



Stratford Minor Baseball Association Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 20, 2022
Stratford Army Navy @ 18:30

Attendees:

Chris Redfern	John Brightwell	Mark Hall	Sue Grasby	Ashley Mathieson
Emily Priestap	Don Grasby	Barry Grasby	Steve Vaters	Ben Ehgoetz
Kyle Priestap	Johnathan Paola	Beth Hovius	Bevan Mathieson	Dave Graff
Kelly Munoz	Jess Klumper			

Non-Board Members: Kyle Casey, Doug Groenestege

Call to Order:

D. Grasby called the meeting to order at 1835

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

4 conflicts in regards to 8/9U team selection. To be discussed at end of meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

J. Brightwell, 2nd S. Vaters

Approval of Minutes:

K. Priestap 2nd S. A. Mathieson

D. Grasby welcomed Jess Klumper as a new board member for SMBA.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Discussion took place surrounding the topic of allowing 8U players to play up in 9U for the 2023 season. 9U coaching staff proposed that, due to a lack of numbers in the 8U registrations, 8U players be allowed to try out for 9U Tier 1 and then also make an additional 9U Tier 2 team. It was discussed that if this were to go forward, there needs to be a coach secured for the Tier 2 team. 9U coaching staff ensured that there will be no issue with obtaining a coach for the 9U Tier 2 team. It was emphasized that if it is passed that 8U players can play for the 9U Tier 1 or 2 teams during the 2023 season, it is not precedent-setting and will be up to the coach for the 9U 2024 team to begin recruiting enough players for the 2024 season as the 2015 age group will not be permitted to move up to 10U in the 2024 season when pitching starts. 2023 coaching staff expressed their understanding of the matter at hand. Further discussion to take place at end of meeting for a decision to be made.

Finance

Nothing to report.

ICBA/ OBA

Discussion took place regarding ICBA Awards submissions. It was decided that a submission is to be placed for Sr. Coach of the Year, Mark Hall, and 2 submissions to be place for Jr. Umpire of the year; Ethan Priestap and Beckham McLeod. D. Graff to submit Coach of the Year, and E. Priestap to submit Jr. Umpire of the Year awards. No other submissions brought forward.

It was also discussed that anyone who would like to attend the ICBA Awards Banquet send their intention to go to Emily.

Last ICBA meeting, discussion was had surrounding how convenors should work for next year. It was proposed that there be 5 convenors for all tiers and they get a stipend.

Motion by B. Ehgoetz that ICBA convenors are to be paid \$200 per tier they convene. 2nd by Ashley. Bevan to pass on, to ICBA, SMBA's stance on how convenors should be paid.

Last ICBA meeting, it was proposed that Grimsby enter the 15U division as an interlock team. Discussion took place that Stratford is only 1 vote, and since most other centres have already agreed that they would be okay with Grimsby interlocking, it won't matter what Stratford's stance is on the topic. K. Priestap stated that it needs to be communicated to ICBA that the interlock teams need to travel to ICBA teams more than ICBA teams to travel to the interlock's home centre.

B. Mathieson stated that Mark Schramm has announced that he will be stepping away as President of ICBA, and if anyone has any interest they should communicate it to ICBA.

ICBA is also continuing to investigate getting boundaries changed, more to come.

Registration Committee:

It was discussed that the 8U numbers are not good, 11U numbers are short, and there are only 10 players currently registered for tryouts at the 13U division. It was discussed that there might now be a coach for the 14U team as Bart Drennan has discussed his intent to come back. Once confirmation is made on a coach of the 14U team, Chris Redfern is to advertise tryouts on the website.

Action Item: Chris Redfern to get confirmation of a coach for 14U at which time advertising can be done for 14U tryouts.

Beth also discussed that with the amount of work involved with the Houseleague and Rep registrations, it should be divided into 2. E. Priestap volunteered to assist with the Rep

registration once again since it goes hand-in-hand with releases. No decisions made yet on who will be the other registrar.

D. Grasby suggested a stipend for the Registrar, and this is to be addressed at the AGM.

Coaches/Tournament Updates

Discussion about a November Coaches meeting took place, but date to be determined. All coaches must be qualified by May 1st, and this is to be emphasized at the meeting. It was also mentioned that the subject of fines when backing out of OBAs to be mentioned.

Action Item: Dave Graff to determine a date for the Coach's Meeting

House League

Nothing to report.

Fundraising

Need to replace JVK banner as it was maliciously destroyed.

Umpires

Nothing to report.

Facilities

City is aware of the cracks in the concrete at SERC Hardball.

Sports Council

No one to report.

New Business

K. Munoz suggested using the sound system for next year's banquet so he can announce award winners, and he expressed interest in joining the Awards Committee.

It was asked whose responsibility it is to communicate a child's medical history to the coaching staff, and it was addressed that the child's parents/guardians are responsible for communicating that information.

Conflict of Interest Vote – Those parties affected by the outcome of the vote removed themselves from the room (J. Klumper, B. Mathieson, A. Mathieson, K. Casey, D Groenestege already absent).

A significant amount of discussion took place around the subject of allowing 8U's play for the Tier 1/2 9U teams. There was discussion about allowing kids to play to their full potential, and also discussion about how this decision impacts other kids in the 8U division moving forward. It

was also discussed that this motion is to be on a one-year term, and does not reflect the board's decision in upcoming years.

Motion made by Emily Priestap to allow the 8U (2015 age group) to tryout/play in the 9U Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams for the 2023 season, with the clear understanding that the 2015 age group will not move up to the 10U division in the 2024 season, and it will be the responsibility of the 2024 coach to recruit enough players to field a 9U team consisting of 2015 players in the 2024 season, regardless of the playing abilities of the top-ranked players. 2nd by Ben Ehgoetz. 1 objection, all others in favour. Carried.

Next Meeting:

***October 11, 2022 at 6:30pm
Stratford Army Navy***