

West Madison Little League
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Sept 12, 2010

Members Present: Chitwood, Lench, Zwaska, Norton, Miller, McNamara, Steeves, Heneghan, Newburg, Tomczak, Battista. **Members Absent:** Hunter, Jordan, Metcalf, Smith, Wood **Guests:** Ken Compton

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Heneghan at 6:40 PM

Minutes of Previous Meetings: minutes of August 8 meeting were approved.

Financial Reports: Tomczak reported on various account balances. Heneghan noted the CD that is coming due soon will be moved into one of the checking accounts to carry the league over the winter until spring registration fees begin coming in. Zwaska indicated the budget tracking report would be emailed out this week.

Fall Ball Update: Norton thanked all for helping to get the new fall season underway. 679 players are registered (up from 632 last year). 22 games have been rained out so far. Teams seem to be fairly well balanced so far. Umpire training went very well, with only 2 no-shows out of the first 73 games. We have had two incidences of head lice to deal with. All bags and helmets have been disinfected by Norton.

Umpire Review: Battista reported on the recent umpire training, coordination and scheduling review meeting held recently. A number of new ideas were brought up and will be discussed over the winter with the goal of improving training and reducing no-shows for the 2011 season.

Administrative Reports:

--- **President:** Heneghan commented on the deliberations of the scholarship review committee. He noted following lengthy discussion and a review of policies of other similar youth sports organizations, the committee was proposing the following changes to the WMLL scholarship program:

- Instituting a \$50 partial registration fee that would be required from player families requesting scholarships. In extreme hardships, written requests for a waiver of this fee would be reviewed by a committee of the President, VP-Baseball or Softball, Lg Coordinator and Exec. Director.
- The online registration system will be modified to provide for an electronic form that must be completed by all scholarship applicants. This form will include an electronic acceptance of the conditions and terms, as well as an approval allowing WMLL to verify eligibility for the free or reduced cost lunch program with their child's school principal.
- All scholarship families will be asked to pay for their child's post-game treats if they are financially able to do so. Requests for a waiver will be handled by the player's Team Rep and Coach, in which case WMLL will pick up the costs.
- WMLL will continue to pick up the cost for tournament team play by scholarship players.
- Scholarship player families will be expected to pay for any special events in which they wish to participate (Brewer game, Mallards game, Bowlathon, etc).

Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded to approve the above changes to the scholarship program for 2011. A motion was made and seconded to table the motion to allow for open discussion at the annual meeting prior to the board making a final decision. Following discussion, the motion to table was defeated and the original motion was approved. Heneghan continued his report with a brief summary of the long range planning committee meeting. He noted the main topic was the reworking of the batting cage and warm up areas. Zwaska is assembling more information and a full report will be made at a future board meeting. Heneghan concluded by noting the Challenger program is going well and getting better as we gain more experience.

--- **VP-Baseball, VP-Softball, Exec. Director:** No reports, except to note the recent surgery of a board member's spouse, who is recovering well.

Other Business:

--- **Tournament Team Travel Reimbursement:** discussion related to consideration of a policy change that would allow for teams to be partially reimbursed for travel to State tournaments located more than 150 miles from Madison (current policy offers reimbursement only for teams advancing beyond the State tnmt). Tomczak reviewed recent past payment history for teams advancing past the State tnmt level. Concensus to table the discussion until a future meeting to allow Miller to research the background of how these recent payment amounts were determined.

--- **Board Member Duties at Tournament Team Tryouts:** suggested text for this area of the Tournament Team Tryout policy was reviewed by Battista. Following discussion, the following was agreed upon and a motion and second to adopt the wording was approved for the 2011 season:

Players trying out are not guaranteed a place on a tournament team. The tournament coaches, with the advice of the participating Board of Directors, will make the final player selections. A minimum of one Board member will be involved in the process to oversee and insure adherence to WMLL policies. The Board member involved in the process may not have a child participating in that league. Each league team does not have to be represented on a tournament team.

--- **Concession Volunteers for Playoff Games:** Concessions management is conducting a review of estimated costs of additional labor to hire staff during playoffs and will report to the board at a future meeting.

--- **Little Lg Policy on Composite Bats:** the board reviewed the recent email from Williamsport regarding the disallowing of composite bats in Junior and Senior Lgs. Concensus to implement this new policy immediately and to notify parents and coaches via email as soon as possible.

--- **Annual Meeting Plans:** Battista reported the Annual Meeting will be held at Vitense on Oct 2, 8:00 AM

--- **Annual Board/Spouse Dinner:** Heneghan reviewed current and past precedent regarding the invitees to the annual Board/Spouse appreciation dinner each fall. He reported several board members are of the opinion this event should be limited to Board members and spouses/guests, as was originally intended. The board agreed. Discussion followed regarding a separate employee appreciation gathering and Heneghan and Battista will follow up.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Next Meetings: **Annual Meeting, Saturday, Oct 2, 8:00 AM, Vitense Golfland**
Regular Meeting, Sunday, Oct 17, 6:30 PM, Vitense Golfland