

**CAPE COD SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2017
HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ron Scarborough, John Hession, Ben Caswell, Mike McCluskey, Dave Noonan, Mike McCarthy, Peter Cutler, Van Khachadoorian and Commissioner Terry Moran

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Bill Prodgers

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 am

Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept minutes of the September 22, 2017 meeting by Hession, seconded by Noonan. Motion to accept carried.

Treasurer's Report – Hession

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by McCarthy and seconded by Noonan.

Motion to approve is carried.

Welcome to New Board Members

Commissioner Moran welcomed new Board Members: Ron Scarborough, Division 1 President and Ben Caswell and Peter Cutler, Directors At-Large.

Commissioner's Statement

Commissioner Moran presented a statement to answer some question asked at the Annual Meeting in October. That statement is below:

There are two topics that were brought up at the annual meeting that I feel are important to address, in order to clarify issues with our players and also with the Board.

The first involved the issue of keeping all divisions strong. I pointed out that the Board had adopted the Player Placement Policy which will be put into place for the 2018 season. This policy was developed for two purposes:

1. To strengthen each division
2. To ensure that we fulfill the bylaw that players are placed based on age and ability, by putting reasonable guidelines on ability

The response was that it won't work. We won't know whether it works or not until it is tried. A lot of thought and effort went into developing a policy that would be fair to players of all ages and all abilities. If revisions are needed after it has been implemented, that will be done.

The second topic involved the complaint that a certain player was allowed to play in Division 3 despite being below the age range. The decision to allow this player to participate in D3 was based on his inability to play in the evening. It was stated that none of the PEAC members wanted him in the division. By approved Board Policy, the PEAC does not have the responsibility nor the right to ban someone from playing in their division. I refer to the following approved Board Policy:

The PEAC will place all players assigned to their division based on the decisions of the Age Reassignment Committee (ARC) and the information provided to them by the chair of the Applications work group.

The stated reason for this concern was simply age, but there were also undertones that he was too good of a player for the Division. When players from D3 are asking for stronger competition in the division, it is not logical to exclude a talented player. Here are some other points regarding this issue:

- If this player was excluded from D3 based on age, then 13 others (one full team) should have been excluded because they were below the age limit
- If the player was excluded based on ability then three others should be excluded who were rated higher by a consensus of the managers and six others should be excluded based on batting average

Either way you look at it, the player was appropriately placed based on his ability and his needs. It is important here that we look at our players as the most important part of our league. Simply put...**No Players, No League.** I have often heard it stated that everyone has to conform to the League. To a degree that is true, however, players have individual needs based on a number of conditions: employment, health, family health, other commitments among them. The CCSSL should be an inclusive league, not an exclusive one. We exist to provide enjoyment for our players. That is a good thing!

In closing, we as a Board have a responsibility to make the best decisions that we can for the betterment of our players. As an individual Board member, someone may not vote in favor of something, but once it's adopted we all need to support it, understand it, and promote it. To do the opposite is a failure to fulfill our responsibilities.

Board Business and Reports:

1. Division Presidents' Reports:

Masters – No Report

Division 1 – Four managers are in place with two additional possibilities are available. Four PEAC members are in place. Ron will facilitate a meeting to get consensus opinion on the ratings. Ron also outlined the player selection process that is utilized in Division 1. Discussion followed comparing different methods used by the divisions. The commissioner asked the division presidents to each write up their process so that the information could be shared.

Division 2 - Mike McCarthy reported that the D2 Managers were scheduled to meet after today's Board meeting to develop a consensus on the ratings. He is also working on Managers.

Division 3 – Van Khachadoorian reported that D3 had already completed their consensus ratings and the have already been submitted.

2. Fields – Charlie Salerno

Charlie reported to the Board that Barnstable has undertaken a major renovation at Lombard Field that is scheduled to be ready for the 2018 Season. The pricing on field use is very favorable.

3. Fall League Report – Mike McCluskey

The Fall League is still going strong with good turnout each week. Mike described it as part of a plan to give players more opportunities to play and is planning to run Saturday softball opportunities throughout the regular season. This is an area where Mike wants to focus his efforts

4. Rules Survey Results – Terry Moran

There were 208 responses to the rules survey. The Rules Committee will use this information to bring forth their recommendations on any possible changes. Most of the responses were very clear-cut regarding players' opinions. The one exception was the question in Division 3 on allowing one predesignated player the ability to reach first base on any ball cleanly hit to the outfield. Among D3 players the vote was 33 in favor and 32 opposed. Ron Scarborough brought up the fact that the Rules Committee seems to be debating the same rules year after year and suggested that a process be developed that would require any suggestion on a potential rule change be put in writing with reasons why the change is needed. If that rule change is not adopted, there would be a three-year moratorium before that change could be submitted again. Ron volunteered to develop the protocol for this process.

5. League Assignments and Vacancies – Terry Moran

The CCSSL has a number of key positions that are currently vacant. This will be a point of emphasis during the upcoming months to find qualified individuals to take on these roles.

6. Pool Player Request Policy

Ron Scarborough and Ben Caswell have worked on a policy to request pool players. This was reviewed by the Board and will be considered as part of the entire Pool Player Policy that will be reviewed and potentially revised by the Board. The following is the proposed policy:

The requesting Manager will email the name of the player to be replaced to the Pool Coordinator (PC) 24 hours prior to the game. Manager will also email the opposing manager and the Division president.

The PC will send email or group call to the list of permanent pool who are of equal to or less skill level than the missing player(s). i.e. A and B rated players can be replaced with an A, B or C rated player. C rated players are replaced with B or C rated players. Note: At no time will a C player be replaced by an A player.

If the position cannot be filled from the permanent pool players list, then the PC will follow the above process utilizing the regular pool player list. Time frame is at PC's discretion.

NLT 2pm of game day the PC will email the requesting manager, with a CC to the opposing manager and division president with the replacement players name and rating.

If no pool players are available by 2pm email is sent stating so.

IF the request for pool player is sent in less than 24 hours prior to the game then the PC will make his/her" best effort" to find a replacement.

If the player who is being replaced shows up at game time he/she will bat in the last position in the order (following pool player) and must be the Non-fielder, unless his/her team is utilizing a catcher from the opposing team. In that situation he/she can play catcher and only catcher.

If a manager has less than 11 players and did NOT request a pool player via email, they will not be allowed to utilize a catcher from the opposing team. (this will be verified by copying the opposing manager on the email from the PC)

If a manager has less than 11 players and DID request a pool player via email, but none were available, the use of the opposing team catcher is authorized. (this will be verified by copying the opposing manager on the email from PC)

7. 2018 Applications - Terry Moran

40 applications have currently been received, 36 for regular players and 4 for pool players. All players are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

8. Policy and Bylaw Review

During upcoming meetings, the Board will review all Policies and By-laws to ensure that they conform to current situations.

9. Open Session – All players

Mike brought up the need for the Masters Division to relax some rules for players who are rehabbing from injuries (e.g., not calling a player out for fouling off a third strike).

10. Suggestion Box Review

Nothing new

11. Round Table –

Van- We need to review the Pool Player Policy. He wants to review the roles and responsibilities of Division Presidents. We need to explore the use of Potter and Bassett Fields. We need to form a CPC Committee.

Motion to adjourn at 1:42 P.M.

Next meeting is December 9, 2017 at HCC

Minutes submitted by Terry Moran, Commissioner