

January 15, 2013 NSS Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members in attendance: Dave Janda, Steve Quinn, Chuck Grubb, Mert Opfer, Dennis Steinhauser, Duke Burgess, Greg West, Ron Hager and Roberta Steinhauser (Secretary).

Update on LaVista Complex contract – Steve NSS paid \$200 per Team last year for the fields for 2 nights a week. (\$3,520 total paid last year.) La Vista field summer league fees for 2013 will be \$300 per Team and \$400 per Team for next year. (All other Leagues are paying \$400 per Team in 2013.) We paid \$110 last year per fall Team- played 13 weeks. This will go up to \$150 per Team. LaVista has high regards for our Team league. There is no contract. We have first right of refusal for a third field. LaVista will get back with Steve on a reduced rate for the morning league. (\$200 per Team might be reasonable) Steve addressed Concession stand availability for all NSS games. LaVista acknowledged the concession stand is under contract to remain open for all games. The defibrillator can be left in the concession stand. Someone on the Board needs to have a key to the concession stand if needed. Motion made to stay with the LaVista fields and absorb costs this year. NSS Board will evaluate an increase in Registration Fees next year. All members voted in favor of this motion.

Player Survey – Chuck - 114 responses out of 170 - 175 emails **Survey Results:**

1. In 2013, how do you prefer designating the batter's box for league games?
 - 68.4% - Continue using the green mats
 - 31.6% Return to chalk outlines designating the batters box
2. For 2013, which scoring method would you prefer to use for league games?
 - 63.2% - Existing method of scoring where a team may go "5 over" if they are behind
 - 36.8% - Changes to a maximum of 5 runs per inning, (except the unlimited LAST inning), regardless of the score
3. In 2013, if TWO leagues are available, which playing description BEST fits your registration intent?
 - 2.6% - Play in the morning league only
 - 72.8% - Play in the NSS evening league only
 - 24.6% - Play in both leagues

(Dave Banghart requested approval to provide another questionnaire to league members to provide information about the morning league. Consensus for Dave to proceed sending a questionnaire via an email to league members and report results of the questionnaire back to the Board.)

4. What age group should be permitted to use the Miken Ultra II and other high tech bats?
 - 62.3% - Players 70 years of age and over
 - 14.9% - Players 65 years of age and over
 - 4.4% - Players 60 years of age and over
 - 5.3% - All players in the league
 - 13.2% - No players in the league should use these bats
5. How often should NSS conduct a player draft for new teams?
 - 48.2% - Every 3 years
 - 44.7% - Every 2 years, 7% - Every Year
6. In 2013, what base path length should the league use as our standard?

- 65.8% - Stay with the current 65' base path length
- 34.2% - Change to a 70' base path length
- 7. In 2013, what should the league use as our approved pitching arc?
 - 59.6% - Stay with the current 6 – 12' pitching arc
 - 40.4% - Change to a 6 – 10' pitching arc
- 8. In the event of an odd number of teams in 2013, what scheduling preference would you choose?
 - 52.6% - Schedule doubleheaders to ensure all teams play each night of the schedule
 - 47.4% - Schedule 'byes' (one team does not play) on an equal and rotating basis
- 9. If the heat index is forecasted to exceed acceptable standards, what should the league do in regards to the games scheduled for that day's play?
 - 48.2% - Cancel ALL games scheduled for the evening
 - 23.7% – Cancel ONLY the earlier games and play those scheduled when the heat index is within an acceptable range
 - 28.1%- Play ALL games by delaying the start time by 1 or 2 hours when the heat index is within an acceptable range

2013 Schedule – Dennis We will follow last years schedule to start. 16 teams are anticipated for scheduling for 4 games a night per field. We are scheduling for an April 22nd start date for league games, ending on July 17th. 2 divisions – 22 games estimated (excluding tournament games). Teams will start with 12 players. Players registering after April 10th will be pool players until an opening arises to fill players on teams due to injuries. (192 players for 16 Teams is projected. Last year we gained 23 players ending at 179) Tournament dates will be determined BEFORE the schedule is posted. We will know the number of Teams by April 10th. This will provide members a 3 month notice for tournament dates. Recommendation made to eliminate rainout dates and move Tournament start date up. Tournament would start on 7/24/13. Motion made to eliminate the rain dates for spring league. All board members voted in favor of this motion.

Rule changes:

1. II Qualifications (2.Skill Qualifications a.b.c.d.) - Player capability assessment. Motion made to make try out rules apply to all new players coming into the league in order to be considered for the draft. If they do not pass the qualifications, they will be refunded their registration fee. All Board Members voted in favor of this motion.
2. III Registration. Clarifications approved by the Board. "Deadlines will be established by the Board, each season. Returning players must meet this deadline or will become a Pool Player until a suitable vacancy occurs on a team. New players who register after this deadline will be entered as a Pool Player for a minimum of two games to determine their player skills. Pool Players will be assigned to a team to fill existing vacancies only based on Board decisions. Attempts will be made to match Pool Players' skills to existing vacancies.
3. IV Playing Field (8. Pitching Screen) Duke to draft recommendations and send to Greg. (Board consensus : "pitchers must stand behind the screen after the ball is pitched or the umpire will call it an illegal pitch and a warning that the screen must be properly used.") The Board had extensive discussion on this item.

4. VI The Game (1. Umpires) ok as recommended "The Umpires assigned to work NSS games are responsible for knowing all rules associated with Nebraska Senior Softball and are considered representatives of the league and as such they are authorized and required to enforce each and every section and part of the Official ASA Rulebook, as modified by NSS Rules and Guidelines."
5. VIII Competition Procedures (5.Pool Players, 6. Player Draft System) Board tabled discussion on this until the next meeting. Duke to email the statistical model spreadsheet to Board members for discussion at next meeting.
6. Replacement players. Availability? Available pool players? Leaving game for their own game? Injuries requiring a replacement player? Borrowed catchers? Board tabled discussion on this until the next meeting.
7. Heat index and game cancellations. Why cancel all games? Survey indicated to keep current heat index provisions for cancellation of games.
8. Home and Visitor by coin flip? No- Board approved to retain Home and Visitor designation determined by the Schedule.
9. Mats. Continue to use them? Yes as determined by the player survey to keep the mats.
10. Five run rule. Move to tournament style of play? No- survey indicated to stay with the existing rule for summer. Motion made to stay with the existing run rule for the summer and in the fall test the new rule. All Board members were in favor of this motion.
11. Board members as managers? Non-issue documented in rules now.
12. Enforcement of uniform wear? Section IX 4. Move this to guidelines.
13. Scoring plate versus scoring line. Decision to "Leave as is" – no change
14. Base path at 65 versus 70 feet. Survey indicated no change – leave base path at 65.

2013 Draft Proposal – Duke

How do we handle the odd number of players during draft? 12 players will be assigned to the Teams. Draft proposal to state process that will be followed to handle 13 players.

How to handle last year's Pool Players in this draft? Item will be deferred for discussion at the next meeting.

How will 'Permanent Pool Players' be assigned to teams? – Players to be assigned to meet permanent vacancies only. Will try to match abilities of losing and gaining player. Duke will make a proposal to Ron Hager for joint consensus on these decisions.

Update on status of umpires – Greg talked to Kevin Vann and discussed expectations for umpires going forward. Kevin indicated he was willing to be umpire in chief to organize umpires for the summer league. Greg requested to meet with the umpires.

Update of Morning League – Dave Banghart . Scheduled agenda item for next meeting.

2013 Budget planning – members to provide Mert with forecasted expenses- Mert to use \$24 per game for umpire fees for the proposed budget. Board to discuss umpire fees at future meeting.

Manager Responsibilities – Chuck will review posted document on website.

Equipment Update – Dave J. Dennis will let Dave know the number of games that are projected to factor for the number of balls to be ordered. Dave requested to get 3 competing bids. Seek discount with offer to place their logo on our website. Dave got a license plate for the mat cart identifying “Nebraska Senior Softball”. Chuck will solicit interest for league members to build new scoreboards.

Update on AED – Chuck scheduled training for April 10th for defibrillator and CPR training for general information. This training should be mandatory for Board Members and Managers.

Job Descriptions on web site – Chuck offered his assistance to help Board Members in creating their job description.

Managers that do not play – Motion made to not charge a Registration Fee for a Manager that is not playing. League will cover the cost of the shirt. All Board members were in favor and approved this motion.

2013 League Calendar

League Survey	1/4/13 – 1/14/13
Registration-Summer League	2/1/13 - 4/1/13
New Player/Draft League Practices	4/3, 4/8, 4/10, 4/15
Defibrillator and CPR training	4/10
Draft Night	4/15/13
League Scrimmage Games	4/17/13
Summer League Play Dates	4/22 - 7/17/13
Tournament Games	7/24/13 -
Registration-Fall League	tbd
General League Meeting/Picnic	tbd
Fall League Play Dates	tbd

Next meeting will be held Feb 12th – same place. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Chuck's Marketing Report:

NEW BUSINESS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Defibrillator Training: Initial/refresher training on the use of the defibrillator and basic CPR methods will be on Wednesday, April 10th, 2013 at the LaVista sports complex. Training is highly recommended for all managers, board members, and any other interested players.

Choice Hotel Partnership Reminder: NSS has entered into a partnership, at no cost, with Choice Hotels. Players, family members, and friends now may book rooms at any Choice Hotel at rates 15% less than the Best Available Rate. This is often at or below rates established for organizations like AARP and AAA. To book a room, go to the NSS website and click the ad on the left side showing all of the Choice Hotel logos. Reservations may also be made by calling 1-877-424-6423 and providing our special organizational rate ID: 00228550

Information Fair: Planning stage for an information fair for players and family members related to personal health, finance, and other important topics. Use forum to showcase our Corporate Sponsors. Free food, door prizes, entertainment, etc. Committee will be formed to assist. Need ideas for appropriate and meaningful presentation topics.

Indoor Winter Practice and Conditioning: Nebraska Senior Softball has struck a deal with the Ultimate Baseball Academy (UBA) to use their facility each Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon for indoor practice. The fee per session is \$5.00 (cheaper than last year!). UBA is located just north of 120th and L Street on the west side of 120th. The actual address is: **4225 S. 121st Plz**

2013 Player Survey: Survey results are included in the NSS Jan Board Minutes and posted on the website on 1/15/13 under League News.

Papillion Days Parade: Application turned in to the city of Papillion for our participation in the annual parade on Saturday, June 15th. Players and family members interested in walking the route should contact Chuck within the next few months.

2013 Marketing and Event Calendar:

~~12/11/12 – NSS Monthly Social, LaVista Keno~~
~~1/14/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD~~
2/14/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD
Mar 2013 – Information Fair
3/11/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD
3/16/13 – Summer Recreation Fair, Westroads Mall
4/8/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD
x/xx/13 – Opening Day!
5/25/13 – LaVista Daze Parade
6/15/13 – Papillion Days Parade
8/xx/13 – Night Out with the Stormchasers
TBD – NSS 2nd Annual Golf Tournament
TBD – 2013 NSS Awards and Recognition Banquet