

District 8 Presidents Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Started @ 7:00pm

Attendance:

- **Leagues:** (All in attendance): Ballard, Magnolia, North Bothell, North Central Seattle, Northeast Seattle, Northwest Seattle, North Lake, Queen Anne, RUG, Shoreline, Northshore, Woodinville
- **D8 Staff** (not 100% certain, as some joined by cell number and name was not announced): Scott Brohaugh, Mark Ryder, Bev Newsome, Carol Smith, Dotty Heberling, Brian Marantz, Ann Kilker, Joanne Allen, Tom Peckham, Nick Leibold, Kyle Netterfield, David Lee, Gary Wilder

Covid-19 Waiver Discussion (Kyle):

- Overview and discussion of Risk and Waiver of Liability policy relating to Covid-19 for each league to adopt.
- To help protect the league and the volunteers in each league.
- Parental/Guardian consent, and must be the first line of defense.
- Kyle and Steve to make some additional edits based upon discussion at this evening's meeting, and then an updated waiver will be sent to each league President for discussion, adoption and implementation by each league.

Challenger:

- All 12 leagues have chartered a regular and SR level Challenger team.
- Ensure you have registered those teams on the Little League Data Center.
- Scott is working his way through meeting with each league during one of each virtual league board meetings to discuss and review the District Challenger program (and other topics).
- Registration is open and outreach is occurring to all families and school districts, along with flyers. Registration is open thru March 31.
- Price for the 2021 season is ZERO for Challenger.
- Unknown if there will be a Challenger Jamboree, but NAF is willing host. Please advise.
- There may be possible opportunities to have Mariner Days for leagues to participate in August. Challenger players would participate with their own respective leagues. This is a fluid situation due to the pandemic.
- Each league needs to ensure that they have proper Challenger registration set on their respective websites, with links to Challenger, and that the registration is FREE.

Softball:

- SB Coordinators meeting occurred earlier in the month, and the next one is scheduled soon.
- Reviewed current status of team counts by 2 groupings, Northend and City. Expectations are that participation would be lower than last regular season 2019.
- Set framework for number of games, and days played.

- NORTHEM team counts are:
 - A - 9;
 - AA – 9
 - AAA – 8
 - Majors – 7
 - Juniors - 2.
- CITY team counts are:
 - Rookie – 5
 - A – 17
 - AA – 16
 - AAA – 15
 - Majors – 10
 - Juniors - 4 or 5.
- Regular season game schedules by division are:
 - A - 10 games on Tu & Sat
 - AA - 12 games on We & Sat
 - AAA - 14 games on Tu, Th & Sat
 - Majors - 16 games on Mo, We & Sat
 - Juniors and Seniors - 16 games on Fr and doubleheaders on Sun.
- State All Star tournament dates & locations were discussed:
 - 8/9/10 (AA) July 10-18 hosted by D2, Kitsap area
 - 9/10/11 (AAA) July 10-18 hosted by D10, Kent/Auburn;
 - LL July 3-11 hosted by D6 Vancouver area [date might change to July 11-18]
 - Juniors July 5-13 hosted by D4 also in Vancouver area.
- Approved supplemental rules for AAA and Majors
- World-cup style pool play tournaments for City and Northend, with final championship game at the UW Husky Softball Park.
- Coordinators agreed that District tournament games would be played Monday through Thursday to allow players to participate in weekend select team games.
- There was a discussion on alternative game play options if C19 restricts regular game schedules.

Umpire News:

- Virtual Rules Clinic(s) being scheduled. Details are TBD
- Not sure how to handle Field Mechanics Clinics, if we can have them given pandemic gathering guidelines in the state and county. NAF is one facility willing to host thru mid-March.
- Little League Int'l is hosting online webinar videos for field mechanics and rules, with new ones starting on Feb 14 for multiple Sundays. Links via the LL Umpire Registry.

District 8 News

- In a cost savings move, LL Int'l is offering early retirement to some staff and has also been laying off some staff.
- 2021 player eligibility and rule changes have been emailed to all Presidents.

- WA State, Regional, and World Series dates are set, but are subject to change due to scheduling issues and the ongoing pandemic.

Division	WA State	WA Host	Western Regional	World Series
Softball				
SB - 10 All Stars	7/10 - 7/18	District 2	N/A	N/A
SB - 11 All Stars	7/10 - 7/18	District 10	N/A	N/A
SB - Little League All Stars	7/3 - 7/11	District 6	Jul 24-30	Aug 11-18
SB - Junior All Stars	7/5 - 7/13	District 4	Jul 21 - 29	Aug 1-7
SB - Senior All Stars	TBD		Jul 23 - 28	Aug 2-8
Baseball				
BB - 10 All Stars	7/10 - 7/18	District 3	N/A	N/A
BB - 11 All Stars	7/24 - 8/1	District 9	N/A	N/A
BB - Little League All Stars	7/17 - 7/25	District 13	Aug 8-14	Aug 18-29
BB - Intermediate All Stars	7/7 - 7/12	District 7	Jul 20-29	Aug 1-8
BB - Junior All Stars	7/10 - 7/18	District 11	Aug 4-11	Aug 15-22
BB - Senior All Stars	7/10 - 7/18	District 11	Jul 20-28	Jul 31- Aug 7

- Local District 8 Tournament dates have not been set. We have to get to Phase 3 of WA State re-opening plan—and we are currently still in Phase 1.

Little League Travel Ball Program

- Plan is to launch for 2022 season.
- Review of program via Mark (slide deck, emailed earlier to all Presidents)
- Registration for it will need to occur this coming July 2021.
- Strongly recommend a dedicated league coordinator to handle this program
- Discussion of tryouts, team sizes, possibility of cuts, winter training program, practices, games, fields
- Per LL Int'l: Travel-ball players MUST also play on regular Little League season teams, cuts are possible, and coaches CANNOT be paid.
- Cost will be specific for each league, and should include all costs associated with play, fields, workout programs, cages, uniforms, etc. Current guesstimate is that should be do-able for up to ~\$1500 per player. It depends upon the level of details to your program and number of players.
- Will need to charter the team(s) via the Little League Data Center.
- It would be great if the Northend leagues would share their experiences and processes with the other Presidents since they have programs already in place that operate completely and distinctly different and outside of Little League without conflicting with Little League.

Clinics

- Would like to start these Virtual Clinics starting in February.
- Baseball pitching with Bill Kreuger
- Softball pitching with Danielle Lawrie
- Baseball hitting with Ray Atkinson
- Softball hitting with Hooch Fagaly

- Impacts of positive parent and coaching environment on the player with Brent Lillibridge
- Perhaps video record them.

Safety Plan:

- Northeast Seattle (Joe Lampitt) was first to turn in and be approved. Yea!
- Need to update your 2020 Safety Plan for 2021 and submit.
- Especially given the current pandemic situation, each league should have a Safety Officer
- Ensure you include Covid-19 “return to play” in your Safety Plan. You will need this for 2021 to get field rentals from schools, city, and other locations.
- Covid-19 Plans:
 - Seattle Parks and Recreation: Plan complete
 - Northshore School District: Plan complete
 - Shoreline School District and Parks and Recreation: Plan – Help Needed?

Treasurer Report:

- Balances:
 - Checking: \$25,848.89
 - Savings: \$16,414.24
 - Challenger: \$19,108.49
 - Total: \$61,371.62
- No income has come in since last report.
- Only 3 checks written since October (administrative: \$131.32)
- All leagues required to submit their taxes by February 16th, 2021
- We are still waiting on 2019 – 2020 financial statement from about ½ of the D8 leagues¹

Minutes:

- Approval of D8 Meeting from Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Motion to approve. Motion Seconded. Minutes approved by voice vote.

League Status:

- Due to length of meeting, requested that each league email the following info, which will be pasted ‘as is’ directly into the meeting minutes and communicated to all league Presidents.
 - Registration Status
 - Try-out plans
 - Regular season game start and end
 - What’s on your mind?
- **Ballard:** < Not received >
- **Magnolia:**
 - Registration Status (Opened Jan 1)
 - 275 Total
 - 87 Tee Ball
 - 124 Baseball
 - 64 Softball

- Try-out plans
 - Feb "Spring Training" Sessions for Majors/AAA
 - Evals Feb 27
- Regular season game start and end
- As soon as we move to Phase 2
- Extend Regular Season - Play into Summer - June/July
- What's on your mind?
 - June/July Field Availability - Parks Adult Sports?
 - All Star Tournament - games hosted by local leagues?
 - League Officer/Volunteer Liability Concerns
- **North Bothell:**
 - Registration Status (Opened Nov 1, Usually Start Late Registrations Jan 1, pushed this to Feb 1)
 - 254 Total (Compared to 401 this time last year - push of deadline is part of the impact)
 - 43 Tee Ball
 - 161 Baseball
 - 47 Softball
 - 3 Challenger
 - Try-out plans: Majors/AAA Weekend of February 27/28 and AA/Softball March 6/7
 - Regular season game start and end: Estimated for March 27 to June 13
 - What's on your mind?
 - Transition to Phase 2 - "Roadmap to Recovery" published on Jan 22nd compared pre/post Christmas - even though Cases in Snohomish County are dropping rapidly the Puget Sound data is 2 weeks delayed.
 - Parent and Player Safety - Making sure that our volunteers understand the expectations for this year and that they hold to them.
 - Managing financial struggle of credit carry over from last season. Lack of indoor training leading to a 'lesser' experience than we can normally offer.
- **North Central:**
 - Registration opened early January - 355 total
 - Baseball - 256
 - Softball - 56
 - Teeball - 41
 - Registration open thru end of Feb for AAA and above
 - Registration open thru end of March for AA and below
 - Looking at some "open field training" in Feb for AAA and above with assessments on Sunday Feb 28
 - Regular season - maybe target Mid april for games to start at older levels - back from spring break is April 19 and go to mid June with playoffs the last part of June
 - Younger levels games start early May and go 8 weeks Thru end of June
 - Concerns:
 - I echo same 3 points that Joe (Northeast) outlined as I have permits Thru end of May.
 - The other concern is the our teams in AAA and majors as we might have lost a bunch of kids because they missed a baseball/softball season.
- **Northeast:**
 - Registrations 439. We are down about 90 from the same time last year.
 - Baseball 251
 - Tee Ball 109

- Softball 79
 - Assessments Jan 31 and Feb 6
 - Games start March 27 or whenever approved
 - What's on my mind... contingency plans if dates slip
- **Northwest:**
 - Opened registration on January 1, 2021; on-time deadline for kid-pitch is February 21, 2021; on-time deadline for coach-pitch/tee-ball is March 21, 2021
 - Total of 134 players so far (91 Baseball; 23 Softball; 19 Tee-Ball; 1 Challenger); roughly 60 players not yet registered for 2021 but had carried forward their 2020 registration fees; numbers are in usual range for us at 3.5 weeks before the on-time deadline; I expect to end up in the 300-350 range after last year's decade-high 370 registrants
 - Kid-Pitch Evaluation Weekend will be Feb. 27-28
 - Juniors, Majors, and AAA teams will be formed the following week and likely start practices on Saturday, March 6th; AA to start practices a week or so later
 - Coach-Pitch and Tee-Ball will start in mid-April and run until late June, basically shifting everything two weeks later than usual
 - We hope to start kid-pitch games by April 1st

Concerns:

- Effects of losing 2020 season on families returning for 2021 season. Will we lose kids who were on the edge of playing or not playing? Will we lose strong players to select or other sports if those activities were active last year in late Summer and Fall? Will we lose coaching continuity in certain divisions?
 - Will Covid worries keep new families from registering for Tee-Ball or Coach-Pitch?
 - Family reaction to Covid waiver form
- **Northlake:**
 - Registration Status (Opened Dec 1st), extended to the End of February
 - Total= 314
 - Softball= 72
 - Baseball= 195
 - Tball= 46
 - Challenger= 1
 - Tryout/Evaluations: Tentatively planned for Sat. March 6th
 - SB & BB Minors and Majors- "Spring Training/Practices" the first week of March, dependent upon Northcreek Fields. Will be small group activity.
 - Schedule:
 - Start Games- Once we're in Phase 2
 - Tball and possibly Rookies (1st year coach pitch) will start after Spring Break (End of April)
 - End Games- End of June/Early July
 - Concerns:
 - June/July Field Availability
 - League Officer/Volunteer Liability Concerns

- **Northshore:**
 - Our numbers are currently down but growing quickly now that we have announced that we can practice and have a season.
 - Registration: 244
 - Baseball: 142
 - Softball: 70
 - T-Ball: 31
 - Challenger: 1
 - Assessments are Feb 27 & 28th for both baseball & softball. We are working on details to make it COVID friendly
 - Looking for the season to start right around March 15th +/- a couple of days. Games will be starting March 27th
 - What's on my mind....marketing. Working on getting our registration numbers up
- **Queen Anne:**
 - Registration Status as of 1/27/21; (Opened Dec 1st), extended to the End of Feb:
 - **Total = 275**
 - Softball = 49
 - Baseball = 142
 - Tball = 60
 - Teen Ball = 21
 - Challenger = 2
 - **Tryout/Evaluations**-We are planning Spring Training practices starting March 1 for AAA & Majors for 2 weeks of practices with coaches/players rotating in small group workouts since many kids did not play in 2020 at all. This should give them some time to find some form instead of one day evals in early Feb, then we will draft teams and hope for games when we can.
 - **Schedule**-Start Games- Once we're in Phase 2
 - Tball and possibly Rookies (1st year coach pitch) will start in April
 - End Games- End of June/Early July
 - **Concerns**-
 - More Covid restrictions; Phase 2 & 3 dates;
 - Season dates pushing into summer further
 - Liability for covid; will all parents sign new waiver?
- **RUG:**
 - Registration opened and announced to 2020 families on 12/9. Yard signs and email blasts to larger community the week of 1/4. Will be open through February for AA and above, and through March for A and tee ball.
 - TOTAL = 255 (includes 182 pre-registered from 2020 season)
 - 62 tee ball
 - 147 baseball
 - 46 softball
 - 2/21 or weekend of 2/27-28 player evaluations in groups of 4 to warm up and kids evaluated individually. Prefer 2/27, pending turf field availability.
 - Teams formed the week after for AA and up.
 - March 13 - Practices could start for AA and up.
 - Games start when we get to Phase 2, but what's the earliest we could plan for interleague play? April 3? After SPS Spring Break (4/19)?
 - How long should we plan to extend interleague play? Should we rough out a best case scenario now for the City Leagues?

- Younger kids (A and tee ball) usually start 4/19, maybe push them back. Still in discussion. Board meeting on 2/3.
- What's on my mind?
 - Parents reaction to a COVID waiver. Will we lose families not willing to sign? Are our safety plans good enough to just append the City Plan that Seattle Parks and Rec approved, or do we need a robust plan to make our families feel comfortable.
- **Shoreline:**
 - As of yet we don't have numbers.
 - We will not have normal assessments of traditional tryouts. Our plan is to put all 9-12 year olds into practice pods of 12 based on age (9-10 and 11-12). They will practice for a week or two starting the 15th of March. Coaches will rotate amongst the pods. After the first week or so we will decide on teams and the teams will be formed. We would expect games to start during the first weeks of April. From that we will run the season until the end of June when schools will be let out.
 - The only thing on our minds is getting the season underway safely.
- **Woodinville:**
 - Registration Count:
 - Total – 325
 - Tball – 37
 - Baseball – 178
 - Softball – 100
 - Teen – 7
 - Challenger - 3
 - Registration for Softball and Boys older than 8 closes End of Feb. Younger boys and Tball will close at the end of March.
 - Evaluation is Feb 27th-Mar 1
 - Season will begin on the 15th for softball and older boys. Mid April for younger ages.
 - Concerned about the numbers. Will make a push to get more registrants.

Next Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 7pm (Virtual). Will schedule,

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm