

Arrowhead Fastpitch League Board
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2017

Called to order at 6:05pm

Present: Sherry Mottonen, Jason Lagregren, Theresa Leopold, Pat Shelton, Melissa Stevens, John Stevens, Kelly Goeb

1. Umpires.

- a. Arbiter is working well both for the umps to schedule games and to report scores. Also works well for board members to record scores on website. Will continue with this next year.
- b. Some concerns this past season with umps calling games too early, before time is up. Knowing when the last inning will be can be difficult. Discussed possibility of changing our rules for 14s and older to be 5-run limit thru the 3rd inning, then becomes unlimited 4th inning and beyond to avoid need of calling "last inning". Decided to move forward with this rule change.
- c. Consider evening out umpire pay across older age groups per Jason. Suggestions of 14s at \$45, 16/18s combo at \$55, and if 16s only league \$50.
- d. Advertising. Need to find ways to increase our base of umpires. Discussed Craig's list, letters to college coaches, Facebook, word of mouth.
- e. Umpire Survey. Sherry will create a survey to umpires on Survey Monkey, suggestions given of what questions to include.

2. Season Follow Up

- a. Coaches Survey. Kelly will create a coaches survey on Survey Monkey to obtain feedback from the season. Suggestions given, including if communities are interested in an 8U league.
- b. 10U rules. Brief discussion about pitching machine and stealing rules for 10U. Board desires to continue those rules as they are.

3. Playoff Follow Up
 - a. Should we provide plaques to winning teams? Voted No as some teams have many sponsors and we are trying to keep costs down. Continue with individual medals.
 - b. Time limit for championship games? Voted Yes, keep all games consistent.
 - c. Should higher seeded teams be home teams thru the playoffs? Voted No and to continue with the ball roll. The advantage to being a higher seed is the placement in the brackets. And not all teams play equal schedules thru the season, so seeding is not fully fair.
4. Facebook. Theresa agreed to look into starting and managing a Facebook page for the league. Could have a "like us" tab on our website that would connect to our page. Would list advertisements, rainouts, when schedules are available, etc.
5. Hibbing teams? We will reach out in February to see if they have any interest in joining the league.
6. Insurance
 - a. Sherry will look into costs of USA vs USSSA, six months vs annual. Also need to look at cost of registration.
 - b. Consider having same insurance as the rules our umpires follow for consistency.
7. Tourney Rules. Request form Cloquet to keep them true USA or USSSA, which will depend on cost/insurance as in #6.
8. Rosters. Would be nice to have rosters available to coaches to verify players if needed. Will be a future discussion with USA vs USSSA decision, who we register with, etc.
9. Concussion. Discussion regarding how/who clears players after a concussion. Future discussion and information is needed.
10. Resignation. Pat Shelton presented a formal letter that he would like to step down as president, but would like to continue as a board member. He agrees to continue in his role until our annual meeting in November at which time we will vote for officers.

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 19, 6:00 at Blackwoods.