

# Softball Public Meeting Minutes April 6, 2008

Softball board members present: Jeff Delisle, Madonna Rykken, Chris Howells, Barb Johnson, Cyndi Mee.

Executive board members present: Mark Peller, Chris Rooney, Randy Geister, Rachelle Goodin, Dave Jelle.

Parents present: Gary Lattery, Tom Borchart, Wayne Doherty, Mary Busse, Brad Busse, Pat Collins, Bruce Zupan, Beth Vaughan, Dan Buhmann, Mike Perry, Barb Everson, Stacy Peterson, Cindy Sudlow, Mary Hennen, Scott Christensen, Eric Vlasin, Janet Blanshan

## **Coaches Clinics:**

Coaches seemed to think it was worth it. Jeff stated that coaches can do other levels of certification on their own and be reimbursed or they can wait for next year to do 2<sup>nd</sup> level.

First aid classes would be better than what was offered. Chris Howells suggested going with High School Coaches and will look into this. Discussion ended.

## **Team Formation:**

Stacey Petersen asked how the 10u teams were formed. Jeff said they were formed just like all of the others. She stated that she thought that was only for three teams or more and that two teams were supposed to be split evenly. Chris H. corrected her that it is optional with two teams to be split to best advantage after try-outs are complete. She was concerned about pitching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10u team. **Jeff informed her there were two pitchers on the team that had tried out.** Discussion ended.

## **Tournaments:**

Jeff said most coaches have turned in their requests for their tournaments and the forms and checks have been sent out already. If teams want other tournaments let him know as soon as you can. Discussion ended.

### **Laker Night:**

Gary and Barb Johnson have contacted Mary Haugen in regards to May 2<sup>nd</sup> High School game against New Prague. We should be able to have it at the Ponds 1 & 2 just like last year. We can use the hours for Volunteers or give to a team who may need the money to go to nationals. Discussion ended.

### **Rule Changes:**

Composite bats are failing tests, make sure you check sites if you have one. Parents could possibly be held responsible if their daughter is using one and another player gets hurt. PLAY has insurance for injuries but that does not mean a parent can't go after another parent personally. Chris Howells will look into umpiring rules and how they are going to call bats this year. Randy will make sure it will not affect our insurance policies if these bats are used. Discussion ended.

### **PL Tournament:**

We have 40 teams coming this year: 16 @14, 12 @ 12, 12 @10. Higher turnout may be because of national bids that are in-state. Chris that our local support of tournaments is also helping, those cities are sending their kids here. Liz Vaughan is helping co-ordinate the tournament. She has confirmed with Maui Wowi, so we will have a fun treat this year. She is also looking for some healthier items for our menu as well as the hot dogs and hamburgers. She has some options for fundraising, we will need to have them approved if only one team is doing them. She would like to know of any issues anybody had in the past that she could address before the tournament. Chris Howells and Randy figured out we might have a problem starting the tournament on Friday Night at the Pond's. They will check into it. Barb and Cyndi need to plot out volunteer time soon. Some teams would like to be free to play elsewhere if the bodies are not needed for volunteering. Some discussion on partial hours needed. Discussion ended.

Barb Everson asked if a team parent could have some of their hours excused. The Board had met earlier and started outlining a guide so we could do this for them. (not read during meeting: equipment co-ordination, volunteer co-ordination, maps to games, ice at all games and practices, co-ordinate hotels, volunteers to rake fields after practices, as needed by coach.) She also asked about her parents getting their time at the tournament. Cyndi told her if her parents wanted to contact Barb J or her that we would get them down first.

### **Playing Time Form:**

This form was given to all coaches to be read and signed at the parents meeting with their teams. Randy wanted one change to the form, "It is the policy of PLAY Softball Board". The form was read to the parents by Jeff. It can be found on the web site. Unexcused absences-clarified by Chris as when the coach is not called in advance of absence. If it is the parents choosing to miss the games and practices that will be coach discretion on playing time. DP/FLEX Player rule is on fastsports.com, coaches at higher ages should get to know this rule. For PL Tournament, if you are short because of dance you can look to other teams that are lower than your team level to fill in. Discussion ended.

### **Practice Times and Fields:**

Chris Howells has already put out a schedule for April. He cannot do anymore until he has a league schedule for the games. With the new orgmeister program coaches can go in and change their practices themselves. Fields are in short supply due to the amount of teams we have this year, so coaches are asked to keep their practices down for now. Right now there are 2 practices per day on fields. Early 6:00-7:00, Late 7:00-8:00 for the month of April. Early 6:00-7:15, Late 7:15-8:30 for May. Saturday and Sundays are wide open for practices. Coaches can have up to 1 ½ hours at a time : 9:00-7:30 on Saturdays, 12:00-7:30 on Sundays. A coach cannot hold it against a girl if she cannot practice on a Sunday. Teams can practice earlier in the day if the team can make it. Parents can now check the web site for team schedules, updates done by coaches. Most teams will have 2 games and 1 practice per week this season. Discussion ended.

### **Year Round Team:**

We are losing players to club teams at about 14% a year. We are looking at ways to keep them in our program and under PLAY. We need to have a higher commitment for this team. It is a great way to be seen by college coaches. We are looking at offering another to the PLAY Softball program. Jeff had sent a proposal to the Executive Board of PLAY to even see if this is something to go forward with. This is why Mark, Chris and Rachelle joined our meeting.

Right now we have 12 girls that should be playing 16u ball for PL on different club teams. We lost 3 14u girls this season. Chris Howells looked into how other communities form their club

teams. They are not part of their assoc. Jeff and Chris said we have several girls who would come back to the program if this was an option for them.

Jeff read the proposal he and Chris drafted.

Pat Collins voiced concern on field scheduling issues since we are already on the short side. Mary Busse asked about commitment since a lot of the better players play other sports. Jeff said he would like to have a commitment letter signed saying they would not play other traveling sports except for the High School. Mark Peller did not think that was a good idea since it could hurt other PLAY programs. Mark Peller and Chris Rooney wanted to know if the High School Coach had something we could work with. High School coach is not involved with this program at this time. Stacey Petersen thought we had many other issues that needed to be solved before we start looking at how to keep a few of the girls here. Barb asked how many outside girls would be allowed on the team. Jeff said he would like to see the team be all from PL but if that couldn't happen he wanted no more than 3 to come from the outside. Rachelle Goodin asked how we as a board feel about this. Madonna and Barb said that this was the first some of the board members had been able to look at the proposal. Rachelle suggested we meet as a board and get a vote down and then approach the Executive Board again. She also wanted to let Jeff know that he is doing a good job and that our program should know that we are one of the only programs to allow the public in the meeting room. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

### **Team Formation:**

Pat Collins brought up team formation questions during year round team discussion. He thought we were taking too much time to make the program better for a few instead of looking things that went wrong this year and fixing them for next year. His major question was on placement for pitchers and catchers on teams. The top 12 team has 4 catchers and none of them were offered to play lower and have more catching time. Jeff said he contacted the people that they could. Pat Collins and Mary Hennen stated that we should, as a program, be working for all the girls' development not just the girls who work outside of the program. Chris said we try but the truth is that girls who do put effort in outside will have better try-outs.

Madonna stated that we talked about how teams were going to be formed for 6 months before finally taking a vote. If parents want more input we need to have more parents at the meetings.

Barb stated that we used to hear that the coaches picked their teams and didn't give a fair chance to girls they didn't like. We kept coaches out this year and only had four people form

the teams with a guideline that had been voted on and posted to the web page. There were obviously some flaws here too, but we can only keep listening and trying to do our best. Barb Everson that was what she thinks most people want to hear "We're trying".

Stacey Petersen wanted to know if there was any way that stat's could be part of the process for next year. Jeff said we could look into that too. This discussion ended when we went back to the year round team discussion.

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