

District 4 Board Meeting
11/11/09

Meeting called to order at 7pm

Veterans Day:

Thank you to veterans who served our country and gave us the right to meet as a little league organization.

Presentations:

1st presentation by Rick Minchelli with MacGregor. They manufacturer their own products and also bring products in. They manufacture their own baseballs and offer big savings over bigger names. Shipping policy is 5-7 days. Largest supply of Majestic products and also carry Majestic in stock. Also carry MLB brand and can customize hats. They make their own helmets and are priced better than Louisville. They also make everything for fields as well and will come down to your field for a presentation at your request. Will also come to your board meeting and give a presentation and pricing as well. Question about the company offering “kickbacks?” Question answered with a no and went on to say the fundraising would be the only way to make money. Compared to Elmwood pricing will be beat. The catalog that was handed out is a guideline and he will work with you on prices. He believes that his baseball pricing is comparable to the Diamond baseball and will hold up next to any. Different grades of leather but his Macgregor RST 76-C ball is the top of the line ball. He will provide sample balls if anyone would like some.

2nd Presentation:

Ed Tupper from All for One Photo, which is a Youth, sports Photo Company. Offers many products including; glow in the dark products, 3D magazine covers, magnetic picture frames, customized plaques and dog tags to name a few. Company offers programs to make picture day hassle free. They can do a green screen indoors with home field or outdoor pictures. Offers on-line ordering and also offers an on-line scheduler that coaches can go onto and choose their team’s time slot. They will provide posters to hang at fields as reminders to parents. On the actual picture day they will staff a coordinator to help things run smoothly. They do BCI checks on all employees. Will give 10 free memory mates for hardship families. Partnered with ESPN and offer products with the ESPN logo. Turn-a-round time is 14 days. Customer service is good and an on-line survey is offered after picture day. 100% satisfaction guarantee. Will give 1 sponsor or coach plaque. Each coach gets 2 free team pictures at no charge. Fundraising available and for every package you can get up to \$4 back. They also offer a raffle option for Wide World of Sports. They will also sponsor a team. No leagues in our district now. Pricing can be provided if you need it.

Special Guest:

John Pesaturo-District 1 administrator.

Treasurer report:

Audit of District 4 was completed and no irregularities were found. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jack Kempf with a 2nd by John Sharkey. The motion was voted on and approved.

E-Mail:

This year e-mailing will be used to send documents for the meeting and will be sent prior to the meeting.

The district budget was increased this year because of The International Congress. Trimming of the budget was possible because of the money saved on the pins. There will be no change in dues because the safety plans were in by 4/1. Also, Pat received \$350 from Williamsport and because of this there will be no increase in dues. \$750 left in account from previous years. Please complete survey and e-mail back or hand them in tonight. This survey is for Presidents and district staff only. Majority will rule on survey. Ok to talk to your board about it ahead of time for their opinion.

Concepts to approve or disapprove:

- Pool play
 - All Star Opening day format
 - Crossover games at neutral site
 - Crossover games at a single site
 - District finals at neutral site
 - Creation of tournament of champions, which would consist of all 1st place reg. season, teams against every other 1st place team. Issue for this tournament would be when this could be held. Other issues would be all-star players would not be able to play due to all star commitment.
 - A Non-competitive tournament for leagues for those not participating in all-stars.
- All above needs to be approved or disapproved before decisions can be made.

All-Stars:

Right now the target date to start All-Stars is on or around Monday June 28th. Could start on 26th and then you could do tournament of champions prior to that. This still would not address getting more kids to play throughout the summer.

Waivers:

Need a request waiver from Bristol to hold all-star games at all of our district fields. Some fields are short fields. What we have asked in past is for presidents to sign letter to send to Bristol so that everyone can play at everyone's field with no protests.

Clinics:

If anyone would like a clinic call Jack Kempf. Jack holds a very good clinic.

State meeting:

Was held on 9/29 and the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the creation of a constitution so that all leagues are on the same page.

Softball report:

Regional advisory meeting was attended by Jenn who went to pitch the girl's tournament to be held in Bristol instead of Albany, NY. Committee was formed and committee meetings will be help via e-mail. Committee will be coming up with a formal presentation to be sent to The International Congress in Lexington, Kentucky. Pat feels that by 2011 this could happen. If it's not ready then Central Connecticut Could be used which has same facilities as Bristol. Kudos to Jenn for her part in making this happen! The 9-10's to be a test for hosting regional tournament for baseball and softball. The thought would be to give Albany the softball tournament for 9/10's to make up for losing the other tournament.

9/10's World Series Tournament:

Steve Keener wants to hold a 9/10 World Series tournament. There will be a 2010 regional 9/10 tournament. 2 other leagues have shown interest. East region has stated that they will not do a baseball tournament if we don't do one for softball. Regional tournament for 9/10 will probably start 7/31 and finish 8/7. Usually we start this group later so district 9/10's will need to start the same time as the major's start. Will also need to have state tournament done early so there is going to be a shift in the calendar. Pat has senior softball division now. It is always hard to find host sites for senior division. If anyone wants to host 9/10 baseball please let Pat know. This would be a 4-team tournament so lights are not needed.

League Meeting:

Pat has decided to give a new presidents a "how to run your league" meeting. This meeting will be held on 12/6 at 9am – 1pm at the parks and rec. dept. in Central Falls. Will go through nuts and bolts of running your league. Can accommodate 20-30 people. Any veteran presidents can come and participate if they would like. Player agents and board members also welcome and player agents especially should attend.

Safety Plans:

Safety plans are getting in but need to make sure that all leagues are adhering to their safety plans. E-mail Pat the location of all of your fields and he will do a walk-through of all fields. Pat also needs to do league visits and meet with the board. Please let Pat know when he can attend your meeting.

9/10's boys and girls tournament-comment from John Sharkey to be careful what you wish for because that trip needs immediate fundraising of around \$10,000. You may want to prepare for this with your budget.

Pat commented that they are trying to find ways to cut down the time of tournament to defray the costs. Double headers, double elimination, pitch counts; eliminating pool play could be ways of cutting down the time. Chris Dandeneau brought up concern of changing the pitch count being bad for the players.

Fundraising:

Players can only participate in one league fundraiser. State fund is funded by a player tax per player per league. Doing this statewide would provide a pool of money to help travel teams at end of year. This would be a state fund and not a district fund.

Appointment of Managers for next year:

At end of season someone took championship team to Hooters. President wants to know what recourse does he have in disciplining the manager. Pat says not to nominate that manager for another team the following year. President has a very crucial role in this and the by-laws should spell this out. You cannot tell the individual why they are not being appointed. Insurance will fully cover you if you DO NOT tell the person why they are not being re-appointed. When you give them a reason you will be in violation of little league rules and your insurance will not cover you. As president do not nominate that person to manage again and do not tell them why.

Re-draft:

This will be getting voted on at congress and probably will be passed. Auctions cannot be used-do not do it!

Allowing 3 coaches in the dug out is coming back.

Tournament Directors:

Pat will hold a meeting for tournament directors so that they are aware of the rules for their tournament. Pitch count rules are especially important and need to be learned and enforced.

Big League:

Now have the capability of having a Big League at the district level. Now we can have senior league on district level. What that means is all 6 leagues can have a super all-star team from the district.

New rules:

Everyone should have a copy.

Floor opened for questions:

Every illegal pitch is now considered a pitched ball.

Alcohol-can't be consumed or present at any field.

Last year there was a situation of a protest so Bristol had to be called. The new rule is if anyone calls and complains then there must be an investigation and penalties will be handed down if applicable.

There is talk of making tournament rules and regular season rules the same. This issue will be coming to congress as well.

Other:

- John Sharkey wants to see safety rule on catchers standardized. The rule is that you must be dressed for in field and out field drills.
- Insurance will be invalid if LL safety rules are not being followed. Insurance expires when a player's season is over. Non-players can't practice on all-star teams if they are not on the roster. Training and development teams can't play all-star team.
- Waivers- please use them because you can get a lot done through a waiver.
- Inter play for both majors and seniors-e-mail Pat if you are interested.
- Luis Santiago took baseball equipment to Dominican Republic last year and would like to do it again this year. Pat told Luis he will try to get every league to donate a dozen baseballs to this cause although any donation would be accepted. Please mention this cause at your general meeting.
- The Burriville tournament that stopped running due to the retirement of the director is coming back this year.

Meeting adjourned 9pm.