District 2 Little League Meeting

January 11, 2024 *|* Take 5 Restaurant Meeting called to order by Steve DePalma at 6:31pm

Attendance

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

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

* Any district issues need to go to Steve, Ernie or Marc so they can respond.
* ASAPS need to be done NOW! Change the dates and get them in. If you need help, please reach out to Marc or Ernie. We get a kickback for the District if we reach 100% by March 1.
* Dues for 2024 season are $200.00 and are due NOW! Please get them in.
* District Collections from tournament play is past due. Get to Steve ASAP!
* Charters for your district need to be done ASAP! Check your boundaries!!
* The district website has all the updated information needed for next season.
* Holyoke will not be participating in Little League for the 2024 season.
* Palmer is out for this year. Not ready to join.
* West Springfield is possibly interested in chartering softball for 2023.
* Springfield did play Fall Ball, but have not been returning repeated phone and email requests from Ernie. Likely will not join for this year. Will revisit if needed.
* Marc talked to Taylor, will come up with a packet to use that is all the same for what waiver info is needed. Will send out to all once finalized.
* All waivers (for all players of all ages) must be submitted as soon as they are registered to pass onto the Chartering Committee for approval. All out of boundary players must submit a waiver. If players were approved previously, they are set for the lifetime of their eligibility. If unsure, reach out to Steve D.
* Steve is working on signs for all District 2 fields for the spring. Need to know how many per charter are needed.
* District is looking into a code of conduct for all players, coaches and parents. If you have one you currently have in use, send it to Marc. Have it on the registration? What is the accountability for all? We can ask parents to leave, but Police can enforce and escort. Member in good standing; you signed this and it could impact whether we accept your child if you continue to use poor conduct.
* Any charters that would like Steve Elliot’s wife to do a CPR training for their charter, please reach out to him as soon as you can to schedule the training for this season. Cost is $25 per person for the certificate of completion.
* Jimmy Fund and GMT dates:
  + GMT - July 14-20 - 10U, July 21-27 - 12U.
  + Jimmy Fund: July 21-27 - 10U, July 13-August 3 - 12U, August 4-10 - all softball (10U&12U)
* Umpires:
  + Steve E needs to know who all the UIC’s for each charter are. Please forward this information as soon as you have it.
  + State umpire clinic is on March 17. Place is TBD. Talk to Steve E if interested.
  + East Regional umpire clinic is on February 17 in Bristol. Only a few spots left. If interested please talk to Steve E.
  + District 2 umpire trainings will be on March 23 and April 6 at the Baystate Medical Center building in Holyoke. Stay tuned for details.
  + New softball rule change for 2024 - leaping is now allowed for pitchers.
* Tournament Discussion:
  + John Berardi mentioned a district All Star tournament. Steve D brought up this discussion again. Ernie will send out a question for response. Please give due consideration and respond soon.
* Equipment Update:
  + The price for baseballs and softballs has gone way up. Dicks is continuing the promotion for 1 more year, then they are discontinuing their program. Steve could get a 30 % discount if we combine the order for all of District 2. **Ernie will send out a request for orders to be submitted no later than January 22, 2024. Please respond with amounts and styles of what you need for 2024.**
* New Business:
* Sports Connect will be going nationwide for all charters for LL for the 2025 season. If you are not already on Sports Connect, you will need to be on for 2025. Please begin the process of changing over now to set up for next year. All registrations will need to be integrated through Sports Connect.
* AIG insurance is changing for this year, but has not been updated on the Data Center as of this meeting. Stay tuned for updates.
* The following online trainings must be completed by all coaches and volunteers: Diamond Leadership training and Abuse Awareness training from USA Baseball. Concussion training is also strongly recommended for all as well. Links to these will be sent in an email along with the minutes. Please print out certificates of completion and keep them on file with your charter.
* Discussion about a District safety plan to have a baseline for everyone.
* All towns need to have final team numbers together by March 14 to get scheduling started for towns that will be traveling for Spring play.
* Special game forms need to be filed with Steve D for all teams what will travel outside of their charter to play other towns. This is needed for each level individually for all towns involved. Also need this form to play teams outside of our district.
* Please submit all new board member information to Ernie or Marc so we can update the workbook for 2024. We welcome Tim Recuber as the new President of Northampton LL.
* If you host tournaments, LL kids are covered under LL insurance. Outside teams may not be covered, You need proof of their insurance BEFORE they play. Get info to Steve as it will need to be sent to LL headquarters.
* There will be a round table discussion on March 8&9. If there are changes that you want to suggest, forward them to Steve ASAP so he can submit them for discussion. Continuous batting order was mentioned, as well as softball dates from calendar to school year.
* New people board members should reach out to existing members for any help needed. Lots of experience to pull from.

**Next Meeting: February 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM. Location is TBD**

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer