

Nebraska Senior Softball Board Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2012

Present: Board Members: Dave Janda, Dave Dye, Dick Smith, Steve Quinn, Ron Kunert, Chuck Grubb, Dennis Steinhauser and Roberta Steinhauser. Absent: Mert Opfer

Registration Update – Chuck Grubb

Registration began February 1, 2012. 20 registrations received to date. 15 paid via Pay Pal. Express Registration option was added today on the NSS website. Express Registration is for last year's players returning to their same team and with no address, phone, email, etc. changes. The "Player Serial Number", located in parentheses in the right corner of the player card on the NSS website, is required when using the Express Registration. Online registration forms are electronically sent to the Directors of Player Personnel and Registration (Dave Janda and Chuck Grubb). Any board members wanting to get the registration emails can contact Chuck to receive these. A paper copy of the registration form can be printed from the NSS website. Mailing address for the paper registration and check is: Nebraska Senior Softball, PO Box 82, Kennard, NE 68034. Managers need to be proactive to contact their players to get registrations in early

A registration question will be considered for next year for a player designation of \$2.00 of the registration fee to go to the NSS Auxiliary treasury. Waiting until next year's registration will provide the opportunity for the league to see board related activities of the Auxiliary.

Registration Fees: \$65.00 for returning players (if paid by midnight on April 3rd), \$90.00 for returning players beginning April 4th and \$90.00 for new players. Draft Election: Returning players have the option to bypass returning to their 2011 team by electing to be placed in the 2012 draft process. The registration fee becomes \$90.00 if selecting the draft election to cover the cost of a new jersey and hat. The draft will take place approximately one week prior to the start of the season. Late Registrations: Any registration received from a returning player AFTER April 3rd will result in that player being placed in the draft and likely assignment to a team different from 2011. The late registration fee increases to \$90.00 to cover the cost of a new uniform and hat. There will be NO exceptions made to the late registration fee or process. .

Managers Meeting - Dave Dye

- 5 Run Rule- Consensus of the managers was to keep the 5 run over rule as it is now. Comments included that games would be shorter, fewer runs would be scored and consequently fewer at bats for the players if you did not allow the 5 runs over.
- Managers were not in favor of 3 vs 4 innings of playing time minimum per player per game.
- Decisions on the number of games played in your division depends on the total number of teams.
- Consensus to leave the walk situation as it is.
- Temperature discussion recommendation was to use temperature from LaVista – used on the website. Managers requested to have an inclusion regarding establishing hot and cold weather guidelines for game cancellations.
- Pool players. No consensus reached after extensive discussion.
- Requested managers to be proactive in contacting players to encourage registration and find out if all are returning.

- Umpires discussed with consensus that 90% of contentions arose from players. Managers need to address maintaining control under umpire judgment call situations with their players.
- Dave will hold another meeting with the Managers a week before the draft when we know the number of teams/players the league will have.

Tournament Committee- Bill Bowes. Goal was to identify what would keep players motivated. Length of season is identified by the Board. There is interest in having the summer season as the “core” main season for the league champion. Fall season has less emphasis. Interest expressed in tournament options.

Regular season options:

- 1) No divisions, everyone is played twice.
- 2) Have 2 divisions with league champion as the team who won the league. Unless each team is played equal times –single elimination is all that could be scheduled for a season tournament.
- 3) The tournament would determine the season champion, not league games.

Another item of consideration is to look at the 3 weeks that no games are scheduled between summer and fall leagues. The tournament could be held using some of that time. Some break is needed for organization of fall ball. Underlying factor is the LaVista recreation dept working with league to meet their commitments for the fields. Course of action: Board consensus to let this committee continue mapping out options. Key dependency on determining the number of teams the league will have. It will be a Board decision for the number of divisions.

VOTE- Divisions vs no divisions – Board consensus to HOLD on this vote until next meeting. What does regular season count for? Should there be a League champion and a Tournament champion? Board needs to approve a decision for these questions. We could need 3 fields. We are paying for 4 time slots on 2 fields to LaVista currently. Recommendation to table discussion until the March meeting to get more information from LaVista rec.

Additional Tournament options: 1) Take 14 teams with upper division playing better teams against like playing teams and lower divisions teams playing each other. 2) Have no brackets and seed accordingly based off of league record of wins. 3) Using division format, set up tournament with buys, etc.

Coaches Responsibility Document on NSS Website - Dave Dye The Coaches Responsibility Document is posted on NSS Website on the “Managers Information” link.

Extra Jersey/Hats Post to Website for Sale – Steve placed note on the website advertising these.

LaVista Field Confirmation for 2012 Season/Contract Update – Steve is scheduled to go before LaVista City Council to get a longer contract. 3 year contract looks feasible. Steve with discuss the addition of a third field with Ryan South. League will have fields available for use April 1st.

LaVista Fields interest in 3rd Pitcher Screen – Steve noted the league will donate this screen to the LaVista Fields if they want to keep it.

Board Calendar - email to Board – Steve Registrations through April 3rd. Late Registrations up to draft date 4/18. 4/18 is Draft day. April 9, 11 and 16th are practices. Pool players are those registrations are received past the draft date, (after 4/18). Dick will create a Board Calendar. Email all dates to Dick for inclusion. Recommendation made to have the Board meeting on 4/4. Could get on the fields 4/4. Tournament teams could use fields on 4/4 to practice.

Umpires Update – Dave Janda Dave got 7 names of umpires. Dave contacted them and had 3 express interest in being an umpire for the NSS 2012 season. Steve will call Kevin to discuss interest in the chief umpire.

Scheduling Software - Dennis/Ron A test schedule was created for 14 games with rainouts. Scheduling factor is the number of fields, 2 or 3. Field across the street is preferred for 3rd field if 3 are needed. Another option is to play for 50 minutes for games starting at 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Consider a flip flop for the last inning to streamline the game. Will wait to get information from LaVista fields before making motion to change game times to 6, 7, 8 and 9.

NSS Auxiliary Update – Catherine Grubb Executive Committee is looking for volunteers for Treasurer and another Director. Opening season barbeque is being discussed for players and families. Mission Statement is being developed. Bake sale at pre-season tryouts was discussed to raise auxiliary funds. Focus of the Auxiliary will be limited to 2 or 3 main activities. A committee will be formed to organize the opening season barbeque. Corn Belt Classic will be the first weekend in June. The LaVista concessions stand does not object to having the Auxiliary onsite to sell items not available in the concession stand. Auxiliary has discussed having baked goods sold at this tournament and discussed help with T-Shirt sales. Chuck will send an email to the NSS Players to outreach, provide information and get interest with wives for Auxiliary involvement. Discussion has also suggested some type of community service such as Food Bank with canned food drives and helping at the Hospitality House at Emmanuel Hospital.

New Business:

Paul – Paul can place entries on the website calendar for any social or Auxiliary events. Chuck is providing Paul with calendar updates. A new page and link for the Auxiliary was requested on the website.

Chuck – Chuck created and distributed a flyer which is a marketing brochure to promote the league. The Westroads Summer Recreation Fair will be Feb 25 from noon-3:00. Ideas were discussed for drawings at this fair to attract more people to the NSS League table. (ie drawing for a bat) A NSS Golf Tournament is being researched. Next Tues, Feb 14th is the social for NSS on Valentines Day at LaVista Keno. On March 10/11 NSS will be getting a 15% discount from Sports Authority. Requested looking into a glove reconditioning opportunity at Sports Authority that weekend. Chuck will also be making a corporate sponsor brochure.

Dick – softballs were acceptable for what they had last year and he will get these ordered.

Dave – wants the Board to plan for 16 teams. Noted decision needed for pool players who paid \$90 last year. Motion made that these player pay \$65.00 for the 2012 season. 100% of the Board members were in favor and approved this motion.

Dave – Player Survey. Dave requested the Board members to provide input on the wording for the home run question. Dave will make final changes to the Player Survey, resend it to the Board for final review and get this sent our next month.

Date for the next meeting is Monday, March 5th. The location is TBD.

Roberta Steinhauser
Secretary