District 2 Little League Meeting

March 14, 2024 *|* Take 5 Restaurant Meeting called to order by Steve DePalma at 6:33 pm

Attendance

**Towns In Attendance: Westfield, Belchertown, Longmeadow BB + SB, Wilbraham, Gateway, Chicopee, Northampton, Southampton, Ludlow**

**Steve DePalma, Ernie Fitzell, Marc Winer, Michelle Winer, Steve Elliot**

* Steve D spoke about Rule 2, which will do away with the waiver system. This will open your boarders, so anyone can play in your district. This all stems back to where the players plays as a 7 year old, versus their home town. They are only allowed to play in their home town or the league that they were playing as a 7 year old. Their siblings are also eligible to play in the same league as the 7 year old is in. Steve will be sending out more info on this topic soon.
* Continuous batting order will continue in District play for the 2024 season with little changes. 12 players must be carried on all rosters. Make sure that you only put players on the teams that are committed to playing throughout the tournament season. There is no rule that states 12 players must be in attendance, but you must have 12 legit players on your rosters.
* Background checks must be completed, both the State, and also JDP through LL. If you do the iCori through MA, you only need to do that one, but next year you will have to do the JDP one, so probably best to just stick with both. This also stems back to the new Rule 2 to make LL has a listing of all volunteers, no matter where they coach/play.
* Girls With Game grant programs has been offered to all softball programs. Only one charter took advantage of this offering. Please keep an eye out for more opportunities to grow your program. Grow Your Game grants are also available for baseball and softball. Please reach out to Steve D, Ernie or Marc if you need more info.
* T-Mobile grants has come and gone. They were open for 2 days in December and gave out 11,000 grants out of 80,000 applicants this year. Apply early next year before registrations open to get the opportunity to get on this offer as early as you can. Start talking about it in November.
* Waivers - Steve puts all waivers together in a package to send to LL International. He has sent out some, but has lost a bunch in his work email transition. Please resubmit by the end of March any that have come in so far.
* Holyoke will not be participating in Little League for the 2024 season. With this in mind, we have been looking into someone to take over this area for baseball. Likely candidates are Easthampton and Northampton. Ernie is going to meet with JT and Tim to discuss options.
* Springfield has been chartered for this season, but have no other information at this time (not present at the meeting).
* Steve D talked about the possibility of using a neutral site for District championship games. Some discussion was had, and will be tabled until a future date. Please talk to your BOD’s and be prepared to talk about this soon.
* Umpire update - Code of Conduct for District 2 was sent out. The Executive committee would like to meet with every charter’s coaches and BOD members for all levels. Please find a time and set up with Steve E, Ernie or Marc, no exceptions. We want to come out in person to talk about umpire treatment, coach and parent behavior, and how to address a concern with the umpire on the field. Umpires are becoming fewer each year, and we want to address this concern in person.
* Umpires:
  + District 2 umpire trainings will be on March 23 at the Baystate Medical Center building in Holyoke. Beginner clinic is 10-2:30, Refresher clinic is 3:30-8:00. Food and drink will not be provided, but participants are allowed to bring their own.
  + Mechanics clinic will be on April 6 (April 13 raindate) at Sadie Knox field in Westfield, MA. Clinic will run from 10-4 and lunch and drinks will be provided.
  + The “One Foot in the Box” rule will be enforced at 10U/Minors division and older during the regular season, and we will be discussing this at the clinics and also the coaches meetings.
* Softball updates:
  + Marc went over and recorded proposed teams for each level for the Spring season.
  + Please send Marc all blackout dates via email for his record to begin scheduling games.
  + Please send all coaches info (name, email, phone) for all coaches at all levels.
  + Tball inaugural season will begin this year in East Longmeadow and Wilbraham. With Rule 2 coming, more charters should think strongly about providing this opportunity for your young girls starting at age 5.
* Baseball updates:
  + Ernie was looking for any 10U or 12U teams that need other towns to play against as a community. Some towns have already started to reach out for groups to play together.
  + Season will begin the week of April 22. Send Ernie any blackout dates and coaches info for Intermediate and Senior level teams so he can begin the scheduling.
  + Just a reminder that home towns should notify umpire ASAP if you are going to cancel games for any reason. You still need to pay them if they go to the field for the game and are not notified.
  + If you need help finding umpires during the regular season, please reach out to Steve E. He may be able to help you find some.
  + COMMUNICATION IS KEY IN ALL ASPECTS!!
* ASAP plans are almost all in. Springfield, Ludlow, Southampton and Amherst have not completed the ASAP requirements. It has to do with registration and the amount of teams registered. Please adjust this to coincide with real time numbers. You can always go back in later as more players/coaches register.
* Please send a Word Doc of your current ASAP plan to Steve D, Ernie or Marc so they have a current version on file that they can help you to update in future year, in the worst case that nobody is around next season that has it. Please send this as a Word Doc, not a PDF, so that we are able to amend this as needed for future years.
* New Business
  + Contact sheet/ 2024 Workbook has been updated and sent out to everyone. Please make sure that you have access, and let Ernie or Marc know if you need any assistance getting access.
  + Regular season games for all of softball and Intermediate/Senior baseball will be on the District 2 website. You can put a link to these on your own website, but please remind your coaches that this is the most up to date and live schedule for the season. Changes are made throughout the season with rainouts and other reasons for cancellations or moved games. Make sure all coaches know to frequent the schedule through the District website, and not rely on a printout that is sent in the beginning of the season.
  + Longmeadow baseball will be hosting a free event featuring Coach Walter Beede. This event will discuss how to keep LL vibrant and navigating youth baseball. If anyone would like to attend this event on April 4, you must register. The flyer for the event will be attached to email with these minutes.
  + Brian is stepping down from President of Southampton LL. Ashley Yon-Lajoie and Dan Abrahamson will be replacing him as co-Presidents.
* **If you are willing to host the next meeting, or any other meeting in the future, please reach out to Steve D, Ernie, Marc or Michelle with a location. We are more than happy to move the meeting to a different location each month. Please think about hosting one meeting a year at least in your town. We need a space that will house at least 20 people in a relatively quiet place for up to 2 hours.**

**Next Meeting: April 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Location is TBD.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer