

## WSSA BOD MEETING MINUTES

9 April, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1201 PM on this date at the Break Time Grille, Wilmington, NC. There was a quorum as all BOD members were in attendance.

The Minutes from the 21 March, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Mike Abernathy noted for the record that the BOD had earlier, by E mail vote compiled by the Commissioner, approved the slate of Legacy managers: Legends – Jim Myers, Carolina Bay- Dwight Crainshaw. Champions= Mike Fleming and Jiffy Lube – Tom Howley. It was also noted for the record that an independent audit of the WSSA financial books was conducted by Jerry Dowling and Dick Reitzke and all appeared to be in order.

It was noted that Atlantic Division still had three players who were drafted who have not yet paid their League entry fees and Legacy Division has four players in that same category. All Coastal layers who were drafted are current with their fees. Division Presidents were urged to secure payments before League play. It was also reiterated that for liability purposes, no one can take the field in a game or practice until they have filled out and signed the required Registration Form. All new / returning player applicants who were not part of the original draft will be placed on a “reserve” list for placement in the league once league play starts.

Gary Kohunsky provided a “lessons learned” synopsis of this year’s Spring training and recruitment process. A copy of that handout is attached to these minutes. Gary pointed out that the league set up a table at last year’s Wilmington Senior Expo in October at the Convention Center. During that Expo, 22 new recruits expressed interest in joining the league in 2018. All of those interested were contacted before this year’s Spring Training started yet none attended or joined the league. Emphasis was also placed on good communications and timely decisions on placing players early-on during Spring Training. We had 47 new applicants at the start of Spring Training. We ended with 32 who stayed of which 9 were placed in the Atlantic Division and 6 in coastal and 17 in Legacy. This included the placement of two women in Legacy. It was stated that a decision on the number of players to be placed on each team in each league needs to be made early-on and agreed to with all Managers well before the draft starts in the future. It was also agreed to that the schedule needs to be reviewed at years end for further refinement for next year. The BOD should look at possibly moving the season back to start later and extend league play into late October thus taking into account better weather conditions (high Heat and rain issues/ cancellations).

Legacy Division will start the season with the 1-1 count on every batter and there will be no overrun of second or third base. For both the Legacy and Atlantic Divisions, the first foul ball on a third strike will not be considered an out unless it is caught by a fielder. A subsequent foul ball will be considered an out. Legacy Division teams with women on the roster may field 12 players but the 12<sup>th</sup> position can only be played by a woman and that position is to be between first base and second base. This allows the woman the best advantage to throw the ball to either base. Coastal will also employ the no-overrun rule at the start of the schedule and will evaluate it on 8 June. Additionally, Coastal teams CANNOT have a substitute runner for the batter currently hitting. That batter MUST run for themselves

from home plate. A substitute runner can be provided once the batter reaches a base and is safe. All leagues will also review the standings on 8 June to evaluate whether parity was achieved in the Draft/ restructuring of the leagues. Determination will be made at that time, between League presidents and their managers, as to what, if any, corrective action should be taken for the second half of the season to achieve a good balance. All Coastal managers have agreed that they will, upon request, provide players to Legacy on game days where a Legacy team is short the required players. This will only be done in those cases when the Coastal team has more than the required number of players to field a team themselves. The Coastal managers also agreed the substitute player they provide on game day will not be the same player each time.

The BOD reiterated that the Hot Weather Rule will be enforced. It states that if the temperature is 89 degrees or below the two managers may elect to shorten the games. If the temperature is between 90-94 degrees, the games must be shortened to 5 innings or they must employ the 1-1 count. (Home teams decides on the first game, visitors on the second game. When the temperature reached 95 degrees or more, all games must stop- no further play.

The BOD approved an amendment to the League Rules, Section 1, Item 1.3- Game Time/ Time Limit. That item will now read as follows: Starting game times may be adjusted at the discretion of the Division President or his designee. The length of a game is seven (7) innings, with extra innings played until a tie is broken. A time limit of one hour and fifteen minutes will be used for each game. After one hour and five minutes has been reached, at the discretion of the umpire, he may allow the game to continue on until completion of the game or he may notify both teams that they will finish this inning and play one more additional inning. In this additional inning, each team can score an unlimited number of runs. Exception: During end of season tournament play, there is no time limit. The legacy Division may elect to shorten games by reducing innings/ or shortened time limit as needed on a game-to-game basis.

The BOD agreed that the league will pay for all scorebooks out of league general operating funds at the start of the season.

All Sponsors for Atlantic Division are current in their payments. In the Coastal Division, last year's sponsor Pinpoint will be reimbursed \$450 as the league has downsized the number of teams in the League from 13 to 12 and Pinpoint is no longer a full sponsor of a team in the league.

Walt Aaron indicated that he is still in need of umpires for games as he would like to have a "reserve" list to fill in when regular umpires may have other commitments and cannot cover a game. It was agreed to that if a player is ejected for cause in the first of the two games played each day, that player can return to play the second game. If there are conflicts or disagreements during a game, the umpire will only deal with the managers to adjudicate. Players are not to be involved in such discussions. All games are scheduled to last 1 hour and 15 minutes. Umpires are to be instructed that at 1 hour and 05 minutes into a game, they are to make a judgement call as to whether they believe that a full game can be completed within the remaining 15 minutes. If not, the umpire is to inform the opposing teams that they are entering into the last inning of play. It was also agreed to that all game cancellations due to field conditions must occur/ be posted on the web site at least 90 minutes before the schedule start of the game.

At the end of the season, the BOD will meet and discuss how to handle late payments of league fees by players. Discussion centered around establishing a firm date for receipt of the players funds and

application. Any receipt payment after that firm (TBD) date would be subject to a late (TBD) payment fee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 PM.

Skip Flynn

WSSA League Secretary