

2014 NCFA Annual League Meeting

Teams in Attendance:

- Robert Morris
- Wright State
- Ohio State
- Loyola-Chicago
- Oakland
- George Mason
- Coppin State
- John Murphy – Rawlings

Fall Kickoff Jamboree Interest:

RMU, Oakland, Wright State, Ohio State, George Mason

- Colored lines were really hard to play on at Mylan Park
- RMU & Oakland can't attend weekend of Sept. 20th
- Earlier date is better for students as the farther you get into the semester, the more work students have

Sponsors (Fundraisers):

- What works for you?

- **Coppin:** Cover charge at parties
- **RMU:** No fundraising
 - For Little League, they put up banners for local sponsors at games/events
- **Wright State:** Domino's attempt – struggled making it mandatory for players
 - Car wash
- **Loyola Chicago:** 5K Run/Walks
 - Golf outing for alumni
 - theRubberU attempt
- **OSU:** Charity golf outing
 - Bar/restaurant sponsors (10% of bill goes to team if customers mention Club team)
- **Oakland:** restaurant sponsors
 - theRubberU attempt
 - Domino's cards
 - Sold decaled mini helmets (SportDecals decals)
 - Bowling outing fundraiser (partnered with dance club)
 - FanCloth products
 - Game Program for season with ad space (and sold programs for profit as well)
 - Used custom page for each game of the season (opponent, roster, etc.)
- **George Mason:** Local community sponsors

- Website donation link
- Spring ball hosted “tournament” for 2014? Includes fundraising and barbeque / get-together for all teams and local sponsors

Sponsors Notes:

- **Teams want a sponsor to receive discounted athletic tape/pre-wrap/ etc.
- **Teams don’t usually stay overnight in hotels/uses buses for travel mostly
- ** Teams don’t really order hats/visors

Issues and Debates

1. Faculty & Staff Eligibility

Oakland: Likes having faculty and staff on the team as a way to market the club team to a new group of people and it creates an opportunity further for the university overall. Only downfall is that a recently graduated College Football player could come play a year after as a big name in an established program.

Wright State: Wright State frowns upon the Club Sports aspect in general – Thinks that having faculty on the team would be adverse to the reputation of the program. It can help one team without hurting another.

Ohio State: Thinks it would help more than it would hurt. Better ability to get the word out and open up the club aspect.

KEEP AS IS, NO BALLOT VOTE NEEDED.

2. Roster Violations

Oakland: Bongers felt like an ‘jerk’ for filling out that protest form and being the bad guy and he felt that it shouldn’t have been his responsibility to put UM-Flint on notice that they didn’t have enough eligible players on the roster. Wants the league to take responsibility to hold standards. Sept. 1st – everything needs to be together.

Ohio State: Thinks it should be the team’s responsibility to report any violations to keep checks and balances in order.

George Mason: Even if it’s not his job, Dyson is going to make sure that the team on the other side of the ball is up to standard with everything that his team has had to organize as well. He doesn’t have a problem with calling the team out. He thought it was the general standard to follow the rules to begin with. If you don’t have a roster up at the beginning of the season, and if you don’t have your roster, you don’t play.

Robert Morris: It shouldn’t be a choice. It should be the team’s responsibility to get the roster up, and the general standard.

Coppin State: Not showing up shouldn’t be an option.

NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED AS: Teams prefer that if the game is going to be changed as a forfeit for lack of a roster, the team without the roster should be informed post-game to avoid forfeit and get the game played. Forfeits for no roster without protest. No protest necessary – forfeit comes after the game is played.

If neither team has a roster: The game becomes a tie.

Ballot Item:

If an NCFB opponent does not have a roster:

- 1) The game becomes a forfeit from the league without protest.
- 2) The game must be protested by the offended team in order for a protest to be issued.

Ballot Item:

If neither team has a roster:

- 1) The game becomes a double forfeit tie.
- 2) The game is declared an exhibition and if a conference game must be rescheduled.

3. Start of NCFB Season – Should we back the start of the season up?

Loyola Chicago: Has a lot of out-of-state players and can't really get practicing/ready for the season until the end of September.

RMU: Likes the early start of the season. Played OSU on Sept. 6th. Thinks you're going to see more injuries if you start later where the weather is concerned.

KEEP AS IS, NO BALLOT VOTE NEEDED.

4. Improving Communication – How do we get scores and better communication from teams?

Wright State: Does it have to be sent in via e-mail? Prefers text.

RMU: Hard to navigate the website to even find schedules and scores. Scores/stats need to be used to create legitimacy for the league.

Suggestions:

- Text scores by 4pm on Sunday.
- Assign Club Presidents or Team Representative and relay their contact information to NCFB Conference Coordinator to contact
- Have both teams confirm the score.
- Tough to meet deadline for statistics.
- Talk to Stat or Audio/Video Professors is there's an extra credit opportunity for helping out etc.
- Contact Huddle – online team system for league-wide account (Adam West Moreland)

Why don't teams nominate Players of the Week?

Coppin State: Too much work. It's a progress.

Ohio State: Coaches dropped the ball.

Oakland: Not a priority in first year of the program.

George Mason: Important to the players to be accounted for their stats and know their progress/accolades.

5. Detering Forfeits – How do we avoid forfeits better, and how do we handle them?

George Mason: Enforce both the Performance Bond and Game Fee Responsibility on forfeiting teams. If teams are struggling with the money, allow installments for payments.

OaklandU: Easier to go after the clubs sports department for penalty funds.

RMU: Use forfeited Performance Bond money to help out with money for NCFE events

Suggestions:

- Mirror NCBA, forfeiting team is responsible for game fees upon proof of invoice from opposing team and the forfeiting team is then put on probation.

** The fees responsibility would not apply to a team that forfeits their whole season.

- Add forfeiture clause in the LPA?

- Pre-season Performance Bond, used for penalty of forfeits

- Teams that forfeit should be penalized as a team. Put them on probation for the coming season.

Ballot Item:

1) Install a financial penalty where if a team forfeits with less than 6 days notice, they are responsible for any costs that the team forfeited to incurs. (i.e. Field Rental, Officials or Travel/Lodging costs if it's the home team that's forfeiting.)

Ballot Item:

1) Adding a \$500 Performance Bond for the 2015 Season – Putting up an amount up-front where you lose some of it if your forfeit a conference game. Add that amount to the LPA Fees.

- What is the dollar amount that we want the Performance Bond to be for 2015?

1) \$500 - unanimous

- How much of that money gets taken for ONE forfeit?

1) All of it - unanimous

2) If forfeit is deemed legit, can the team that was forfeited on petition to allow that team to keep the \$\$?

- Where does the Performance Bond \$\$ forfeited go?

1) Money gets put into the Conference Championship events - unanimous

Ballot Item:

1) If (as the away team) you forfeit a conference game, you still owe that team a home game the following season. The trip doesn't flip-flop the following year. That forfeiting team must travel again.

- Reference NCBA home/away game verbage.

6. Coaches Poll – NCFA Power Rankings – How do we get more teams to submit ballots?

**26 Coaches started the season voting, if a coach failed to submit a ballot two weeks in a row they were removed from voting eligibility. Only 13 coaches finished the season voting (50%).

Suggestions:

- Let the NCFA create a Voting Panel for the Power Rankings
- Need to find voters that are going to do their homework and understand the league.
- There should be some kind of commonality as voters look at outcomes to make better sense of the rankings overall.

George Mason: Teams just need that reminder to send in their Rankings, and not via e-mail. They need to be texted in order to be reminded – teams don't see their e-mails.

Oakland: Team was overwhelmed and didn't have the time to dedicate to submitting a ballot.

Loyola-Chicago: It's a little lower on the priority list than most Club President and Club Officer's jobs. Thinks the NCFA should delegate people to do it in a non-partisan way.

Girardi: It's not fair to a lot of the teams when actual NCFA Coaches ranks teams based on 'beef' and not reality – help to eliminate bias and vote fairly.

Ballot Item:

- 1) Change panel to a preselected Voting Panel chosen by the NCFA, and use an NCFA Voting Panel as opposed to a Coaches Panel.

7. 2015 Playoffs

Is 2015 too soon to go to a Playoff System?

- Unanimous 'NO'.

Who plays who? (Based on travel)

- Neutral site and have both games played on that day at the same site.
- Strictly based on seeding. (1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3)
- 1 vs. 4 seed should be the first game played and 2 vs. 3 seed game should be played after.

How do we justify funding for teams to travel two weekends in a row?

- Use money for the new League Performance Bond to help out.

** Most teams don't like this because they don't want to give money to help another team.

- Both teams split the costs of the event for the first round of the playoffs at a neutral site, and continue as follows suit
- Teams that get the opportunity to advance to the playoffs need to fundraise as such
- Ask NCFA to help to get sponsors to allocate money to the Playoff System
- 1 seed and 2 seed finance putting on the event and the 3 seed and the 4 seed finance their travel and getting there, and the winners goes on to the National Championship

- North Atlantic plays Mid Atlantic for Conference Playoff, Great Lakes plays South Atlantic ..

Suggestions:

RMU/Wright State: It doesn't matter if you play 7 or 11 games, you take points off your opponents' points and award points to teams accordingly. You use the total amount of points as a criteria to help with seeding.

Ballot Item:

Playoffs will consist of 4 conference champions, they will be seeded based on their Power Ranking.

- 1) Should the match ups be based solely off seeding? #4 @ #1 and #3 @ #2? Home teams pay game fees while traveling team pays their travel.
- 2) Should the match ups be based on geography? SAC vs GLC and MAC vs NAC OR SAC vs MAC and GLC vs NAC with the lower seed traveling to the higher seed? Home teams pay game fees while traveling team pays their travel.
- 3) Should all the playoffs be hosted at one neutral site with #4 vs #1 and #3 vs #2 with hosting costs dispersed amongst the teams?

Open Forum

1) Wright State suggested to play according to High School rules rather than NCAA rules because most officials they hire are high school officials and it is hard for those officials to learn 278 rule changes to know all NCAA rules.

- All teams & Sandy say 'NO' because high school rules are different from state to state.

2) RMU suggests (for the safety of the players) to include a 'Slaughter Rule' concerning a Running Clock

Ballot Item:

- 35 or more point lead at any point in the second half, continue as running clock through the end of the game regardless of score changes

- This rule does not apply to the postseason.

3) Ohio State suggests that the NCFA schedule referees for Conference Games

- Sandy says we don't have enough connections or experience in scheduling referees

4) Oakland suggests mandatory film-exchange

- Sandy says you're asking a lot of teams that don't do film already.

- Teams suggest that they communicate and ask for film from teams that do have the film to exchange.

- Implement 'Huddle' for the league and allow teams to upload film and share film accordingly

Ballot Item:

- Add a RECOMMENDATION that teams provide film of their most recent game to opponents IF they have the film to provide.

5) Sandy suggests that if three players or more are ejected in a game, the coach should be suspended.

- RMU suggests to enforce that if the trend continues for one team and multiple ejections continue to occur.