

## February 12, 2013 NSS Board Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of January 15, 2013 Minutes: All Board members present approved January 15, 2013 Minutes.

Heat Index – Motion made to leave the NSS rules regarding heat index as is. All Board members approved this motion.

New Scoreboards – Chuck has a NSS league member who has volunteered to create lightweight scoreboards for the NSS League. Chuck will bring an update back to the next meeting on the creation of new scoreboards.

Job description update: The Job Description has been written and posted for the Director of Rules & Umpires. Field Scheduling and Field Operations job descriptions are pending.

Managers Responsibility document was updated through collaborative efforts of Chuck and Duke. This will be posted to the website.

Golf Date for NSS is pending for a Saturday date TBD - Chuck.

Awards and Recognition Banquet Date will be the first or second Friday night in November - Chuck

Dave Banghart update: Last year Dave had 39 guys playing morning games. Dave sent out a survey on Feb 6, 2013 to about 48 players. He got 20 responses back. Dave indicated he needs a minimum of 4 teams to make this league successful. If 4 teams cannot be filled this year, he plans to postpone efforts until next year. Duke mentioned that the survey did not get out to all the NSS players. Due to a loss of his harddrive, Dave indicated he lost his full mailing list of NSS players and needed to begin again. Dave would like to send this survey out to more players and report back results at the March Board meeting. Duke indicated there are no time restraint other than having this information before the league can begin. Chuck will provide Dave with an updated list NSS email contact information. The NSS Board wants to approve the email before it is sent to the NSS players. Dave agreed to send the survey to the Board for approval before it is sent to all NSS players.

Replacement players. Rules state replacement players cannot leave a game they started. Greg to research the specific language in the NSS Rules on this and bring it back to the next meeting.

2014 Draft Proposal – “Dealing with 13 players on a team”. Duke sent a spreadsheet showing the draft model to Board members for review this past month. Duke provided a complete explanation of the draft process at the meeting and answered questions. Chuck commented on the excellent structure of the draft process. This is an objective technique that takes personalities out of the process and is intended to make it more fair for all teams. The Board has received fewer negative comments from players on this draft process since it was implemented 3 years ago. One of the assumptions of this method is that the Board or some other group must place a player value on each manager. Managers

will be valued ahead of the complete new draft (2014). Team score is a value based on the sum of players individual scores. First pick in the draft has a value of 1 with each successive player a value of where that pick fell in the draft process. A second assumption is that managers know the players skills when they pick players. Once the player is selected, no adjustments are made for 3 years. Board will not override any manager selections within the draft process. Subsequent drafts for the following years will use lost players value as the primary means in order of the replacement draft to fill team vacancies. The idea is to be able to replace a lost player with one of comparable ability from among the pool of new draft choices. Once the draft is complete only players lost due to injury or other unusual situations will be replaced with a player with "like ability" from among eligible 'permanent pool players'. Duke noted we only have a couple of NSS registrations received from returning players that have opted to go back into the 2013 Spring league draft. In the future (registration deadline of April 10, 2013), players who register late will become a 'permanent pool player' and will not be assigned to a team unless a vacancy occurs and the player has similar abilities.

Handling last year's Pool Players: Last year's players who registered after the deadline (April 15) and were assigned to teams will go back into the 2013 draft as agreed in previous years. There were two players who registered on-time last Spring, but were kept out of the draft because managers did not have an opportunity to see them practice. These players were assigned to teams and will be allowed to remain with those teams, if they desire.

Registration Fall League Dates – TBD

General League Meeting/Picnic Date– TBD

Fall League Play Dates – TBD

Review Playing Rules and Guidelines Draft – Duke provided recommendations to the Board. Suggestion made that changes to rules be placed in yellow highlight for posting to the web to enable player recognition of changes. Motion made and approved by all present Board members to include recommendations made by Duke into the NSS Rules. Rules and Guidelines will be revised and posted to the web site prior to the beginning of the 2013 Spring season. Primary rule changes were:

- a. All new player must meet the ability standards and will be tested prior to the draft.
- b. Players registering late will become a Pool Player and will only be assigned to a team to fill existing vacancies and if their abilities nearly match the lost player.
- c. Specified additional guidance for placement of the pitching screen. If not used properly, the umpire will have the screen removed.
- d. Specifies that umpires must know all NSS rules and enforce accordingly.

Emphasized the draft process uses an objective method of determining draft order based on the value of players lost from the previous year.

## Board Reports.

Commissioner – Steve (not present)

Associate Commissioner – Ron No additional information to report.

Field Scheduling – What would be the cost to schedule a third field for the 2013 Summer League? Dennis will email Steve. What process will be used if we need to drop an existing team due to low registrations and more than one team has the same least number of players registered. A recommendation was made that the tie breaker for the team to be dropped should be the team with the last registered player. (This might encourage teams to register early.) Another option presented was to retain the team that had the best win/loss record from the 2012 summer league. Decision was deferred to the March Board meeting and further discussion.

Finance/Registration – Mert reviewed the projected budget. Player income of \$22,410 is projected. Projected costs are \$23,466 for fields, field equipment, uniforms, umpires, liability insurance and administrative costs. This results in a \$1,056 deficit for the 2013 budget. The deficit is primarily due to absorbing the additional costs of the fields and increase in umpire fees. Motion made to accept the proposed budget. All Board members voted to approve the budget. Current new registrations are up to 44 players.

Marketing Report- Chuck received free advertising from Bellevue Public Television ,Cox Communication Channel 17, to promote the NSS League. NSS will not be participating in the Westroads Summer Recreation Fair due to the lack of a good location for the NSS table. A Condolence Card was sent to Kathy Exton following the passing of former NSS player, TX Exton. The February NSS social will be at LaVista Keno on February 14. Dunkin' Donuts has become the 8<sup>th</sup> Diamond League Corporate Partner. Special thanks to Ron Hager for establishing this corporate partner.

### 2013 Marketing and Event Calendar – future events:

2/14/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD  
Mar 2013 – Information Fair (tentative; may or may not occur)  
3/11/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD  
4/8/13 – NSS Monthly Social, Location TBD  
4/22/13 – Opening Day!  
5/25/13 – LaVista Daze Parade  
6/15/13 – Papillion Days Parade  
8/xx/13 – Night Out with the Stormchasers  
TBD – NSS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
TBD – 2013 NSS Awards and Recognition Banquet

Player Personnel – Duke asked if anyone knew where the practice jerseys were at. Chuck will follow-up with Dick Smith to see if he has them.

Rules & Umpires- Greg. Kevin Vann is willing to be Umpire in Chief. Greg will develop a training plan for the umpires and plans to have at the practice games. Umpires will be paid for their participation at the

practice games. Duke asked if umpires receive an ASA rule book? Ron will look into the cost of the ASA rule book and if access is available online.

Purchasing & Inventory – Dave Janda emailed an update. Thirty dozen softballs have been ordered. The supply wagon has been repaired and is ready for the use in the summer league. The batting mats will be marked universally so they can go on either side of home plate without confusion.

New Business:

Finance Projections draft. Ron presented a financial projection for Board review for future years. Board is requested to review these projections. Mert was asked to provide his input at the next meeting. It was recommended that we advise players at the August annual meeting that registration fees will be increased in 2014 to cover increased costs for fields.

Next Meeting - TBD

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.     Roberta Steinhauser