



NSS Board Meeting

January 18, 2022

Attendance:

Board Members			
x	Rick DuVall	Rusty Jensen	x
x	Alan Hardt	Terry Hovorka	x
x	Roger Clapper	Bryan Galloway	x
x	Bob Dalziel	Dave Sanderson	x
Others in Attendance			
x	Kathleen DuVall	Tom Holder	x
x	Mert Opfer	Mark Opfer	X
X	Ed Tworek	Pat Boland	X
x	John Czuva		

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the December meeting minutes was made by Terry, seconded by Rusty and approved by all in attendance.

New Business:

Equipment Use by Friday Morning League - Mert Opfer

Mert was attending as a representative of the Friday Morning League. He had heard that the FML would be charged for use of the NSS equipment. They appreciate that they have been able to use it without cost in the past. While Ron Franck was at the last meeting to discuss the Tuesday Morning League, this was not discussed within the Board.

Bob recommended that the FML pay a prorated fee based on the number of games they play vs. what NSS plays in relationship to the budgeted amount for the year. Bob will determine the price and will email to the Board for approval.

Pat and John were in attendance as representatives of the Tuesday Morning League and were pleased with the Board's willingness to help by not charging them for the first year, should their league come to fruition.

Late Game Start - Ed Tworek

Ed questioned whether the topic of late players in the final game of the night. This was a topic that was discussed at the August 3, 2021 Board meeting with the decision being that the Board agreed to allow the games to be delayed while waiting for players from other fields.

NSS Golf Tournament - Gary Kruse via printed document

Rick passed around information from Gary outlining the history of the golf tournament that was created based on information he received about concerns that the league is not receiving any of the proceeds. Gary is asking whether NSS will still support the tournament. After discussion around communication, transparency, tax implications and sponsorship, the Board agreed to review this item again at the February meeting to give the members time to consider. Rick to communicate this to Gary.

Old Business:

Batting Mats

(From last month: Terry is going to review to see what the dimensions are and whether the mats conform, then report back at the January meeting.)

The mats are supposed to be 36 inches and he did find one that was 35.75 inches. Width was the only issue raised so he did not measure the length as they matched the batters box. The Board agreed that there is no issue with the existing mats.

Player Evaluation Committee and the moving of players down in ranking and moving players only 1 round

Rusty believes that the Committee is functioning as designed. In two seasons, only about 10 players have been moved, some up and some down. The intent was that they would only move egregious differences and there were few as the draft was good.

The consensus of the Board is that the Committee is doing what they were tasked to do and that it is making the league better.

Pitching Screen Rules and Penalties

Terry provided several examples of rules and recommended that NSS adopts the same rule as used by the Friday Morning League. All members agreed that the batter should not be penalized if they hit the screen.

Bob made a motion to accept the Friday Morning League rules and Dave seconded. All members were in favor and the motion passed. Please see Addendum A for the rule that will be included in the next version of the Rule Book.

Director Updates:

Rules & Umpires - Terry Hovorka

Terry has been working to find additional umpires. Most of the leagues are paying their umpires more than what NSS is so if there is an increase, that would need to be taken into account in the budget.

Terry will continue to follow up on the currently identified resources.

Field Operations - Roger Clapper

No updates on the fields as it is off season.

Roger wondered if the concession stand would be opening up again. He was directed to check with the City of LaVista.

The pitching rubbers need to be evaluated on all of the fields as it is believed that 2 of the 3 fields need to have it buried. Roger to follow up with LaVista.

Scheduling - Dave Sanderson

Dave distributed an analysis and proposed dates for 2022. This is not a final schedule but a straw model for the Board to look at as it will need to be finalized next Board Meeting. Dave will use this straw model to put a tentative schedule out on the NSS website.

Survey results indicated that the majority want to have a full league tournament. Rick proposed that there be a single elimination tournament for both seasons and it was seconded by Alan. Rick, Alan, Terry, Bob and Dave were in favor. Rusty, Bryan and Roger were opposed as they preferred double elimination. The motion carried.

Finance & Registration - Bob Dalziel

Bob presented a proposed budget based on input from the Directors and in comparison of the previous two years, with consideration being given to the one-season Covid year.

The Board agreed that there would be a minimum amount that should be in the bank at the end of the year and empowered Bob to create a budget to meet that limit.

The Board agreed that there would be an early registration period. Fees paid after the end of early registration would be assessed a \$20 differential. At the end of the full registration period, any player who does not pay their fees will also pay the \$20 differential but would also be deemed a pool player.

PayPal will be sending the league a 1099 this year, meaning that the league may need to pay taxes. Bob asked if becoming a 501(c)3 would be in the league's interest. Alan has a lawyer acquaintance that he will ask for more information.

Marketing, Publicity, & Communications - Bryan Galloway

Bryan is preparing for the registration communications and working with Chuck Cantoya on changes on the NSS website.

Bryan sent out a survey about Werner Park and Storm Chasers and received 79 responses. The tally as 73% voted yes, 14% voted maybe and the rest voted no. Rick will take this information back to the Storm Chasers to see about getting something scheduled. He will communicate it to Bryan to get it out to the league.

Player Personnel - Rusty Jensen

Please see Addendum B for the results of the player survey.

Due to the cost of the Papio Center, the short supplemental draft will be held elsewhere. Rusty still looking for a venue. Dave volunteered that the Mainelli Center at St. Robert Bellarmine Church is a possibility. There would be no charge, they have audio/visual capabilities and Dave will check to see availability on 7 April and 4 August. Alan indicated that New Cassel's auditorium might be a possibility if those dates are not available at St. Roberts.

Once the supplemental draft is held at the new venue, a decision will be made on whether to continue with using the Papio Center for the full draft.

Purchasing & Inventory - Alan Hardt

Alan is working with Central States around the cost for jerseys. The new players and those going back into the draft will be assessed \$35 to pay for their jersey.

The Board agreed that the league will no longer buy new hats each year. Only new players will get a hat.

Review of the Parking Lot for Next Month

Items deferred from previous meetings that are scheduled to be on the February agenda:

- Review the replacement player rule where the player being replaced is long-term/full season.
- Discussion around how to modify the tournament seeding if there is an odd number of teams.
- Placement of the commitment line at 30 feet
- Substitution Rule
- Date of the 2022 Banquet

Adjournment

Dave made the motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Rusty. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:41PM.

Next meetings:

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Tuesday, April 16, 2022

All meetings held at 6:00 PM at Sean O'Casey's - 2523 S 140th Ave, Omaha, NE unless otherwise noted.

All players are encouraged to attend the Board meetings. If you want to attend and have a specific topic, please email the League Secretary at kkduvall24@gmail.com to be included on the agenda.

Addendum A

Pitching Screen Rules and Penalties

The pitching screen shall be placed at a distance not to exceed 6' forward of the pitching rubber, and offset laterally to the pitcher's glove side no more than 6" to the inside of the pitching rubber.

Use of the pitching screen is not mandatory. If a pitcher uses the screen; after delivery, the pitcher must move entirely behind the pitching screen and remain entirely behind the screen until the ball is hit by the batter.

The pitcher must be entirely behind the pitching screen before attempting to field a batted ball. Failure to do so will result in the following progressive penalties:

- a. The first time will be a warning.
- b. The second time will result in a ball being called by the umpire.
- c. The third and subsequent times will result in an intentional walk, with any base runners advancing as a result.
- d. If the ball is hit by the batter, the batter will have the option of the result of the play or an intentional walk, whichever is greater.

Any batted ball hitting the pitching screen will be declared a dead ball, no pitch count change. Thrown or kicked balls hitting the screen will be treated as live balls. Umpires, managers, and board members shall be diligent in the call and enforcement of this rule.

Addendum B

Player Survey Responses

Question 1 (142 answers)

Should ALL pitchers be REQUIRED to use a pitching screen?

Yes - 35 (24.6%)

No - 107 (75.4%)

Question 2 (139 answers)

Should the NSS league split into upper/lower tier leagues?

Yes - 36 (25.9%)

No - 103 (74.1%)

Question 3 (141 answers)

To ump our league, do you prefer:

Professional umpires - 91 (64.5%)

League players - 12 (8.5%)

A mix of the two - 38 (27.0%)

Question 4 (139 answers)

For the next full draft (2023), should we use Throwback (vintage) team designs (if available) for our jerseys or should we continue with modern day team designs?

Throwback - 68 (48.9%)

Modern day - 71 (51.1%)

Question 5 (144 answers)

How many years should teams stay together? We currently change every two years.

One - 14 (9.7%)

Two - 114 (79.2%)

Three - 16 (11.1%)

Question 6 (143 answers)

Should the league (NSS) adjust the max (105 degrees) or min (40 degrees) "Real-Feel" temperatures for league play?

Max only - 11 (7.7%)

Min only - 8 (5.6%)

Both - 37 (25.9%)

No, the temps are good - 87 (60.8%)

Question 7 (142 answers)

For the playoffs, do you prefer...

A four team playoff - 15 (10.6%)

Single elimination tourney for all teams - 55 (38.7%)

Double elimination tourney for all teams - 60 (42.3%)

Both A and B - 12 (8.5%)

Question 8 (141 answers)

Should the Replacement Player Rule (like for like minus 1 round or minus 3 runs to keep a missing 1st rounder) be tweaked or is it appropriate in maintaining fairness?

Tweak - 66 (46.8%)

Appropriate - 75 (53.2%)