

End of Season Rules Meeting
Monday, July 30, 2012
Ferguson Community Center

Board Members Present: Tracey Malloy, Greg Petermeier, Stacy Porter, Tammy McAnulty, Michelle Eibs, Stacey Keeler

Board Members Not Present: Pam Huguen

President Tracey Malloy called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Towns Present: Albion, Ferguson, Garwin, Laurel Boys, Laurel Girls, LeGrand, Melbourne, Rhodes, State Center

Town Not Present: Baxter, Clemons, Green Mountain

Semifinal Umpire Reimbursements.

Checks will be written & distributed following this meeting to the towns who are present.

Review of this year's season.

Everyone seemed to like our new game scheduling format. Most people seemed to like having the tournaments done before Independence Day. Board applauded Baxter and Albion on successfully hosting championships.

Stacy Porter mentioned we might need to look at eliminating the 5-run rule per inning for at least the Minors division during all tournaments. Overall consensus was that we should keep as much consistency as possible between the regular season & tournament rules. Table the discussion until tournament time next year.

Tracey Malloy brought up possibly having a time limit on peewee girls due to the length of the games. Some towns impose their own time limits during the regular season in order to get games in. Tracey said when scheduling, towns need to schedule properly, allowing enough time to complete each game. It's up to the town whether or not to put a time limit on each game and each town should bring that up before scheduling with another town.

It was suggested from the audience that we might consider changing the championships to be 4:00 and 6:00 start time due to hot weather. Discussion will be tabled until tournament time next year.

It was suggested from the audience that some of the town's diamonds are obsolete insofar as hosting a championship games and we need to keep that in mind as we go through our rotation.

Rules Discussion

Discussion of boys' bats.

The high school rules state bats must now be BBCOR stamped. We stayed away from that rule. **Tracey Malloy motioned to change Rule 10.01 in our by-laws to state "All boys' division bats will have a barrel of 2-5/8" or less and do not have to be BBCOR stamped."** Greg Petermeier seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion of boys' baseballs.

Some teams are using plastic-covered balls rather than leather-covered balls for games. **Stacey Porter made a motion to add rule 10.04 that states "Peewee, Minor, & Babe Ruth divisions will be required to play with a genuine leather-covered baseball (no plastic-coated balls or Flexiballs)." Tammy McAnulty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion of free substitution.

The Board does encourage towns to go ahead and bat all/play 9 during regular season games. Tracey Malloy suggested scaffolding the kids – for example, bat all/play 9 the first 2-3 weeks, then the last week of the season, teach the kids the actual substitution rules so they can learn the way the game of baseball will be played when they get older. General consensus was that people still want to leave the tournaments to high school substitution rules.

Discussion of purchasing equipment.

Tracey Malloy personally encouraged towns to buy the bulk of their equipment through Sports Page in Marshalltown. It was noted that the Manager of the Marshalltown Sports Page store attended the boys' finals this year.

Discussion of facemasks

It was brought up from the audience that we might need to look into putting facemasks as a rule on the boys' peewee side. At the high school level, the kids have the choice whether or not to use a facemask. The Board said that perhaps the towns can present it to the kids and they can provide them the helmets with facemasks. Tracey said we need to bring it up and remind towns about the option of facemasks at future meetings and possibly put something on the website.

Discussion of South Tama's inquiry to join the league

South Tama has inquired about entering our league. Tracey Malloy asked for input from the towns on their thoughts about South Tama joining. We need to find out from them what all teams they have. No one will be required to play them. Stacey Porter said a rep from STC needs to meet with us at the winter meeting to present to us a plan.

Discussion regarding T-ball

There was free discussion about the length of t-ball games and the number of innings they play. Some feel that too many towns are getting away from using the tee and using too much coach pitch in t-ball.

A motion was made by Dane McBride to add a t-ball rule on both sides that states "For the first 3

innings of the game, all players will bat off the tee. The 4th inning will be optional coach pitch.” Motion was seconded by Duane Mann. Motion passed unanimously.

Emily Bowie made the motion to add a rule on both sides of t-ball stating “When a player is declared out, he/she must return to the dugout, but the inning will not be complete until all players have batted. The coaches will be responsible for declaring if a player was thrown or tagged out.” Sharon Rebik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Secretary needs to modify all t-ball rules to change any wording from umpire to coach.

Discussion of rosters

Stacy Porter brought up an inconsistency in the wording of our rules regarding the timing of turning in rosters. There was a free discussion about ideas of how to get people to register in a timely fashion. Garwin set a deadline and then kept it open for 2 weeks and charged a late fee, and after that, no one was allowed to play. Melbourne collected email from all parents to help with communication. **Stacy Porter made a motion to change the wording of the rule 11.0 and to make the consistency between the regular bylaws and tournament bylaws. Add “Any additions that need to be made to fill a roster must be submitted to the League Secretary by May 1.” Heidi Fuller seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion of tournaments

It was brought up from the audience that we should seed teams in the tournaments. The Board explained how that would put too much pressure on regular season games, thus making them more like tournament games where winning would be priority rather than learning.

It was brought up from the audience that towns with multiple teams should be separated in the bracket. The Board explained that that would defeat the purpose of a randomly drawn tournament bracket and could give an unfair advantage to a town with multiple teams.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.