



Nebraska Senior Softball

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 2, 2019; 6:30 PM

Board Members in attendance: Steve Quinn, Mark Opfer, Dave Dye, Steve Bessey, Ron Franck, Tom Holder, Bill Weller and Gary Kruse

Guests in attendance: Chuck Trofholz, Dave Janda, B.J. Danze, Bob Maertz, Roger Hein, Bob Dalziel and Kay Dye.

Commissioner Steve Quinn brought the meeting to order.

Approval of March 5, 2019 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Dave Dye, seconded by Steve Bessey and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Gary Kruse requested a modification to the minutes of February 12, 2019 regarding attempts to contact him for meetings via Skype. Gary also wanted corrections made regarding information on the jerseys and caps being ordered.

New Business:

Steve Quinn asked for a closed door meeting with Board Members only for a manager review. Guests in attendance left.

The league is currently at 161 registered players so 19 managers will not be needed. For the draft, the best outcome would be 15 teams of eleven players for the summer 2019 season but as of now there aren't enough registrants to make 15 complete teams of eleven players.

Gary Kruse made a motion for 12 eleven-player teams and 3 ten-player teams; seconded by Bill Weller; unanimously approved.

Gary Kruse distributed envelopes to the Board members to vote on removing 4 managers via secret vote. Before voting on team managers, the Board discussed each Board member review each manager candidate's leadership qualities, knowledge about the game, the rules and personal integrity. Some manager candidates have voluntarily opted to step down, if needed and that was also to be considered. The Board then voted for the 4 management teams that would not be needed for the 2019 summer season.

Dave Dye will communicate to the managers and their assistant managers who will no longer be needed for the 2019 summer season.

Guests returned to the meeting.

Gary Kruse (Communications)

Sponsorships regarding the inter-league marketing plus the larger vendors that have a larger budget. Mark Opfer will talk with Chuck Cantoya about having the scrolling website again. The current system is somewhat difficult to find the corporate sponsors and we may lose sponsors because they cannot find their information. Gary Kruse will talk with LaVista Keno about their participation. The Board was in agreement that we need to do a better job of promoting LaVista Keno with players and supporters as well as other sponsors of our league.

Bill Weller reminded the Board about Play It Again Sports (84th & Center – former Canfields building) being a supporter of Nebraska Senior Softball. The league players as well as family members will benefit from this relationship and it needs to be promoted.

Gary Kruse discussed the summer BBQ at Elmwood Park on July 29, 2019. The information is on the website and can be adjusted if there are any changes.

For the end of year banquet, Mike McKnight had suggested at an earlier meeting to utilize the Omaha Press Club, but it would be costlier. Gary also mentioned that the German American Society (last year's banquet location) would need to be booked now if we're going to return there. Per the league survey, a buffet is preferred. The Board agreed November 1, 2019 for the League Banquet. Gary will follow up with Mike McKnight on the cost for using the Omaha Press Club and report back to the Board.

Bill Weller (Budget)

The fields have to be finalized before the budget can be finalized. Bill stated we will pay a steep price (approx. \$1,000) for the third field to be reserved for us. Bill reminded the Board that we are still paying for that field regardless of how many games are played. Per the survey, many players no longer want a 9:30 PM game. This needs to be carefully weighed because of the cost (\$150 per field, per night). Ron Franck said we currently have a verbal agreement with LaVista Sports Complex for the third field, but nothing yet has been signed. Since we have a good working relationship with LaVista Sports Complex, we need to consider this finalized even though we don't have a signed agreement. If we are locked in for three fields for the summer season, this would be an additional \$1750 spent on a field that may or may not be used. The advantage of this third field could be for batting practice plus the scheduled games. At this time, there are no rain-outs scheduled. However, a rain interrupted game could be completed utilizing the additional field that is now available. With the additional field being reserved we have options.

Bill stated that Choice Hotels makes a contribution to NSS based on players and families staying at Choice Hotels. This needs to be communicated to the league for tournaments as well as personal travel. We are getting money back from Choice Hotels with each stay and this revenue is a huge value to the League.

Insurance: the premiums have increased slightly. We receive reimbursement from the insurance company based on the number of games played as well as games not played. Bill completes a form to the insurance company in order to get this reimbursement from the insurance company for games not played.

Bill reported that some revenue is lost because of lower registration. Also, uniforms for year 2 do not have to be purchased and this allows us to make up some revenue.

Bill will be issuing checks for receipts received.

The budget should be finalized soon and will be submitted by Bill when it is completed.

Mark Opfer (Schedule)

Now that we know how many teams we have for summer, the Board needs to decide about finalizing the schedule. Some manual adjustment will be needed, with or without double headers. We will have fewer players on each team and that could leave fewer players to fill in on other teams if there are double headers.

The Player Replacement Rule was briefly discussed with no differentiation for 9th, 10th and 11th round players. Gary Kruse made a motion; seconded by Steve Bessey. The motion carried unanimously.

Gary Kruse made a motion to play double headers; seconded by Dave Dye. The motion carried unanimously.

Ron Franck (Fields)

Ron will let LaVista know about our situation (fewer number of teams than originally thought) but the Board decided that the use of the third field finalized.

Steve Bessey (Equipment)

New locks and keys have been purchased for the equipment shed at LaVista Sports Complex. Steve will have all recipients (managers and Board Members) sign for their keys. There will also be a couple of keys signed out to the Friday Morning League for their use.

New score books have been purchased.

After tomorrow's manager meeting, Steve will get the jersey names and colors finalized for each team.

Tom Holder (Rules)

The rule changes have been adjusted and Tom would like copies to distribute at tomorrow's manager meeting. Tom is working on getting the on-line rules updated to the website.

According to the rules, managers with 11-player teams would have to play with a minimum of 10 players, 10-player teams could play with 9 as long as the opposing manager agreed. Tom clarified how this would be enacted with the managers.

Dave Dye (Draft)

Dave Dye reviewed the number of 1st and 2nd round management picks with the Board members; then reviewed the draft system as proposed in the last meeting.

Tom Holder suggested a mock draft be conducted prior to the actual draft to determine the draft sequence. Gary Kruse suggested the system proposed by Dave Dye to rank the managers and assistants to determine the draft sequence be approved. Bill Weller stated that there needs to be a rating for the manager and assistant in order to determine the fairest sequence to insure parity of the teams.

Gary Kruse made a motion to accept Dave Dye's current rating system for the draft; seconded by Steve Bessey.

In favor: Gary Kruse, Mark Opfer, Ron Franck, Steve Bessey

Opposed: Tom Holder and Bill Weller

Abstained: Dave Dye

We currently have 161 registered players. Dave has received three requests for late registrations and one player would like to change his status to a pool player due to only being available for few number of games. The three late registrations would now allow the League to have 14 teams of 11 players and 1 team of ten players.

The Board discussed the late registrations as well as any potential pool players. In the past, pool players are evaluated and assigned to a team, or used by a team that succumbs to a season ending injury. It was mentioned that, because we have not held the draft, we allow late registrants entrance. Bill Weller stated that, unless the registrant has paid, they are not in the league. Dave Dye reminded the Board that each late registrant still needs to be evaluated. Until they are assigned to a team, they will remain a pool player.

Dave Dye made a motion to accept late paid registrations to get us to 165 players. Tom Holder seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Low registrations were discussed; some have work schedule changes, injuries, moved out-of-area, etc. We as members of Nebraska Senior Softball need to promote our league at every chance. Dave stated that he uses a short survey for new players to make sure they have been welcomed into the league, and how they found out about the league. Word-of-mouth is almost always the way we gain new players.

There is a manager meeting tomorrow (Wednesday, April 3, 2019) at 6:30 PM at Sean O'Casey's. Dave Dye encouraged Board Members to attend.

Bill Weller stated that he needs to know the number of managers that will take the option to not have to pay the registration fee. Bill asked Dave Dye to report on this at tomorrow's meeting.

Open Discussion:

If we know of anyone in our league that has been affected by the flood for their primary residence, we as a League should step up to help. If you know of an NSS player whose primary residence has been affected by the recent flooding, please contact Steve Quinn, NSS Commissioner.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Quinn

Seconded by Mark Opfer

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM