

NCSA 2014-2015 League Meeting Voting Ballot & Survey

Please email completed ballot to Savannah.Ahrens@CollClubSports.com no later than June 20, 2014

School Name: National Club Softball Association (NCSA)

Your Name: Savannah Ahrens

Your Position: Advisor

- 1) Many teams have stressed the importance of teams being held accountable for playing their scheduled games. A huge problem this past season was the forfeiture of games and even entire conference series. Teams discussed possible options for a performance bond and stipulations for deductions due to forfeiting of games/series. The proposed rule would be as follows:

Beginning in the 2015-2016 season, a \$150 refundable performance bond would be added to the NCSA Annual Dues. For every UNPLAYED CONFERENCE game that is forfeited, \$50 is deducted from the team's performance bond and that money is used to supplement the regional playoff budget of the region that the team is affiliated with. This performance bond penalty would not apply to non-conference games or forfeited conference games that were PLAYED. At the end of the NCSA season, each team will have the option to have the remainder of their performance bond returned to them or have it roll over to the next season.

Which of the following do you approve to be added to the NCSA Rulebook?

- Yes – Add the performance bond, with deductions beginning with the first forfeited game.
- Yes – Add the performance bond, but with the stipulation that one series may be forfeited before deductions begin.
- Yes – Add the performance bond, but with the stipulation that two games may be forfeited before deductions begin.
- I do not approve any performance bond rule to be added to the NCSA Rulebook.

NCSA recommended vote: Yes – Add the performance bond, with deductions beginning with the first forfeited game. Our goal is to hold teams accountable to play their conference games and by allowing teams to forfeit a series or even two games, defeats that goal.

YES - Deductions beginning with the first forfeited game (22 Votes)

YES - Stipulation that one series may be forfeited (8 Votes)

YES - Stipulation that two games may be forfeited (7 Votes)

NO - Do not add performance bond (5 Votes)

- 2) In order to make teams more accountable and to avoid teams playing without a roster, the following rule was proposed:

5.02.2 Any team found playing any **NCSA Sanctioned Softball Game** with less than nine players on their eligible roster will AUTOMATICALLY be forced to forfeit any victories achieved while having no eligible roster. 5.02.2.1 Additionally the team is AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.

5.02.2.2 Player statistics for both teams of a game forfeited due to a participating team having less than nine players on their eligible roster DO NOT count.

5.02.2.3 In the event that an **NCSA Sanctioned Softball Game** is played with neither team having at least nine players on their eligible roster, then the game itself and the player statistics from that game DO NOT count and both teams are AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.

Should the Minimum Roster Rule be added to the NCSA Rulebook under section 5.00 –Roster Size?

- YES – Add the Minimum Roster Rule to the NCSA Rulebook
 NO – Do not add the Minimum Roster Rule to the NCSA Rulebook

NCSA recommended vote: YES – Add the Minimum Roster Rule to the NCSA Rulebook. This will put the burden of disciplining teams who play without a roster on the NCSA, and will motivate teams to submit their roster information prior to playing, as per NCSA rules.

YES Votes - 40

NO Votes - 4

- 3) Rewording of Rule 13.02.1 was proposed to include situations for teams playing with only nine players. Current Wording:
13.02.0 A player is only eligible to courtesy run if she has not previously played in the game in an official capacity. 13.02.1 An exemption to this is if the offensive team only has 9 non-injured players remaining in the dugout. If this is the case, then the last player out may courtesy run.

Proposed Wording Change: 13.02.1 An exemption to this is if the offensive team only has 9 or fewer non-injured players remaining in the dugout. If this is the case, then the last player out may courtesy run.

- YES – I approve the proposed wording change
 NO – I do not approve the proposed wording change

NCSA recommended vote: YES – I approve the proposed wording change

YES Votes - 44

NO Votes - 0

- 4) There has been a proposal to move the official season start date from September 15th to September 1st.

- YES – I approve the start date to be changed to September 1st
 NO – The start date should remain at September 15th

NCSA recommended vote: NO – The start date should remain at September 15th because all teams would be required to submit roster information and scheduling request forms two weeks earlier than in past seasons. Based on previous league history, this would be logistically impossible for most teams to accomplish. Current rules allow teams to play before September 15th if they so desire, however those games are deemed exhibition.

YES Votes - 2

NO Votes - 42

- 5) Teams discussed Rule 18.02.0 and proposed that exceptions be added to this rule.

Current Rule: 18.02.0 By signing the NCSA LPA (League Participation Agreement) the team is not only contractually agreeing to participate in the NCSA, but also to compete in the post season should they qualify (At Large Bids Excluded). 18.02.1 Should a team qualify for the post season and fail to participate, they will AUTOMATICALLY be placed on probation for a minimum of 1 full season. 18.02.1.1 During the first season on probation, the team will be post season eligible but will be At-Large Bid ineligible.

Please mark your preferred response.

- Rule 18.02 should remain the same with no exceptions.
- Exception – A team would be exempt from probation if they provided proof that final exams were held during the postseason, thus prohibiting them from participating.
- Exception – A team would be exempt from probation if they provided proof that they would drop below ten players to compete in the postseason.

NCSA recommended vote: Rule 18.02 should remain the same with no exceptions. With proper planning, such as approaching professors months before the event or increasing team roster size, conflict exams can be rearranged and insufficient roster size can be avoided. This has been proven time and again by teams who have been proactive in the operation of their programs.

Rule 18.02 should remain the same (12 Votes)

Exception - Final Exams (25 Votes)

Exception - Drop below ten players (7 Votes)

- 6) Are there any club softball teams in your area that are not currently members of the NCSA? Do you know any girls looking to start a team at their school?

Existing Teams:

Contact Person/E-mail/Phone Number:

Potential New Teams:

Contact Person/E-mail/Phone Number: