



Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Minutes of Annual Baseball Meeting 2018
Held at Madison, South Dakota
January 21, 2018

The meeting was opened in due form at 10 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance by baseball chairman Danny Frisby-Griffin.

The chairman requested a moment of silence to remember a special VFW baseball supporter in Castlewood Mick Kirwan.

Introductions I am the Senior Vice Commander of the VFW and that baseball Chairman for the VFW. Our Commander of the VFW is Rick Williamson from Canton. Quartermaster /Adjutant of the VFW Darwin Tolzin, representative from the Council of Administration and our current Surgeon Barbara McKean, Director of Baseball Operations Rob Lind, Class B Representative Wesley Grantham out of Hamlin, Class A Representative Keith Kropuenske. And that is our current baseball structure.

I need to do a quick roll call of the teams present that will help us determine the vote structure as it is each team that registered and played in a baseball tournament will get a vote each community has a maximum of 4 votes.

Roll call of teams:

Alcester/Hudson no, Alexandria no, Baltic no, Beresford **yes** one, Burke/South-Central no, Canastota/Freeman **yes** one, Canova **yes** one, Canton no, Castlewood **yes** three, Chamberlain no, Chancellor no, Claremont/Britton no, Clark no, Clear Lake/Duel no, Colome no, Corsica/Stickney no, Dakota Valley no, Dell Rapids **yes** four, De Smet no, Elk Point/Jefferson no, Elkton no, Emory no, Flandreau **yes** three, Fort Pierre no, Frederick no, Garretson no, Gregory no, Groton no, Hamlin **yes** three, Kimball/White Lake no, Lake Norden no, Lead/Deadwood no, Lennox no, Lyman no, Madison **yes** four, Milbank no, Mobridge no, Montrose no, Mount Vernon no, Oneida no, Parker no, Parkston **yes** one, Platte **yes** four, Redfield no, Salem **yes** two, Selby **yes** one, Sioux Falls Christian no, Sisseton no, Spearfish no, Tea no, Tri-Valley **yes** three, Tyndall/Bon Homme no, Vermillion **yes** four, Volga no, Wagner no, Webster **yes** one, Wessington Springs no, West Central **yes** four, Winner no. Totals indicate that the two thirds vote will be 31.

Any additions or changes to the minutes from January 2017. Motioned to approve the 2017 minutes as amended by Heather Fischer, 2nd Craig Case, Webster. The amendment was the Canova proposal being approved and should be a part of the minutes. The motion was presented and carried.

Budget of 2017- 2018 will reflect the addition of the youth baseball grant and a community of the year program and the veteran's donation program. The salary that is in earmarked for the chairman, that being me, has already turned \$1500 into the baseball program and \$1500 into the veteran's donation program. I've got one grant request from Webster. The goal of this baseball growth program is to take care of all youth that want to be involved in baseball.

Unfinished business: had 146 teams registered and participated in the VFW baseball tournaments. 16 U class A had 16 teams & class B had 19 teams 14 and under class A had 27 teams and class B had 26 teams; 12 and under Class A had 15 teams in class B had 18 teams; 10 and under class A had 13 teams and class B had 12 teams.

New business: the new website was set up and is in use. The new website will look familiar to most of you as other than being a new provider it basically provides the same information as last year. The only thing lacking in the website is detailed information concerning next year's tournament dates and locations and hopefully to have that out by February 2018. 2018 registration is open and has been open since November 2017.

The fee structure change for 2018 early registration by 1 May 2018 is \$125 and \$150 during the prime registration season until 15 June 2018 and late registration is \$175.

Anybody that is interested in putting bids in for 2019 and 2020 there is a fee to host. The fee will be \$25 per team participating. A minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$600. These fees are based on per tournament team participation.

With the new website being developed there is an expectation by the VFW that game changer will be used so that anyone that can't attend the tournament can still watch the game being played via the website. We do expect some growing pains with game changer, but they should be minimal.

The sponsorship program is set at \$3000 and the benefits will be recognition on all the sites, recognition during the tournament, and other activities. This program is not used for execution costs of the baseball program and will be used for the grant program, community appreciation program and veteran's contribution program.

We will be going into the rule changes and as you can see there are only 3 agenda items on the list of being proposed by the VFW baseball. #1 the age cutoff, #2 2 sizes of facilities and #3 pitch count.

2017 at the last annual meeting the proposed age cutoff was to be 1 January with a delayed implementation to 1 January 2018 and that is the approved cut off as of that date. Jeff Holmes Dell Rapids baseball made the motion to start the cutoff age as of 1 May; 2nd Heather Fischer from West Central. Several discussions happen concerning alignment with other organizations and whether this is a positive or negative move. Little League is switching their cutoff date to 31 August 2018. The big concern, what we must do to make

sure we do what is right for VFW baseball. The motion on the floor by Jeff Holmes, Dell Rapids baseball, is to move the age cutoff date to 1 May; 2nd Heather Fischer from West Central. The vote is follows:

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman no, Canova no, Castlewood no, Dell Rapids yes, Flandreau no, Hamlin no, Madison yes, Parkston no, Platte yes, Salem no, Selby no, Tri-Valley yes, Vermillion no, Webster no, West Central yes. To have two thirds vote we need 31, we have 21 for the change 25 against the cutoff date remains 1 January.

Motion by Heather Fischer West Central to stair-step the age change starting with the 10 and under this year and then every 2 years have another age group moved to 1 January; 2nd and by Robert Wolf. Vote follows: "No" is stay one time. "Yes" use proposed stair-step method.

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman no, Canova no, Castlewood no, Dell Rapids no, Flandreau no, Hamlin no, Madison yes, Parkston no, Platte no, Salem no, Selby no, Tri-Valley no, Vermillion no, Webster no, West Central yes. 10 votes for and 36 against. Motioned failed so cutoff is 1 January and one time for all ages.

Establish a facility dimension is next on the agenda. Recommended dimensions for a VFW sanctioned event field are 275 feet to left and right field and 320 feet to straightaway center for the 16 and under and 14 and under teams. The rule is amended for the 12 and under and 10 under teams. Motion by John Von Wald of Selby, 2nd Mark Hoffman. Vote follows:

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman yes, Canova yes, Castlewood yes, Dell Rapids yes, Flandreau yes, Hamlin yes, Madison yes, Parkston yes, Platte yes, Salem yes, Selby yes, Tri-Valley yes, Vermillion yes, Webster yes, West Central yes. Motion presented and carried.

The VFW Creed should be said before the games at all levels.

We talked about USA bats and you are grandfathered under the bat requirements, but any new bats should be USA bats for 14U, 12U and 10U. For the 2019 season will be strictly USA bats.

Next agenda item will be the pitch count issue. Motion made by Wes Grantham, 2nd by Greg Cheeseman to discuss this issue. Lengthy background discussion by Wes was presented indicating why this change is necessary. Wes highly recommends doing pitch count for the safety of all the kids. "Yes" is for pitch count," no" to remain as is.

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman yes, Canova yes, Castlewood yes, Dell Rapids yes, Flandreau yes, Hamlin yes, Madison yes, Parkston yes, Platte yes, Salem yes, Selby yes, Tri-Valley yes, Vermillion yes, Webster no, West Central yes. Motion presented and carried. The host committee will be responsible for maintaining a pitch count via the official tournament score book.

Your tournament checklist is on the website along with tournaments. The sequence of events is also available on the website.

Check the website for all the tournaments and host locations.

The new grant program has an online fillable form and is filled out and presented to the VFW baseball committee. And there are no limitations to what the grants can be fill them out and if the committee decides they can't provide for a grant they will let you know. It basically was the first-come first-served basis when the monies are gone that are earmarked for grants this year it is gone until next year. Any grant that is not funded this year must be resubmitted for the following year.

The community of the year recognition will be picked by the baseball committee basically all the items are common sense items as listed on the guide. VFW Baseball believes that a recognition plaque isn't the appropriate item to present but should be a check for community youth baseball.

The veteran's donation program will be presented as being from VFW Baseball.

2018 Tournament Host Sites Reveal

Class A

- 16U 8/3-6/2018 (**West Central**) (Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)
- 14U 7/20-22/2018 (**Flandreau**) (Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)
- 12U 7/13-15/2018 (**Madison**)
- 10U 7/13-15/2018 (**Madison**)

Class B

- 16U 8/3-6/2018 (**Salem-Montrose**) (Regions during week of 7/23-27 and must be complete by 7/27)
- 14U 7/20-22/2018 (**Gregory**) (Regions during week of 7/9-12 and must be complete by 7/12)
- 12U 7/13-15/2018 (**Webster**)
- 10U 7/13-15/2018 (**Platte-Corsica**)

2019 Tournament Dates

- Class A and B 10U and 12U: 7/12-14/2019
- Class A and B 14U: 7/19-21/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/11)
- Class A and B 16U: 8/2-4/2019 (Regions must be completed by 7/26)

2020 Tournament Dates

- Class A and B 10U and 12U: 7/10-12/2020
- Class A and B 14U: 7/17-19/2020 (Regions must be completed by 7/9)
- Class A and B 16U: 7/31-8/2/2020 (Regions must be completed by 7/24)

Motion by Mike McGillivray, Madison, to eliminate roster batting changing to 10 at least at the 10U division because of the new pitch count; 2nd vote to bring it to the floor. Vote follows:

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman yes, Canova yes, Castlewood yes, Dell Rapids yes, Flandreau yes, Hamlin yes, Madison yes, Parkston yes, Platte yes, Salem yes, Selby yes, Tri-Valley yes, Vermillion yes, Webster yes, West Central yes. Motion presented and carried.

Vote of “yes” is to change current rule of batting everyone; vote of “no” rule will remain as is.

Vote follows:

Beresford yes, Canastota/Freeman no, Canova yes, Castlewood yes, Dell Rapids yes, Flandreau no, Hamlin yes, Madison yes, Parkston no, Platte no, Salem yes, Selby yes, Tri-Valley no, Vermillion no, Webster no, West Central no. Motion failed will remain as last year.

Motion by Jeff Holm from Dell Rapids to remove roster cap on the number of players on the roster at the 14 and under and 16 and under groups; 2nd Robin from Beresford. Chairman asked if anyone is opposed to discussing this item no one in attendance objected. The motion was presented and passed.

Entertaining a motion to prevent the development of a “super team” that search the existing VFW baseball rules is going to be tabled until the 2019 general meeting. At that time the baseball committee will have put together a proposal for the team’s approval. For 2018 VFW Baseball will have to rely on the coach’s integrity this summer to prevent that from happening.

Plan on having the new rules posted on our website by February 1. 20 January 2019 is the next annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Submitted by:

Signed/Darwin Tolzin

Darwin Tolzin
Adjutant
Department of South Dakota

Official:
By Order of:

Signed/DF-G

Danny Frisby-Griffin,
Baseball Chairman
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States

Signed/RL

Rob Lind,
Director of VFW Baseball Operations
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States