

West Madison Little League
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 9, 2011

Members Present: Chitwood, Newburg, Hunter, Heneghan, Norton, Steeves, Zwaska, Miller, Jordan, Leno, Smith, Wood, Battista. **Members Absent:** Metcalf, Compton, Tomczak. **Guests Present:** None.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Pres. Heneghan at 7:05 PM.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion, second to approve the Dec 13 minutes. Carried.

Financial Reports: Heneghan reported on status of various bank accounts. Zwaska briefly discussed the monthly budget tracking report and requested the replenishment of \$20,000 to the rainy day fund as soon as registration revenues are available. He encouraged all board members to watch their budgets closely and keep spending in line.

Operations Reports: Norton reviewed progress on registration for the spring season, with 68 registrants to date. Jordan reported on sponsorship income with considerable dollars received to date. There are still some team sponsorship openings. Jordan also noted that Bowlathon registrations have started coming in, but rather slow to date. Battista reported for Compton on the new Umpire Training program starting tonight at Edgewood with the District umpire staff. About 90 umps from WMLL are registered.

Administrative Reports:

-- **President's Report:** Heneghan reviewed a recent follow up meeting of several board members concerning the proposal made by the high school coaches back in December. He asked for input from the board regarding whether WMLL should continue to explore options in this regard and as it relates to last September's meeting with coaches of teams in Babe Ruth and traveling teams. A lengthy discussion followed with general consensus to investigate the possibilities further. Newburg suggested WMLL inform coaches who may likely coach in the Badger and Senior leagues to make them aware of these deliberations and the possible changes in scheduling that might occur. This could affect their decision to form Babe Ruth and/or traveling teams. Discussion followed regarding the continuation of WMLL's participation in district tournaments at the Jr and Sr levels. Miller moved to only participate in the Senior District tournament if WMLL is granted a request to field only one Sr team. Motion was seconded and carried. Battista is to inform Wolfe of this request.

-- **VP-Baseball Report:** Miller presented minutes of the Baseball/Softball Operations Committee from December. No major rule changes are proposed, but there were a few minor adjustments to be considered. See the attached copy of minutes. Following a review, motion by Chitwood, second by Zwaska, to approve the BBOC recommendations for the 2011 season. Carried.

-- **VP Softball Report:** Hunter reported that softball committee is pursuing more aggressive recruiting and is developing a new flyer on the softball program. He noted there are some potential changes at Verona LL softball which need to be considered in our planning.

-- **Exec. Director Report:** Battista noted that Dick's Sporting Goods would be offering a sponsorship proposal soon for 2011.

Other Business:

-- **Mission Statement for WMLL:** Wood reviewed proposed wording for a WMLL mission statement. Following discussion, the language below was tentatively approved, with a final review at the next meeting. In addition, the following Volunteer Pledge language was drafted for review at the next meeting:

- *West Madison Little League is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization, which strives to provide a fun, first class environment for all children, regardless of their skill level, to learn the games of baseball and softball. Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership, all Directors, Officers, Managers, Coaches, Parents and Members shall devote themselves to teaching game skills and, equally importantly, the fundamental principles of sportsmanship, courage, discipline, teamwork, physical well-being and doing one's' best. Our core goal is to develop superior citizens and a love for the game.*
- *Parent/Volunteer Pledge: I will teach all children to play fair and to do their best. I will positively support all managers, coaches and players. I will respect the decisions of the umpires. I will praise a good effort, win or lose.*

-- **Practice/Field Preparation Schedule for April:** Zwaska reported on the tentative schedule for preparing the fields and practices, as follows:

- Week of April 4-8 --- Minor Field will be closed for field maintenance, repair and season preparation
- Week of April 11-15 --- Senior Field will be closed for field maintenance, repair and season preparation
- Week of April 18-22 --- Major Field will be closed for field maintenance, repair and season preparation
- Practice on fields will begin Monday, April 4, except for field that is closed as noted above
- Fields will be closed for opening day prep on Sat, April 23 and Sunday, April 24 (Easter)
- Board member participation will be needed on Sun, April 3 to install batting cage nets and backstop nets

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, Feb 7, 6:30 PM, Vitense

(attachment to 1-9-11 Board Minutes)

WMLL Baseball/Softball Operations Committee
Minutes 12/5/10

Present: Heneghan, Newberg, Battista, Miller, Chitwood, Lenocho, Norton, Wood, Compton, Smith.

Review of Baseball National Rule & Policy Revisions. Committee briefly reviewed new regular season and tournament baseball rules and policies. Consensus was that the only revision with the potential to affect the WMLL regular season is the one banning composite bats in the Badger and Senior Leagues. Also discussed were regulations on presence of adult umpire or game coordinator, and new rule permitting use of a designated hitter in the Senior League. Regarding the latter, since all WMLL Senior League teams in recent years have batted all present it was felt this rule will not impact WMLL.

Significant Tournament rule changes include greater latitude for Tournament Teams to engage in scrimmage and practice games, and restoring the ability to have 3 coaches regardless of roster size.

Baseball Local Rules & Policies. Committee adopted the following changes in local policies and rules.

General.

- Soft toss. Add language approved midseason last year, *“only wiffle balls, tennis balls, or other soft surface balls are permitted for soft toss.”*
- Time limits (for all baseball leagues the following is added to the time limit rule). *Games after the initial game of the day must start ten minutes after the final out of the previous game or the scheduled start time, whichever is later.*

Atlantic League

- Revised game time limits rule to clarify extra inning situations. The revised language is as follows. 1) Tie games will not be completed if the time limit has expired, *or seven innings have been completed.* 2) *If a game is tied at the end of six innings but the time limit has not been reached a seventh inning may be played and the game will end at the conclusion of the seventh or when the home team goes ahead in the bottom of the seventh, whichever comes first.*
- Add language to insure that first game of day ends on time. *For the purposes of the one hour thirty minute time limit the official start time of the initial game of the day will be the scheduled start time regardless of the time of the first pitch. For example if the initial game’s scheduled start is 4pm, but the first pitch is not delivered until 4:10pm, the time limit expires at 5:30pm. The only exception is for a weather related delay.*
- Add language to “Dugouts” rule to permit a 4th adult in the dugout (Metcalf will revise safety plan accordingly).

Pacific, Central & Major. Revise pitching rule to clarify definition of an inning. A pitcher may pitch no more than ___ pitches or two innings in a game, whichever comes first. *For the purposes of this rule throwing one pitch constitutes an inning.*

Central League. Added rule to require pitching by ten year olds drafted in to Central League. *On a team with one or more players Little League age ten on the regular roster (ie not including called up substitutes), a ten year old must pitch for a minimum of three consecutive outs or five batters in every week. For the purpose of this rule the week is defined as games played from Saturday through Friday. Note: the League Coordinator has authority to waive this rule under certain circumstances.*

Major League. Added rule to require pitching by eleven year olds drafted in to Major League. *On a team with one or more players Little League age eleven on the regular roster (ie not including called up substitutes), an eleven year old must pitch for a minimum of three consecutive outs or five batters in every week. For the purpose of this rule the week is defined as games played from Saturday through Friday. Note: the League Coordinator has authority to waive this rule under certain circumstances.*

Badger & Senior Leagues. Add the following language for safety reasons. *On deck hitters must use the on deck circle behind the batter (ie with a right hander at bat the on deck hitter must use the 3rd base line on deck circle). The on deck hitter may have in the on deck circle only the equipment he/she will take to the batters box and must take his place in the on deck circle before the first pitch is thrown. If a pitch has been delivered to the hitter, the on deck hitter may not leave the dugout.*

Tournament Teams. Revise Tournament Team policy to indicate that players are only eligible for their age-level teams, regardless of the regular season league in which they play.