

- **Ballot Item:**

- **Should Great Lakes East/West Divisions be split into two separate conferences resulting in 5 conference champions going to the post season with a new post season format of:**
 - Conf championships take place 1 week earlier
 - Following weekend #5 seed travels to #4 seed for play in game
 - Following weekend #3 travels to #2 and #5 vs #4 winner travels to #1 for playoff games
 - Playoff winners again play in bowl game

- **Ballot Item:**

- **Should new playoff format get approved, should dues be raised \$100 per team and the collected increase would go to the #5 playoff team to assist with travel to #4 for play in game?**

- **Ballot Item:**

- **Should new playoff format NOT get approved, should Conferences/Divisions of 4 or less teams move to a home and away conference schedule against all conference opponents?**

- Loyola: all American stats – can they add the stats of games played after the regular season is over and be counted towards awards
 - Would freeze the power rankings after conference champ games are over
 - Playoff seeding based on power rankings after conference champ games
 - Allow non playoff teams to play non-conf games and add the stats up until conclusion of playoffs but not championship bowl

- **Ballot Item:**

- **Can non playoff teams continue to play non conference games and count the results and stats through the conclusion of playoffs or until they hit the max number of regular season games allowed?**

- **Survey question: meeting date moved back to February?**