

Feb 7, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at Pizza Gourmet.

Board members present: Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Ed Tworek, Dick Smith, Dave Dye, Chuck Grubb and Dave Janda. Dave Banghart participated from Florida via telephone. Players present: Rod Evans, Jim Price, Lee Towle, Bill Smuck, Gary Dukat, Bill Weller, Paul Kwaak and Paul Williams.

Steve Quinn opened the meeting and thanked the players for attending.

1. **E-mail** - Steve shared with everyone an e-mail he received from Duke Burgess. Duke expressed his appreciation for how the NSS League is run. He is now spending the winter months in Arizona and had struggled to find any teams to join. Fortunately he is now playing on a couple teams a few nights a week and enjoying himself. Duke felt that the survey could have described the options better for the situation when there are an uneven number of teams (bye versus double-headers). As Duke stated *There is already a provision in our Guidelines for players who are not scheduled to play (bye) on any particular night. They will likely be able to play, assuming there are no Pool players and a team needs players.* Duke also made a suggestion in regards to the courtesy runner. Per Duke's e-mail *In one of my leagues here in Arizona, the courtesy runner rule states that you can have as many courtesy runners as desired, but the courtesy runner must be the player who made the last out. Consequently, the manager has no choice in selecting the runner. If the player who made the last out is slower, injured, or whatever, he's the player that runs. Certainly makes the team and manager think twice before putting in the courtesy runner. In most cases, it will cause the manager to consider his line-up before the game begins to ensure he has his faster runners in before the injured or slow runner, and hope that one of those fast guys makes an out before the injured/slow guy comes to bat.* As a final comment, Duke shared his concern for the Board's response to a question posted at the previous board meeting regarding the ability rules of players; that all players currently in the league can pass 3 of 4 skill levels. Due to the fact that anyone can develop a health issue during the off season it is not possible to make an accurate assessment about any player until they actually step foot on the field and can be observed. Duke is a strong advocate for annual testing of all players.

Board Responses - Dave Dye commented that in the past new players have been turned away due to concerns regarding health issues. However, players who are already in the league have been grandfathered in regardless of ability to meet all the skill levels. He is open to any suggestions of how to evaluate returning players since not all come to the pre-season practices. Also those practices are designed to focus on assessing new players; there isn't enough time to evaluate 100+ returning players. Dave Banghart suggested that returning players who

may not be able to pass 3 of the 4 skill levels may need to be re-evaluated. Dave Janda expressed concern on how to determine who those players may be. There are members of the league who play for the love of the game. It was suggested that the application form be updated with wording: *Has your health/skills changed since the last season?* Ron Kunert suggested trying to schedule in extra practices during the week. Some people have scheduling conflicts that will not allow them to make all the practices. It has been stated that as of April 1 we will have access to an extra field at LaVista, and maybe we could consider setting up some practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It was decided that this matter should have further discussion at the next board meeting.

2. **Update Website Proposal** - Steve Quinn had approached Paul Williams (software developer) if he would be interested in researching the possibilities of developing an updated version for the NSS website. Paul was able to give a quick overview of what he has come up with so far. The goal was to update and modernize the site but still keep our costs minimal. Paul explained that there are several tools which can be used. Word Press is one software used to develop websites. It is a little more sophisticated as it has a database underneath to allow archiving players list, and creating links back to prior years and review all the previous information. Initially an Administrator would be named to update current information to the website, but each board member could have their own page which they would be able to maintain themselves. Certain areas can be secured to allow only specified users to make any changes. The only fees involved would be our hosting fees which are paid through November 2011 through the current website. Chuck suggested that we move forward and set up a committee to work with Paul to develop the new site. At this time Paul can set up a new site with the basic necessary information (player registrations, teams, game standings, etc). All the other extras can be developed over the next few months. It was agreed that Paul should proceed with developing a basic structure and move forward.
3. **Survey Results** - Dave Dye has tabulated the results from the Player Survey that was sent out during the month of January. It is believed that approximately 160 invites to participate in the survey were sent out. The majority were sent via e-mail. Steve Quinn attempted to contact any players without e-mail to invite them to also participate. There were a total of 129 responses, an 80% response rate. The results will be posted on the website. The board reviewed each survey question, the response and then voted to ratify each one.

1. **League Uniforms?**

- 56.7% Replica MLB jersey similar to recent NSS seasons
- 43.3% Non-replica, upgraded fabric jerseys

Discussion - Dave Banghart felt that the jersey options were not clearly communicated in the survey. The players may not have fully realized exactly what the 2nd option would look like. He suggested that maybe

the question could be re-surveyed with more information provided. Since the jerseys cannot be ordered until after the draft has been held he has suggested that he could bring samples to the pre-season practices to allow players to get a visual of what they actually look like. However, if we offer Dave the opportunity to show his samples, we would also need to provide the same benefit to other vendors who are providing bids. Dick Smith reported that he has gotten bids from 2 local vendors and each came in at approximately \$10 less per shirt. The Board took a vote to accept survey results of Q1: 5 In favor; 1 Opposed (Dave Banghart); and 1 Abstain (Chuck Grubb). Replica MLB jersey similar to recent NSS seasons.

2. Scheduling of games in the event of an odd-number of teams?

45.7% - Double-headers (to ensure all teams play each night of the schedule)

54.3% - Schedule Byes on a rotating basis (one team does not play)

There was no additional discussion for this issue. The Board took a vote to accept survey results of Q2: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. Schedule byes on a rotating basis.

3. Allowing Team Managers to also serve on the NSS Board of Directors?

67.7% - Yes. Managers should be permitted to serve on the Board of Directors

32.3% - No. Managers should not serve on the Board of Directors.

There was no additional discussion for this issue. The Board took a vote to accept survey results of Q3: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. Managers should be permitted to serve on the Board of Directors

4. In 2010, how would you rate umpire quality in terms of their calls, technique, knowledge, etc? -

39.5% - Good

47.2% - Average

13.4% - Poor

As this was an opinion question, there was no further discussion and no vote by the Board was necessary.

5. How should team awards be issued in the 2011 season?

53.5% - Only champions of the Summer and Fall League

44.9% - Champions and runner up of the Summer and Fall League

1.6% - No response provided

There was no additional discussion for this issue. The Board took a vote to accept survey results of Q5: 7 in favor, 0 opposed. Awards will be issued to only the champions of the Summer and Fall League.

6. Limit (maximum) on the number of home runs allowed per team, per game?

34.6% - 2 Home runs

30.7% - 3 Home runs

33.1% - 4 Home runs

1.6% - No response provided

Discussion Dave Banghart noted that the results were very close, and would like the board to consider splitting the difference and allowing 3 home runs per team, per game. It was questioned why the Board would override the survey results even though they are so close. Ed Tworek advises that the Board should not go against the survey results, as these responses are the voices of the players. Dave Banghart made a motion to split the options, and allow 3 home runs per team, per game. The motion was second by Dave Janda. The Board voted 3 in favor; 3 opposed (Kunert, Tworek, Smith) and 1 abstain (Dye). In the event of a tie vote, the Commissioner casts the deciding vote. In this matter, Steve Quinn votes opposed to the motion. The motion failed 4 opposed, 3 in favor, 1 abstain. Ron Kunert then made a motion to accept the option with the highest percentage (2 home runs). The motion was second by Ed Tworek. Board members voted 4 in favor; 2 opposed (Banghart, Janda); and 1 abstain (Dye). The motion carried forward. The league will limit (maximum) 2 home runs per team, per game.

7. Courtesy runner?

26.0% - Two runners per inning; a player may run only twice per game; runners enter at 1st base only.

27.6% - Two runners per inning; a player may run only twice per game; runners can enter at any base.

16.5% - Two runners per inning; a player may run only once per game; runners can enter at any base.

28.3% - NSS board to study the rule further and provide a decision prior to the season opener.

1.6% - No response provided

There was no additional discussion for this issue. The Board took a vote to accept survey results of Q7:6 in favor, 1 opposed (Dye). The NSS board will study the rule further and provide a decision prior to the season opener.

4. **Marketing and Promotions Report** - Chuck Grubb provided details of things he has been working on:
- **Online Registration** - Electronic registration of the 2011 Summer season is underway. To date, 27 players have used the online form.
 - **PayPal** - The league's online payment option is operating perfectly. PayPal is processing bank and credit card transactions for those wishing to use this method to pay for their summer registration fees. As of February 7, 22 players have utilized the services of PayPal to make a safe and secure transaction and receive a confirmation and receipt immediately to their email address.
 - **Corporate Sponsorship** - In 2009, \$250.00 was obtained in sponsorship donations; in 2010, income from corporate donors was \$0.00. Chuck has prepared a formal Corporate Sponsorship program that consists of four levels and provides various *perks* for those businesses and individual entities who wish to be part of the NSS family. The four level system is aimed at allowing merchants to select their own level of comfort with advertising dollars and the promised delivery of services. The levels and fee structure are: Diamond League (\$300); Touch em' All (\$200); Web Gem (\$125); & RBI Club (\$50). A few benefits (varying by degree) include: Ad space in a bi-monthly publication; Sponsorship Award for display; Logo and hyperlink on NSS website; 2 to 4 tickets for attendance at the annual end-of-year awards banquet; Ad space in the award banquet player's program; 2 to 4 tickets to the NSS Night with the Omaha Stormchasers. Corporate membership under the new plan is good through April 30th, 2012. If anyone would like more information or knows of a business, regardless of size, that may wish to participate in the sponsorship program contact Chuck Grubb. Currently Chuck has secured commitments from 3 business entities for a total of \$550.
 - **Westroads Fair** - On Saturday, March 19th, from noon to 3:00 pm, Westroads Mall is having a summer recreation fair to allow organizations the opportunity to meet the public and talk about the availability of the program and/or services. Our paperwork (insurance and registration) is already submitted and approved. The plan is to have two laptops logged on to the internet and available for immediate registration and payment with PayPal. A team of 14 players has been invited to participate and talk to potential new members.
 - **Logo Development** - Chuck has taken a stab at creating a *new look* logo for the league. He hopes to have a few selections put together and share with the league for a possible vote. The winner would then be taken to a professional designer. If you are interested in seeing some of the designs that Chuck came up with, please contact him.
 - **Diamond Bits** - (mentioned earlier) Chuck has designed a format using Microsoft Publisher that will be another method of communicating with the players and families and providing a venue for softball talk, fun

article, celebrations, and miscellaneous pieces of information. The publication may be printed by will be easy to send in a high resolution file format (.pdf) to share with as many people as we wish, including other senior leagues nationwide.

- **Facebook Update** - The Facebook page has 28 *likes* which essentially means people who have added the page as a destination to their profile. Approximately 120 pictures from the 2010 season were posted, by team, to the photo albums along with several shots of the fans and pictures from the annual awards banquet. A link to the Facebook page has been posted on the NSS website.
 - **Awards Banquets DVD** - Chuck has copies of the 9 minute DVD presented at the 2010 Awards Banquet available for \$5 (covers cost of materials, software, design time, etc.) If interested, contact Chuck.
 - **Miscellaneous Correspondence** - Posted a message on the Senior Softball USA website (seniorsoftball.com) inviting players to visit our Facebook page and *like* us. Sent a similar promotion type email to a large distribution list provided by tournament director Steve Simmons in Minneapolis. Invited LaVista Mayor Doug Kindig and Recreation Department head Scott Stopak to throw out the first pitch marking our season opener on May 2, 2011.
5. **Managers and Player Recruitment** - Dave Dye has sent out an e-mail polling the existing managers regarding their interest to manage this year. To date he already has 10 players interested and 3 who have stated that they choose not to continue. He has also received a list from MOS of players who meet the age requirement for NSS. He has made contact with these people. Three have stated they will be signing up for the Spring season, two more for the fall. The others on the list were not interested as they were already playing in other leagues this year.

Dave Dye made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chuck Grubb second.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Monday, March 7 at 6:30 pm, same location.