



Nebraska Senior Softball

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, February 12, 2019; 6:30 PM

Board Members in attendance: Dave Dye, Mark Opfer, Steve Bessey, Ron Franck, Tom Holder and Bill Weller (via skype), Gary Kruse (Via telephone approximately 30 minutes into meeting – Previously tried to Skype unsuccessfully)

Board Members Absent: Steve Quinn

Guests in attendance: Dave Janda, Chuck Trofholz, Dan Fields, Bob Maertz, B.J. Danze, Marty Boro, Bo Boozikee and Kay Dye

With Steve Quinn not in attendance Dave Dye opened the meeting.

Approval of January 15, 2019 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Steve Bessey, seconded by Mark Opfer and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Bill Weller (Budget)

No change since last meeting. Confirmation of umpire fees is still pending Tom Holder's communication with umpires.

Mark Opfer (Schedule)

Distributed information similar to last year's schedule. League registration would begin March 1st – 31st. This would be for new and returning players.

First week of April is open for Board to make final decision on number of teams.

April 11, 2019 scheduled for draft.

April 15, 2019 scheduled scrimmage

Summer season runs April 17, 2019 through July 17, 2019 with Championship game July 24th.

This would be 24 game nights with no scheduled rainouts, not including playoffs.

Total of 28 game nights (including scrimmages, practices and Championship).

No games scheduled for Memorial Day May 27th.

June 17th – 19: 2019: No NSS games scheduled this week off for Little League World Series.

Two week break between summer and fall seasons.

Summer League Meeting / Picnic scheduled for July 29, 2019.

Practices for fall season scheduled for August 5th and 7th; fall season draft August 8th, 2019.

Fall season starting August 12 through October 14.

No game scheduled for Labor Day, September 2, 2019.

Note: There is a shorter lag time between summer and fall seasons than last year.

A total of 18 games with 19 including Championship.

Scheduled date for the Banquet has not yet been determined.

Motion to go with the schedule as proposed by Tom Holder, seconded by Dave Dye

In favor: Mark Opfer, Ron Franck, Dave Dye, Tom Holder, Bill Weller

Opposed: Steve Bessey

Steve Bessey: Uniforms

Steve Quinn was not able to provide a spreadsheet for the uniform issue. Gary Kruse suggested uniform similar in price to Steve Bessey's price but Steve Bessey's quote is from a local vendor. Deciding tonight would allow us to get a budget number to Bill Weller.

Results from the survey: 51 voted for non-major league logos, 49 voted for major league logos.

Dave Dye brought up jersey colors being an issue; over half the league was in red or blue and was sometimes hard to differentiate the teams.

Steve Bessey's vendor can do a two week turn around and assurances of having the NESS logo.

Each manager will be able to select their own jersey color.

Mark Opfer made a motion to go with the local vendor; Bill Weller seconded.

In favor: Steve Bessey, Dave Dye, Mark Opfer, Ron Franck and Bill Weller.

Opposed: Gary Kruse Abstained: Tom

Motion passed and Gary Kruse terminated the call.

Motion to go with two button jersey made by Tom Holder and seconded by Bill Weller

In favor: Ron Franck, Steve Bessey, Tom Holder, Bill Weller, Mark Opfer and Dave Dye.

Opposed: none

Motion passed.

Ron Franck (Fields)

LaVista has proposed that we pay for 3 time slots for 3 fields for both Monday and Wednesday, regardless of the number of teams we end up with.

Tom Holder asked about prepping the field for the games. If the game isn't played, no lights would be needed, but the field still has to be prepped so costs would still be incurred. The extra field could also be used for batting practice with little to no impact to the other games. The league is still getting the use of the field. Umpires would not be impacted.

Bill Weller remarked the extra costs to registration should not be greatly impacted. Tom Holder clarified that this is for summer league only and this info needs to be communicated to LaVista Sports Complex. Ron Franck will handle this task.

Dave Dye made a motion to reserve all three fields to insure availability. Ron Franck seconded the motion.

In favor: Ron Franck, Steve Bessey, Tom Holder, Bill Weller, Mark Opfer and Dave Dye.

Opposed: none

Motion passed.

Dave Dye (Manager Recruitment)

In the past there was an issue with the Director of Player Personnel being a team manager. Current rules prohibit the Director of Player Personnel being a team manager because he could affect the draft. With the new drafting system, this would no longer be an issue. Ron Franck stated that because of changes made, the Director of Player Personnel affecting the draft adversely is no longer an issue.

Dave Dye motioned that this wording be taken out of the League rules.

Seconded by Ron Franck

In favor: Ron Franck, Steve Bessey, Tom Holder, Bill Weller, Mark Opfer and Dave Dye.

Opposed: none

Motion passed.

Dave Dye stated that team managers for 2019 are still needed. With 176+ potential registrants, the league will need additional managers. Eleven current manager stated that they would continue to manage. Additional managers would be Ron Baratta, Dennis Steinhauser and Dave Dye would make 14 managers.

Returning managers: Randy Matsunami, Chuck Trofholz, Rich Wiley, Bruce Tway, Dick Smith, Jim Price, Dave Janda, Ted Japp, Ed Tworek, Bill Bowes, Ron Franck.

The managers that have a stipulation: Gil Stephens and Roger Hein (round selection), Jim Crum and Tom Holder (only with a dedicated assistant). Bruce Babko, Roger Clapper and Milt Scurlock stated they would consider managing if needed, but have made no commitment.

Dave has asked 82 players to contact him if there was an interest in managing; 14 players have agreed to manage, 4 conditional and 3 maybe. The bottom line is that we are still short handed for managers.

Dave Dye distributed a draft list going back to 2014. This information showed the draft rounds for shortstops, pitchers and the top 55 draft picks for 2014 to 2018. Discussion regarding those players who have stipulations. Tom Holder discussed the benefits of having a pre-selected assistant prior to the draft. This could have the biggest impact on the first three rounds of drafting. Some managers could take advantage of this process and the system needs to be based on equity and what is best for all in the league.

Tom Holder stated that we could try it out for the next draft and see if it works. If it doesn't work we stop it for the next draft (in 2 years). We're already short managers and need more. Tom recommended we get this voted on tonight so we can move forward (either way).

Dave Dye proposed a rule that no manager would be allowed a helper from the first three rounds.

Bill Weller stated concern regarding managers having a helper and that this would open a flood gate of problems.

Dave Dye recapped that we need to be carefull about managers dictating the rules of the league concerning their draft round selection. Also, if managers are allowed to have the top players be their helper, it could cause major inequity issues. Allowing first and second round players/helpers could skew the draft process.

Ron Franck commented that we need to concentrate on doing what is best for the league. The idea of having a manager and co-manager for the draft could lead to a ripple effect of problems. It could be doing a disservice to league parity.

Tom Holder made the motion that the manager can have a designated assistant manager prior to the draft but the two cannot be from the same round.

Motion seconded by Mark Opfer

In favor: Steve Bessey, Tom Holder, Mark Opfer

Opposed: Dave Dye, Ron Franck, Bill Weller

An attempt was made to contact Gary Kruse to break the tie, but he could not be reached for his vote.

A call was made to Steve Quinn for the tie-breaker. Steve voted in favor of the motion in order to break the tie. Motion for the pre-designated assistant manager carried.

Dave Dye stated that the Board will have the responsibility of rating the managers and assistant managers.

Dave Dye asked the people at the meeting to please talk with other league members to possibly manage. Too many members willing to manage is a good thing, not a bad thing. The next meeting will determine the final tally of managers and helpers.

Dave Dye and Tom Holder will schedule a meeting with all personnel interested in being a manager or assistant manager to go over rules changes and the new draft app. This will allow the managers and assistant managers to have input on the rules of the draft.

Chuck Cantoya was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but Mark Opfer opened the league's web page to demonstrate the new computerized draft process. Chuck has developed an app that will show the players picture, the ratings and any other needed information that will assist the process. (The managers from the 2017

were asked to rate their players and this information will be sent to the managers for their review prior to the draft.)

Managers will log in to the web page and go through the pertinent information to see how the player is rated, along with a picture for identification purposes. For the draft, the page will also show a timer, so the draft pick can be made timely. This will make for a smoother, more efficient draft process. Once a pick is made it is logged so that the other managers can see who has been picked, in what round, then the process continues to the next manager and the next round.

Tom Holder: (Foul Tip Rule)

This rule has not been finalized and will be tabled for the next meeting

Sponsors: (Gary Kruse)

No longer at the meeting

Steve Bessey will make the Choice Hotels discount information available to Mark Opfer for inclusion on the website.

New Business:

Dave Dye: current timing rule is 55 minutes, plus one inning. He proposed a change to 60 minutes, plus one inning. If we are no longer playing a 9:30 pm game this should not have a huge impact, and would give the teams a better chance of getting the full 7 innings played.

Tom Holder will check with the umpires to see if the additional 5 minutes and 3 time slots on 3 fields would impact umpire pricing.

Bill Weller: needs the umpire information to solidify the budget and asked Tom Holder to get him the information as soon as possible.

Tom Holder: Senior Bat Stickers on order for hot bats. Price for the stickers should be less than \$50.

Steve Bessey: no new business

Ron Franck: game times for summer 2019 will be 6 pm, 7:15 pm and 8:30 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Bessey

Secoded by Dave Dye

Meeting adjourned 8:29 PM