



Nebraska Senior Softball

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, July 16, 2019; 6:30 PM

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

Guests in attendance: Dave Janda, Chuck Trofholz, B.J. Danze, Chuck Grubb, Alan Hardt, Ed Tworek and Kay Dye

Commissioner Steve Quinn brought the meeting to order.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

There is a concern that no manager or Board Member has functioning keys to the electric boxes that light the fields. Steve Quinn asked Steve Bessey to make sure that all managers have working keys.

The shed door is in need of repair again. Colin Anderson has offered to repair the shed door. Steve Bessey will get in touch with Colin to get an estimate and get the door repaired as quickly as possible.

Mark Opfer (Schedule)

Fall season is coming up quickly and Mark will begin the scheduling process. Ten Monday games and eleven Wednesday games will be played this fall. Game times will be contingent on the number of players. We need to finalize registration before all the specifics can be worked out. Gary Kruse has been promoting and will continue to promote the sign up for the fall season. Registration is not complete until money has been received.

Mark has been talking with people regarding Board Elections. An email has been sent to remind players that two Board positions are open. If a player is interested they should contact a Board member as soon as possible. Voting will be done at the picnic on July 29th.

Bill Weller (Budget)

Bill updated the Board on the current cash flow, players paid for fall and outstanding bills.

There was a question about the Auxiliary money and where the League stands on the money earned for the NSS. There has never been an accounting of where this money is and how the money is being spent. The Auxiliary assists with the Banquet and the Golf Tournament but it exists because of the Nebraska Senior Softball League. Bill Weller said he will find out about this Auxiliary money.

A question was asked about field #2 and if money is being spent for the use of this field even though it's only used for two games. Bill Weller stated that it is paid for because it cannot be used by anyone else.

Ron Franck (Fields)

Ron has informed LaVista that NSS will not be using field #2 for the fall season and the possibility of 9:30 games for the fall. Otherwise the fields have been kept in pretty good condition.

Mark Opfer mentioned that the bathrooms have been locked early several times recently and that's not good for fans or players. We have asked to not have the bathrooms locked before the end of the games, but the doors are still being locked.

Gary Kruse (Communications)

Weather concerns: where does the data come from that the NSS website uses for the heat index? All three local channels could differ so a national weather service (AccuWeather) is being used. The information posted on the NSS website is the official statement for games called due to weather. AccuWeather's predicted heat index for the 6 PM game is what is used when we make the call for weather. The Board agreed to continue using AccuWeather. **We do not want to risk lives due to the extreme heat.** Gary Kruse will send an email in the morning regarding the potential heat conditions. At 4:00 a weather decision will be made and Gary will send out a mass email to the League and post it on the website, and Dave Dye will contact the managers. The managers in turn will need to let their players know.

The BBQ and Board Member Elections are being organized for Monday, July 29th at 6 PM, meeting to start at 7 PM at Elmwood Park. Steve Quinn urged all managers to encourage their players to come to this free event.

The Golf Tournament is being organized for Sunday, August 18th at Tara Hills. Two banners are available in the shed to promote the League at the annual golf tournament. Gary asked the League to sponsor a hole for \$150.00. Mark Opfer made a motion to sponsor, seconded by Tom Holder. Motion carried unanimously.

Gary is also currently working on the 2019 Annual End of Season Banquet. He is getting bids and will present his information at a future Board Meeting.

Steve Bessey (Equipment)

Steve purchased 18 dozen softballs and has sold some of the used softballs to other organizations. The money has been turned over to Bill Weller.

Tom Holder (Rules)

Tom suggested adjustments to the rules:

When there is a homerun (over the fence), the runners, including the hitter do not need to advance to the next base. This will save time and keeps things moving. Steve Quinn stated that the summer season should be completed before changing a rule mid-season. Gary Kruse made a motion to "hit and sit" beginning with the fall season. All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

When a player is substituted, the substituted player's stats for pinch running will be used for the in-coming player. Tom Holder made a motion to make this change; seconded by Dave Dye. All in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Some players have asked about the time lag between summer and fall season. After the regular season games, the Championship games need to be played (with possible weather implications), registration needs to be finalized, tryouts and skills testing for the fall season, fall draft, and the Board meeting (picnic) for Board member elections. All of this needs to be done in the time between ending summer season and starting fall season.

Dave Dye (Player Personnel)

A survey was submitted to all the new players as to their experience with the League. Grading the registration process, how they found out about us, tryout and skills testing, League communications and acceptance by their teammates. The results of the survey was discussed with the Board. Most were positive about the League experiences. A 4.65 overall rating was given by all the new players on their overall experience with the League.

Fall Draft: the number of teams as well as the number of games will be based on the number of players registered. Dave Dye recommended after the first night of practices (Monday, August 5th) there should be a Board Meeting to determine the number of teams for fall.

Dave mentioned that all Board Members should look at their job descriptions on line and prepare an update to be posted. Duty descriptions have changed since the current descriptions were written.

Retention: Players not returning to the League were due to: injuries, job related, moving out of the area, and retiring from softball. There were eleven unknowns. Bill Weller mentioned that Lincoln has also started a fall softball league which could potentially impact our League. Dave Dye mentioned that we currently have 11 players that are from the Lincoln area. Tom Holder reminded the Board that we will continue to be on Boomer

Radio and we should be prepared to field calls from potential players. There was a discussion centered on should the age for women be lowered to 40 or 45? The Board discussed this as it would be a good way to encourage more women to play in our League. Dave suggested getting a committee together after the season for player retention and ways to get new players into our League. Dave asked Tom Holder to ask Jim Loberg about chairing a committee.

Complaints: the number of roster players being substituted. There have been a couple of games where up to 5 or more substitute players have been used. Dave asked the Board for comments. Steve Quinn commented that if the New Player Replacement Rule is being used correctly, there shouldn't be a problem, but should there be a limit to how many substitutions? A discussion was held as to the number of players drafted vs the number of sub-stitutions we've been seeing. Mark Opfer reminded the Board that we had discussed this issue at length prior to instituting the Replacement Rule. Some of the managers in attendance were asked to speak on this subject for their opinions. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

Steve Quinn, Commissioner

Steve reminded those in attendance, the NSS League will be promoted by Jack Swanda on 94.5 fm and 1490 am this Thursday July 18th at 10:30 PM.

Guests in attendance:

Ed Tworek had made a proposal for the like-for-like substitutions. No one player will sit more than one inning, easy to administer, easy to monitor, the catchers will get 6 innings. The group discussed and disagreed that this will complicate the managers role even more. You're trying to manage your own team and to try to enforce a rule for the opposing team wouldn't be productive. Discussion was tabled until a future meeting

Dave Dye has been approached from several players who won't be returning because they aren't getting their innings. Bill Weller has a concern that managers will be lost if we force too many rules on them. This issue will be tabled for a future meeting.

Alan Hardt attended the meeting to comment about the Cardinals game that was called due to lightning. The game was called by the umpires, and then they immediately started the next games. The umpire could not give a specific reason as to why the game was called and yet allow the next game to begin. The game was not suspended due to weather, it was called by the umpire. Dave Dye referred to the official *ASA Rule Book*: the game should have been suspended for 30 minutes then a ruling made by the umpires as to whether play should continue. This was not done. Bottom line: this situation was not handled very well and the Board will look at a meeting with the umpires and a possible rule change.

Chuck Grubb asked that the umpires be asked to come out from behind the plate to make a call. Too many times it's easy to just make the call and not go toward the play. It's important that the umpires do their job.

REMINDERS:

Fall Registration ends July 28th

Please remember to sign up!

Your Payment and Registration Form must be received before the end of registration to be considered complete.

New Player skills testing is Monday and Tuesday, August 5th and 7th.

The fall season begins Monday, August 12th

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Bessey
Seconded by Tom Holder
Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM