

Meeting Minutes January 7, 2024

Board Members Present:

Frank Vollmer
Jessica Snyder
Ryan Pearson
TJ Kemp
Katie McFerrin
Ryan Petersen
Melissa Ammons
Justin Grider
Philip Erwin
Bethany Walker
Tashunda Lelievre
Zach Bryant

Guests Present:

Bob Wells
Deryk Beaudoin
Bradley Cherry

- Meeting Opens at 5pm
- We are joined by managers and some assistant coaches for a discussion and vote on spring 2024 drafting methods.
- An explanation was given to everyone on the differences between drafting methods.
 - Snake Draft has coaches pick using a 1,2,3,4-4,3,2,1 approach.
 - Each manager would get their kid(s) first, their assistant managers kid(s) next. The number of kids they start with would determine which round they began to draft.
 - The Bind Draft proposed by the eval and draft committee would choose players out of “hats” with the players being separated by their eval scores.
 - Each manager would still begin with their kid(s) and their assistants kid(s). The value of those players would determine which “hat” they would choose from first.
- Board members as well as managers and assistants would all be welcome to evaluate and an average would be used to determine each player's evaluation score.
- Philip asked for clarification on LL Rule Book only talks about majors evals and drafting methods.

- Frank clarified that with D1 would strongly suggest we use those rules and methods across the board.
- It was discussed that the snake draft gives an advantage to the experienced coaches.
- Jess asked Justin to weigh in as he was new to our program in fall and had to draft against managers who knew the players.
- Justin stated it was tough and it put him at a disadvantage.
- Deryk suggested if we do a blind draft then the board may as well just do it.
- The board acknowledged they could do that but do welcome any managers who want to be involved in the entire process.
- It was also brought up that no matter which way is chosen no trades will be orchestrated this year.
- A vote was conducted.
 - 4 people voted for the Snake Draft.
 - 12 people voted for the Blind Draft
 - Some choose not to vote.
- By Vote....The league will use the proposed "Blind Draft" for the 2024 Spring Season
- Practice schedules were discussed. Coaches expressed they like choosing their days. While Frank pointed out there were still problems and changes often.
- It was decided that Justin would assign practice times and coaches could switch with each other if and when needed.
- Younger divisions are prioritized in the earlier time slots.
- Fields 1-4 are reserved Monday-Saturday
- Frank stresses the importance that each team gets one practice a week during the game season for development. 2 games, 1 practice will be scheduled.
- Email will be sent to coaches when date and times are finalized for the coaches clinic.
- The managers were chosen prior to this meeting by the president, VP's and volunteer coordinator.
- Coaches are excused if they didn't want to stay for the general meeting.
- Meeting starts with Frank nominating Philip as our new VP. Katie seconds, Tj thirds, all for and no opposed.
- District Meeting is next weekend, after the meeting we can fine tune our By-Laws and vote.
- 2024 ASAP has been submitted. Frank lets everyone know we are all up to date with everything including fees with LLI.
- AED Battery. Jess has been in contact with Chief Jonathan Davis. He requested pictures of our machine and battery so he could track down a replacement. He

has been given the photos and Jess will follow up with him if she doesn't hear back in the next week.

- Jess brought up the idea of moving all planned events for January 20th (coaches clinic, equipment handout, managers meeting, etc.) to the following Saturday, January 27th to allow more time to prepare the uniform order in hopes we can get that to AAU on Monday.
- Everyone agreed and this has been moved in the master calendar.
- Jess began to go over the December '23 Financials
- TJ passed out a paper that cited Article IX, Section 3 - Finance Committee
 - It states: The Board of Directors may appoint a Finance Committee consisting of not less than (3) and no more than (5) Directors. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee. The Committee shall investigate ways and means of financing the Local League including team sponsorships and submit recommendations. It shall be responsible for taking up collections at games, if such collections are authorized by the Local League, and shall turn over said collections to the treasurer immediately after each game.
- He was requesting that the Finance Committee have access to all League Finances.
- Jess pointed out the constitution uses the word may not must. She also stated she shares monthly financial statements with the BOD at each monthly meeting and links them in the minutes.
- A back and forth took place between Jess and TJ.
- TJ stated that the financials should be open for anyone to view at any time and that the City of Freeport had reached out to him personally questioning where our money goes.
- Many members were curious as to why the City wouldn't reach out to Frank if they were concerned about our finances.
- TJ also brought up our registration fees being the highest in our district.
- Jess pointed out the document that she shared with TJ that showed the breakdown of costs per player the league incurs. That along with Tate's own per player doc is what we used to calculate registration fees.
- Jess stated she was not opposed to a financial committee however she does not wish to have TJ watch over every move she makes as he has a tendency to pick apart everything she does.
- Jess also stated to TJ if he is concerned with the job she is doing or not satisfied with the financial report she gives he should be league treasurer. To which he declined.
- There was no motion to create a finance committee and we moved on.

- Jess mentioned she had reached out to JNS Financial to inquire about Nanci doing the league's taxes, sending 1099s to umpires, etc. There was no response from them so she asked if she should seek another cpa.
- Melissa volunteered to help with this as she is an accountant.
- Jess added her as the league accountant on quickbooks.
- Pearson spoke about the golf outing. He stated they are about half way full for golfers(8 registered) but only have 4 hole sponsors.
- He along with some members who offered will post flyers around town.
- This sparked a conversation about our low sponsorship numbers and helping Kelli reach out to past sponsors.
- Pearson also went over volunteers for the outing, if anyone else would like to help please reach out to him.
- The shed door was left ajar on wednesday, we had discussed giving everyone their own code instead of just having one board code. Petersen will assign.
- Jess will make a facebook post with updated days and times for evaluations. She will also change in the master calendar.
- Bob was asked and agreed to conduct minor first aid training at the coaches clinic.
- Justin has a plan in place for the schedule, he's just waiting for the final team count.
- The city will be installing new LED lights on fields 1-3. They have 2 weeks blocked off beginning the 22nd of January but told us they are hoping it only takes one. Justin is keeping in touch with Red on this matter.
- Frank lets him know Tee Ball gets priority for practices and games until their season is over.
- Philip has been keeping in touch with AAU for uniforms and they are just awaiting the doc. He believes uniforms came in at \$85 per player to include coaches.
- He asked about the polo shirts for coaches vs regular shirts. Melissa is going to get the info for these as the business was closed during the holiday season.
- Philip is also going to start building equipment bags for the managers.
- Bethany is running background checks once volunteers submit their Abuse Awareness Certificate.
- Bob volunteered to help with concessions.
- The hood vent still needs to be cleaned. Jess reached out to a company in Crestview for a quote but hasn't heard back. She also asked for some guidance on the items that need replacing, hotdog roller lid, warming bulbs etc. She googled these items but wasn't sure about models etc.
- Concessions will be open for the Tee Ball season.
- Tashunda is to start planning Tee Ball opening day as well as scheduling pictures.

- TJ and Pearson were asked to also help plan regular season opening day.
- TJ pointed out that Mr. Farris would really like to see us use the pa system.
- Frank has gotten everything working but the range is not great on those speakers.
- Katie asked if she needed to verify addresses/school enrollment for tee ball. Little League has decided players 7 and under may play in any league without waivers.
- Katie also stated Tee Ball needs more coaches at this point.
- Pictures for tee ball are scheduled for February 8th. She is concerned uniforms may not make it in time.
- Frank said we are ahead from last year on registration numbers. A Lot more should be coming in the next week.
- We are hoping to not get a ton of after eval registrations but had 150 last spring.
- Katie asked for contact info for bow lady for tee ball girls. Jess will send her the info.
- Code of Conduct has been finished by Jess, and left in the box for Anne (she has since signed). She asked Philip if he would like to resume the enforcement of this as Tate (previous vp) started it. He agreed.
- Frank brought up that we need to have a board member at the fields every night that doesn't have a game or other duties to deal with any problems. He suggested a schedule be made.
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:33pm