

## MBYLL Board Meeting Minutes

September 2009

In attendance: Bob T., Stu B., Bob R., Tom S., Kevin M., Gus B. and Paul Z.

Stu made a motion to accept the revised minutes (includes the fee correction) from the August board meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gus and all voted to accept with the one clarification that any town that utilizes the new website to pay MBYLL fees for 2010 will not need to pay any charges for the merchant account (the league will pay these).

Gus confirmed the cost that were quoted by League Athletics, are firm and sent an invoice to Bob Rice. Gus also committed to putting up the draft site for the board to review by the end of this weekend and have it up and running for the public by October 1<sup>st</sup>. For the initial time period, Gus will be the gatekeeper for information that needs to be added to the website. Please work through him.

Next we reviewed the preliminary results of the 101 responses to the MBYLL survey. **CHRIS – please forward the final results and we would all like to see the “comments” people left regarding most of the questions.** The board agreed that it makes sense to post the results of the survey on the website. We can come up with an explanation on the website as to the results and our intention for taking the responses into consideration as well as a follow up survey sometime in the future.

The league philosophy 87% of the respondents claiming it was important to very important. There was interest in moving up the scheduling process deadline 45 days but the board felt there was not enough time to enact that for 2010 season.

70% rated the referees highly. There was enough interest in moving to grade based approach that regional directors should talk about this at their 1<sup>st</sup> fall meeting.

Bob T. will resurrect the U9 panel to discuss parameters that we would want in place to consider having U9 as part of MBYLL and hopefully get back to the board by October 9<sup>th</sup>.

MBYLL's position on outside leagues (select, Friday night lights, etc.): The survey indicated that 55%+ of the respondents feel strongly that options should exist for committed/experienced players. We had a good discussion as to how (if at all) MBYLL should position itself relative to this issue.

Key issues discussed (keep in mind that terminology involved with this issue is tricky):

- Do we want to be in the business of judging/acknowledging/endorsing/recommending other leagues
- Should we issue guidelines to towns as to what an alternate league should look like
- Do we want to get towns to mandate that players participate in MBYLL (can we?)
- Should we provide a Q&A on our website for towns to consult regarding asking the right questions as to how a league is run

In essence there are 3 types of alternative leagues when it comes to how MBYLL could be impacted:

1. Leagues that mandate that all players participate in MBYLL Sunday games and attend practices
2. Leagues that do not mandate participation in MBYLL
3. Leagues that do not allow participation in MBYLL by their players

We agreed that it was important that we communicate to all MBYLL constituents what the MBYLL philosophy is and what it really means. This would allow for towns, coaches and parents to then compare this to other options. We decided that all board members should send Stu their interpretation as to what impact our philosophy has on the sport, e.g. no playoffs – this mutes the intensity of the parents involvement and the pressure off winning at all cost..... PLEASE SEND THIS TO ME BY THE END OF THIS WEEKEND. The next step will be to put out a statement from the board (voted on via e-mail on a straight up or down vote) that restates our philosophy;

acknowledges other leagues will exist but indicates our continued commitment to keep MBYLL true to its philosophy; and finally to create a simple Q&A as to key issues everyone should be aware in running a league.

Tom S. had suggested that the MBYLL logo be reworked to include at least "Mass Bay" to better identify who we are. If Tom or anyone else wants to come up with some drafts please do.

View Kevin McDonald's Google calendar ([View mcdonaldkt@comcast.net calendar](#)) for the key dates for the 2010 season. Add in your regional meetings as you schedule them. **Note that the next board meeting will be October 13<sup>th</sup> (Tues) at Skip Jacks – Gillette (unless I hear otherwise) and then the competition committee meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM followed by a board meeting.** Probably at the Marriott in Newton. CHRIS - can you contact the Marriott?

Please let me know if I have missed anything in the notes.