



**NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF DIV. IA
FOOTBALL OFFICIALS**

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF DIVISION 1A FOOTBALL OFFICIALS

“Where do we go from here? – Dallas II”

Board of Director’s Meeting
Dallas, Texas
February 28, 2004

Present: Dick Honig and Jack Teitz – Big 10; Jon Bible – Big 12; Tom DeJoseph – Big East; Jack Folliard – Pac 10; Doug Rhoads – ACC; Steve Furjanic – Mid-American; Tony Lombardo – Conference USA; Gary McNanna and Ken Lucido – Mountain West; Mike Miles – Sunbelt; and Bob Taylor and Dan Romeo – Western Athletic. The SEC was not represented.

Executive Director Jack Folliard called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. Introductions were made, roster changes submitted and the agenda was reviewed.

Dick Honig asked that any changes in the Conference Compensation Summary spreadsheet he developed (distributed by email prior to the meeting) be sent to him as soon as possible. He will revise the spreadsheet and send it out to the conference representatives as soon as completed.

Folliard related his recent conversations with Don Shanks who represented the SEC at last year’s organizing meeting. The SEC is still undecided as to their participation. Folliard proposed and all agreed to keep Don apprised of everything so that the SEC will have all available information when they discuss NADFO in their spring and pre-season meetings. Folliard explained that he offered to meet with the SEC officials association if invited.

Year One Review

Folliard presented a packet containing significant correspondence and emails from the initial year of the Alliance and reviewed year one activities including summaries of the below listed meetings he and other board members attended for the purpose of introducing and gaining acceptance of NADFO as the representative organization of Division 1A football officials.

Folliard and the others who attended the meetings commented that NADFO was positively received by all. The NCAA committees and individuals as well as conference coordinators/supervisors felt there was a definite need for our organization and were pleased that it now exists.

David Parry – National Football Coordinator - Chicago, IL
Folliard, Rhoads and Teitz
NCAA Issues Committee – Indianapolis, IN
Folliard and Tom Ransom (Big 10)
CCA Football Coordinators Meeting – Park City, UT
Folliard and Taylor
NCAA Rules Committee – Indianapolis, IN
Folliard, Honig, Rhoads and Bible (our executive committee)

Folliard asked for comments from the representatives as to feedback from their conference members. The vast majority of officials are strongly in favor of NADFO after one year for a variety of reasons. Understandably, some have questions concerning NADFO's role, if any, in such things as conference officiating compensation/personnel issues, Bowl compensation packages while others would like to see immediate benefits and quick results. Folliard explained that year one was devoted to introducing NADFO to the world of collegiate football and gaining acceptance. By design, it was not felt beneficial to be overly proactive at this early stage.

The Board reiterated that NADFO should not and will not become involved with individual conference officiating concerns or issues, as NADFO's purpose and mission is to represent its members at the national level.

All agreed that after one year, NADFO is working and should continue into the future. Folliard recalled that the Conference Football Coordinators at the Park City meeting were very relieved and appreciative when assured that NADFO would not interfere with their internal conference affairs. Additionally, all Board members reported that their respective Coordinators are positive as well. It was the consensus that because individual associations meet only once or twice year – it is difficult to communicate with the members but all will do what they can to keep everyone better informed of the activities of the Alliance.

NCAA Rules Committee Meeting

Those who attended (Folliard, Bible, Honig and Rhoads) felt it was an extremely important accomplishment and that NADFO was welcomed into the process as a valuable resource to the Committee. We are now part of the process for future years. Folliard reported that the Committee members, including the two Div 1A coach members (Saban –LSU and Carr- Michigan) expressed their view that our involvement was long overdue.

Honig presented a preliminary overview of the new rules and editorial changes approved by the Committee but not yet to be official.

Where do we go from here?

Folliard opened a lively discussion on the future of NADFO and what should be its focus during the next year. There was much discussion on a number of ideas and issues. Below is a summary with the responsible board member designated:

- Prepare a “NADFO Year in Review” letter to the NCAA, designed to update our activities and solicit ideas as to how we can be of assistance in the future. The letter would be sent to the NCAA, Conference Commissioners, Coordinators, organizations and other persons that received the original NADFO announcement letter a year ago. **Folliard** will submit a draft to the Board for approval.
- Prepare a report to the membership summarizing the accomplishments of year one. **Folliard**.
- Develop an interactive website – it was concluded that would be of great value to the membership to efficiently disseminate information concerning all activities of NADFO, and provide a means by which members can express their views and ideas directly. **Folliard** will develop the website.

Board members should contact potential website sponsors. Honig committed his company, Honig’s Whistle Stop, Inc., as a sponsor. (Post-meeting – Folliard has secured the domain name of www.nadfo.org, obtained web site hosting at no charge and is negotiating with a developer to build the site).

- Determine the feasibility of having a national conference/convention in the future. It was decided to poll the membership to see if there would be interest. **Honig** will develop a tentative format to be presented to the membership at their future association meetings.

- Explore a national insurance program. Most of the associations are under a package offered by Bill Bailey, of Atlanta, GA. The Pac 10, Mountain West, Western Athletic and Big East are have their own policies and they have been requested to supply a copy of their program to **Bible** who will chair this project.
- There was a request from a couple of the Division 1AA associations to consider expanding NADFO to include Div 1AA officiating associations. After much discussion the Board tabled this request until the 2005 meeting. It was felt that we're too new to take on an additional level of membership at this time.
- Security. **Rhoads** will prepare a position paper on game security issues. The Board felt that this is of high priority and increased security at all game sites needs to be implemented. After review by the board, the position paper will be forwarded to Mr. Poppe at the NCAA with a request to distribute to the institutions.
- Dennis Poppe, NCAA Managing Director for Football, in a recent meeting with Honig indicated the NCAA is concerned with the somewhat negative perception of officials by the general public. Poppe requested NADFO's assistance and ideas in finding ways to alter this perception. **Folliard** will write a letter to Poppe with our thoughts and suggestions to include the following:
 - a) It was generally felt that negative statements made by TV/radio commentators generate much of this negative perception. A summit with the NCAA leadership, network media personnel (both commentators and executives), and representatives of NADFO might be an excellent first step. Educating the media is critical.
 - b) The NCAA held a major Sportsmanship Conference a year ago involving leading college Presidents, Athletic Directors, Commissioners and coaches. Although the officiating community was not a part of this Conference – the Board felt it was important to include NADFO as part of any future Conference.
 - c) It was suggested that the NCAA produce a video portraying such things as officials occupations, civic accomplishments, time spent on preparation for a season and a game, etc. This video could be distributed to the media as a public service announcement to be shown during the games.
 - d) Resurrect the State Farm Insurance “Rules of the Game” series to better educate the public.

- e) NADFO will encourage it's membership to be more proactive in speaking before civic organizations, service clubs, radio and TV shows, newspapers (with conference permission as the case may be).
- There was discussion concerning the feasibility of a national shoe contract with the proceeds financing NADFO thus eliminating membership dues and perhaps paying for their representative's expenses to attend the yearly board meeting. There is tremendous brand exposure value to a shoe manufacture of having all Div. 1A Officials wear their shoe. Several associations reported having deals for the coming season with Nike, Reebok, Adidas, and others. Lucido reviewed his preliminary contacts with Adidas. It was decided to have those associations currently under shoe contracts to approach their suppliers on subject of a national contract and report back to Folliard. Further action on this subject was tabled until the 2005 meeting.

(Post-meeting: Lucido has made significant progress with Adidas! Stay tuned for an email detailing his information and suggested next step).

- Dick Honig shared a recent discussion with and personal letter to Dennis Poppe of the NCAA concerning the treatment and compensation of officials working Bowl games. Honig emphasized that his contact with Poppe was initiated solely by himself because of recent bowl experiences and that he was not acting in anyway on behalf of NADFO.

He discussed the primary issue of lack of inclusion of a spouse or significant other in the compensation package. He also addressed game fees, per diem, travel, game tickets, use of 2 cars, and official's gifts. The Board generally agreed that compensation has been a major concern of the large majority of our membership given the revenues produced by the bowls, the level of benefits extended to other bowl participants and officials (non-officiating), the potential personalized media exposure of officials working the games (i.e. the media crucifixion of the official involved in the game ending 2003 national championship play without any BCS/NCAA assistance), and the responsibility and importance of our duties and responsibilities.

The Board determined that this is too sensitive of an issue for our newly formed Alliance to address without membership approval. Therefore, it was decided to poll the membership to determine if, and to what extent they want NADFO to pursue this issue. Honig will develop survey questions working with Folliard for distribution to the association representative. Tabled until the 2005 meeting

7. Folliard review NADFO's finances. The current bank balance is \$1101.08 with a few minor expenses outstanding. The revenue from dues was \$5070.00 with 95% of expenditures covering traveling expenses of the Board members attending the four meetings previously outlined. The Board commended the Executive Committee and especially Jack Folliard for covering the many meetings with a minimum of costs.

Dues will remain at **\$10** for the coming year.

8. The Board recommended that Folliard determine what national meetings NADFO should have representation and submit a budget to the Board for approval. The Board also decided that Folliard should attend (with others as needed), as many of those meetings as possible to insure consistency of communications. Folliard indicated that there are at least two meetings we should attend annually: the NCAA Football Issues Committee meeting and the NCAA Football Rules Committee meeting. It is anticipated that two or three additional meetings might be necessary but the particulars are unknown at this point.

9. The Board agreed that the next annual meeting will be again be held in Dallas on Saturday, **February 26, 2005** – the last Saturday in February. The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.