

WSSA BOD Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
June 3, 2021

1. **Call to order**

Commission Walter Aaron called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

2. **Roll Call of Officers**

Present were Walter Aaron, Chris Pinkett, Dave Reardon, Joe Newcomb, Tony Spataro, Skip Flynn, Mike Gallagher, and Gary Kohunsky. Webmaster, Harry Marriner was also in attendance.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 5, 2021 were approved by the board.

4. **Sponsorship Review**

Dave Reardon provided a list of sponsors who have paid and they include Cambridge Village, Humana, Able Insurance, Carolina Bay, O'Brien, Carolina Sports Medicine, and D&E Mitsubishi. Joe Newcomb will send another letter to (email) and/or contact Stifel Finance, French's Dentistry, Davis Community/Champions, and Longhorn Steakhouse.

Walter will contact Andy Johnson at New Hanover County Parks to inquire about sponsor banner guidelines/restrictions should the board choose to consider displaying our sponsor banners on the outfield fences at Ogden Park.

The board entertained further discussion about WSSA's current sponsorship program regarding displaying sponsor logos on caps and jerseys and affirmed that the association is moving in the direction of displaying sponsor name/logo on caps while providing players with WSSA (generic) jerseys. Since there was not a regular season of play in 2020, the 25th anniversary caps are being worn this year only.

In the case of D & E Mitsubishi, an exception has been granted and players will wear D & E logo'd jerseys and caps. With assistance from Tony Spataro, Gary Kohunsky will order 1 set of playing jerseys for D & E Mitsubishi. After discussion about service from current and previous apparel providers, Gary indicated he would get pricing and other information from 3 local vendors before ordering the shirts.

5. **Umpires**

Chris Pinkett reported that the association has 6 umpires currently with the possibility of one more resigning. Discussion centered on umpire pay and availability. The board approved an

increase in per game pay from the current \$30 to \$35 effective immediately. It was suggested that the board consider next year a salary/bonus structured plan for umpires.

Dave indicated that the association could absorb the additional umpire expense and end the year with a positive balance.

There was discussion about moving the start times for all games to 9 am in the interest of player safety and considering that traffic congestion is less now due to schools' summer recess. Mike will get input from his managers and Chris will follow up with Ogden Park's ground staff to insure field preparation would be completed early enough before a decision to change start times would be made.

6. **Bats**

After discussion about legal vs. illegal bats, and to clarify the current WSSA manual language, the board approved the following:

1.7.1 Bats - A legal bat requires a USA Softball (formerly ASA) certification stamp or is approved by Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) and may not have a BPF of more than 1.21. A bat not approved by USA Softball or one that has been altered will be illegal. The use of such a bat during a game will result in the ejection of the player from the game and the team penalized with an out. Additional penalties may follow at the discretion of the division president.

Each division may elect to play with bats that fall below the 1.21 BPF certification. No division can play a bat that exceeds the above BPF. Here are the approved bat certifications for each division;

Coastal - USA/ASA Sticker and/or 1.20 (not USSSA)

Legacy - USA/ASA Sticker or 1.20 & 1.21 (not USSSA)

Atlantic - USA/ASA Sticker or 1.20 & 1.21 (not USSSA)

7. **Field Condition**

There was discussion about an unsafe condition of the batter's box at Olsen Park and Mike Gallagher will draft and send email to Walter to be forward to Andrea Talley (City Parks) requesting assistance in correcting the situation.

Gary along with Skip Flynn reported that the yellow and green outfields at Ogden Park have holes in the outfield which are large and deep enough to cause concern. They may be there intentionally created by other leagues to indicate positioning for young outfielders. Andy Johnson will be contacted and made aware of the situation with a request from WSSA that the holes be filled.

8. **Shark's Night/Annual Picnic**

Joe Newcomb provided information he received regarding group/team night pricing for tickets/food options. The board discussed the possibility of a WSSA night at an upcoming Shark's home game with Walter following up on ticket/meal packages.

The topic of using the annual WSSA picnic to commemorate WSSA's 25 year anniversary was discussed. Walter volunteered to contact the city parks department for date/shelter availability (late August/September) and for pricing information.

9. Women's Practice/Tryouts

Information about a women's division under the WSSA umbrella has been posted on the association's website. The board discussed preparations for the upcoming sessions (June 11, 18 & 25) from 6-8 pm at Roland Grise Park. To-date, 32 women have expressed interest in joining. Tony has packaged kits for the sessions which include masks, strike mat, first-aid kit, balls, etc.

10. Miscellaneous

A. Advertising - Dave stated that he has received another invoice from the Star-News for WSSA advertising which he will pay as it's believed to be for digital on-line service and in keeping with the total amount paid previously. Joe will research for the original pricing email information and forward to Dave.

B. Schedule of play – Skip inquired about extending the play dates beyond what is currently in place since no more rain dates are built into the schedule. Tony indicated that since Coastal is returning to a 4-team format, he has revised and posted his division's schedule. Skip will get Legacy manager input about schedule revisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Kohunsky
WSSA Secretary & Procurement Officer