

Arrowhead Fastpitch League Board
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2017

Called to order at 6:08 pm

Present: Dennis Peterson, Todd Marunich, Theresa Leopold, John Stevens, Kelly Goeb, Melissa Stevens

1. Annual Meeting. Board Positions, nominated and unanimously voted into positions as follows:
 - a. President: Dennis Peterson (to fulfill remaining term of one year.
 - b. Vice President: John Stevens
 - c. Treasurer: Sherry Mottonen
 - d. At Large 3: Bridget Vesel-Johnson
 - e. At Large 4: Theresa Leopold
 - f. At Large 5: Pat Shelton
2. Finances. Discussed we will have approx. \$1200 in checking after all outstanding bills are paid from the 2017 season. Prior to the 2017 season we had \$3480 in checking. So we have gone backwards by more then \$2000.
3. Facebook Update. Theresa has started a Facebook page. Much discussion about what should be included. Suggestions include game cancelations, updates when the schedules have been posted to the AFPL website. Also suggested keeping this as an information site only rather than a responsive site.
4. Surveys to umpires and coaches. Kelly and Sherry will be meeting in early December to complete these surveys on Survey Monkey so we should have results prior to our next meeting.
5. Scheduling Program for 2018 season. Cost is \$99 for the first year with Diamond Scheduler. Melissa agrees to take the lead on this and see if it would work for us. Report at next meeting.

6. USA vs USSSA Registration Fees
 - a. USA fee is \$15 per team.
 - b. USSSA fee is \$25 per team

7. USA vs USSSA team insurance. Offered as 12 month coverage.
 - a. USA. \$10 per player
 - b. USSSA. \$141 12U, \$164 13-15 y/o, \$232 16-18 y/o

8. USA vs USSSA. Discussion if we should stay as USSSA league with USSSA insurance and additional registration fees for USA for 14-18s. Or is we should switch all ages to USA with USA insurance. Our 14-18U umpires are USA certified and follow USA rules though the league has USSSA insurance.
 - a. Registration costs:
 - i. In 2017 we had 76 teams rookies thru 16/18s.
 1. All were registered USSSA (\$25 per team), \$1900.
 2. 14/16/18s were also registered USA at \$15 per team for additional \$405.
 3. Total registration for last year was \$1785.
 - ii. If we have the same number of teams in 2018 and go straight ASA, cost will be \$1140.
 - b. Insurance costs as noted in #7 above. Most teams have 12 to 15 players, so cost would likely be equal between USA and USSSA for 10s and 12s. But would be much higher with USSSA for 14/16/18s.
 - c. USA allows for consistency between our umpires and insurance.
 - d. USA has all teams/coaches/community leaders register and pay everything online which would save our organization time and difficulty collecting fees.
 - e. USA had indicated they would be willing to host a state tourney in our area as USSSA has in the past.
 - f. USA has the rosters available for all to see online.

After much discussion, the board unanimously voted to change to USA for the 2018 season. Questions for USA....

Will they off a tourney in our area for sure?

How do we double roster players in different age groups?

How late in the season can players be added to a roster?

9. Field Costs.
 - a. Duluth. No increase in fees from last year. They also have 2 fields with lights available on Wednesday nights at Wheeler that we did not use last year.
 - b. Cloquet. Need to verify cost of Braun for 2018.
10. Registration fees for 2018. Discussed that by changing to USA, our league will no longer be covering the cost of insurance for teams as they will have to pay it at the time of online registration. Therefore, our overall registration fee per team should decrease. However, we were down more than \$2000 overall last year. We will fully figure expenses, percentage of overhead for each team, and come to the next meeting with suggestions for registration fees for 2018. This will be a change and we will need to clearly notify communities.
11. Roster Availability. There was concern last year whether some players were rostered on a team, especially at the time of playoffs. Changing to USA will allow all coaches access to see rosters, which should help with this problem.
12. Nights of play. Some discussion regarding additional fields at Wheeler, if we could switch nights around for age groups to take advantage of those fields. Initial thoughts: 10U on Wed, 12U on Tues, 14U on Wed and Thurs, 16/18U on Mon and Tues. Will continue further discussion next meeting.

Future Board Meetings: January 14, February 11, March 11

Coaches Meeting to be April 8, 2018. Location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm