District 2 Little League Meeting

November 16, 2023 *|* Take 5 Restaurant Meeting called to order by Steve DePalma at 6:31pm

Attendance

**Towns In Attendance: Agawam, Westfield, Southampton, Easthampton, Belchertown, Ludlow, Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Gateway, Chicopee**

**Steve DePalma, Ernie Fitzel, Marc Winer, Michelle Winer**

* Discussion to bring on a secretary for the executive board for District 2. Marc made a motion and Mike seconded. All approved 14/0/0. Michelle Winer new secretary.
* 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.
* 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!!
* Registration should be open for next season or should be very soon.
* The district website has all the updated information needed for next season.
* Many districts are having issues with filling their board positions. Most agreed this was the same for them here within District 2. Steve encouraged all to reach out if they needed help throughout the season especially when traveling.
* Holyoke will not be participating in Little League for the 2024 season.
* Palmer has decided to not participate in Little League for the 2024 season.
* Belchertown has offered to take kids from Holyoke if they want to play in LL. Email should be sent to the kids that played explaining the situation so they have an option to play . Steve D. will look into this to see what was sent last year. Westfield has also offered to help with Holyoke players. Check boundaries as you will need to put wavers in if they are outside your boundaries. They need to be signed ASAP so there are no issues as the season goes along. Talk to Taylor, come up with a packet to use that is all the same for what waver info is needed.
* Steve is working on signs for all District 2 fields for the spring.
* Fall Ball Recap:
  + Issue with Springfield fields. Holyoke pulled out of the season. Other than that and the weather it was a good season.
* Coaches & player clinics: Is there interest? Softball says yes. Maybe in February.
* Looking into an adult clinic because there are less adult supervisors available.
* 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.
* Jimmy Fund Recap:
  + Getting bigger as we have more teams. We need to be sure both baseball and softball are represented. This is intended to be a fun event. District 2 stated that this year was their best Jimmy Fund year yet. Dana Farber (where the collection money goes) is resuming tours. If interested, call Steve.
* Umpires:
  + Have meeting to talk about concerns with parents. Want to be consistent across the district with training, so umpires use the same rules in all towns. More discussion to follow… Code of conduct would come into play. Consistent protocol for fans that need to be removed.
* Tournament Discussion:
  + John Berardi mentioned a district All Star tournament. Dist 2 vs Dist 3 etc. Fun weekend games. Baseball has many teams. August is hard as is fall due to other sports. Suggestions? Maybe just the younger kids? We could wrap up their season early and have All Stars then roll into Districts.
* Red Sox recognition of players at MGM weekend? Mike will email Steve and he will forward the request on to the Red Sox.
* Thunderbird's want to offer recognition for District 2 - is there any interest? Steve will have the rep attend the next meeting to discuss options. Maybe Feb?
* Yard Goats partnership for District 2?
* 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. Most have already placed their order for next year and don’t want to cut ties with Dicks rep. Let Steve know what you order and he will look into this for next year. Bertelli’s Skate Shop has equipment to give. See Jay or Anthony.
* New Business:
* Discussion of registration fees for 2024 season. Discussion on what towns provide to the players for their registration fee?
* Skills and Drills for softball t-ball fall season so they can have a successful spring season. Could be a better option for them.
* Try to keep games between neighboring towns as much as possible for the divisions if there is not enough teams to play among your town. This should be communicated with parents up front so they know there may be minimal travel.
* If numbers are down, we may need to combine teams with other towns.
* 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.
* Waivers are needed for all new players. If they played last year they become a legacy player and we can use the waiver form that is on file for future years. If it is their first waiver year, the player is not eligible for tournament play. Steve has the copies of waivers for District 2.
* There will be a round table discussion in March. 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.

**Next Meeting: January 11, 2024 Location is TBD**

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Submitted by Michelle Winer