

DBYS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
January 19th, 2011 (Rescheduled from January 11th)

The 2011 DBYS January monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, January 19th, 2011, beginning at 8:00 PM, at the Villas at Morlatton. The following DBYS Board members were present: *Ben Marchese, John Piccarreta, Camille Hayes, Lisa Miller and Matt Huddleson.*

League members/guests also in attendance included: *Ben Benoit, Todd MacLaren, Gary Kuhn, Tim Friede, Simon Cymbalski, Dan Brown, Kevin Spitko, John DeFusco, Jay Hall, Tim Willman, Bob Bridegam, Steve Miller, Steve Kaba, Tom Gatz, Karl Degenhart, Tom Beck, Jeff Goodrich, Greg Whelan, Steve Williams, Tom Quay, Todd Cleaver, Bob Persicketti, Steve Criblear, Wayne Dotterweich, Shawn Hornberger, Lori Pence, Mike Pence, Brian Miller, Brian Linsenbigler, Randall Yenser, Tom Cote, Jillian Gondal and Tony DiGugliamo (and one attendee whose signature was illegible).*

Call To Order: Vice-President Ben Marchese called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM.

Secretary's Report: Tom Cote made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the December 2010 meeting. Wayne Dotterweich seconded the motion. All meeting minutes can be found online at: www.DBYS.org.

President's Report: Dean Dinnocenti, who was out of the country on business, requested for Ben to provide updates via the agenda on his behalf.

Vice President's Report: Ben Marchese asked that all who would like to coach this season (head or assistant) be sure to either let the Board know via email or to mark it on their form when they register their player/players. He advised everyone that while it is a volunteer role, there is no guarantee that everyone who requests to coach will be selected to coach. Ben reminded everyone that while we've rarely been in a position where we have more volunteers than teams, should that occur, the Board will select the head coaches. Ben also noted that it is up to the head coach to then select his/her two "official" assistant coaches.

Lori Pence asked what criteria the Board would use to select head coaches should there be more volunteers than the number of teams. Ben advised that the Board would look at many variables, including number of years in the league, coaching experience, feedback from parents from previous years, attendance at meetings, involvement with the league, etc. Lori asked if years of coaching with other leagues would be considered years of coaching experience to our Board. Camille Hayes suggested that yes, coaching experience is coaching experience regardless of where the person coached/volunteered his/her time.

Ben also reminded members in attendance that we hold evaluations and a draft for all levels except for T-ball. This is done to make sure that all teams are created fairly with relatively equal talent distributed on each team. With that in mind, he asked that everyone refrain from requesting to play with specific friends or coaches, and asked coaches to refrain from making "carpool" and friend requests as well.

Finally, Ben advised that DBYS will not be playing BYS in inter-league play this upcoming season. He said based on discussions with Tony Tucci, Cal Ripken State Commissioner, DBYS will instead have inter-league play with Antietam, a Cal Ripken league located in Mount Penn.

Lori Pence questioned DBYS's decision to not play BYS, should they remain with Cal Ripken. She suggested that during merger talks, DBYS gave a verbal commitment to continue to play BYS via inter-league play if the merger did not go through. Ben stated that based on more recent discussions with Tony Tucci, we were swayed to play Antietam instead of BYS. He suggested that opening DBYS to inter-league play with more than one outside league is not in the best interest of our league, players or parents.

Treasurer's Report:

With information provided from Treasurer Brian DeMild, Camille Hayes presented the following Treasurer's report (*as of January 19th, 2011*)

Checking Account:	\$ 43,943.04
Money Market Account:	\$ 6,978.33
Petty Cash:	\$ 0.00
Total Bank Acct Bal:	\$ 50,921.37

Softball Director's Report:

Matt Huddleson advised everyone that softball evaluations for 8U, 10U and 12U will be held February 15th and 17th from 5:00 to 9:00 PM in the MS gym (14U+ evaluations will take place later as the girls in those age groups play MS softball in the beginning of the spring season). Matt made it clear that all girls must attend at least one evaluation session to be considered for the "A" team, should the teams be divided that way again this year.

Matt reported that the 12U Travel team, the Inferno, is scheduled to play roughly five (5) tournaments this season, beginning in April. We are also hoping to host a 12U travel league tournament the last weekend in April. He added that we are also looking at putting together and hosting tournaments for our 8U and 10U league this year, although we have no formal details on that yet.

Matt asked everyone to mark their calendars for Friday, May 13th, which he announced would be the date of the 1st Annual DBYS Golf Outing/Tournament.

Logistics Report:

John Piccarreta reported that approximately 400 players are currently registered with DBYS (300 baseball, 100 softball). He reminded everyone that registration remains open at www.DBYS.org until January 31st. Ben added that any registration received after the January 31st deadline is subject to a late fee.

League Rep Report:

Lisa Miller had no updates to report at this time.

Committee Reports:**DBYS/BYS Merger Update:**

Ben reported that, earlier this week, he spoke with Jason Perrot, BYS President, who confirmed BYS does have enough registered players to keep their league running this season. He said Jason did not mention DBYS playing BYS, but that instead Jason was interested in seeking to play other organizations within the Reading/Berks area.

Fundraising:

Camille advised that WaWa tickets (for those who purchased them in lieu of the fundraising buyout) would be ordered once registration closes (for the purpose of placing just a single order). Once the order is placed, it would take roughly 2-3 weeks to receive the tickets, which would then be mailed directly to all who purchased them.

Sponsorships:

Ben asked for a volunteer to head the Sponsorship Committee, a very important role that Mike Dekker spearheaded in previous years. When no one volunteered as requested, Camille suggested that Ben oversee the Committee, since he was a strong member of the committee in the past and personally responsible for bringing in multiple donations/sponsorships. Ben accepted the role but asked for assistance from others to help contact sponsors. Camille suggested that everyone reach out to some business, as a patron or employee, and help us raise money through sponsorships. The sponsorship form and file can be found on our website: www.dbys.org.

Fields:

Ben encouraged the use of the Middle School fields for practice and suggested that, even though the DB Coaches Association has the fields reserved for most of the spring and summer, the fields are usually available Monday through Thursday. Camille reminded baseball coaches that fields 42 and 47 are always reserved for softball and that a scheduled practice always takes precedence over a team just looking for an impromptu practice.

New Business:**Spring 2011 Registration:**

Ben reiterated that approximately 400 players have registered to play with DBYS so far this season. He also added that we have officially extended registration to January 31st (registration was originally set to close on January 15th).

While softball evaluation dates have been set (February 15th, 17th), we are still attempting to secure gym time for baseball evaluations. Matt advised league members in attendance that weekend school gym time is now subject to a \$300.00 fee for outside organizations. Matt will continue to work with Athletic Director Tom Legath to see what gyms, dates and times are available in late February, early March. Once we secure the gym time – evaluation dates will be communicated.

Ben announced that as of January 14th, 2011, composite bats are no longer permissible in our league. Based on feedback from others who received the same communication from Babe Ruth Headquarters, some composite bats are still deemed acceptable. John Piccarreta stated that the list of acceptable composite bats is posted on our website.

2011 Tournament Teams:

Ben suggested, that based on the number of players we expect to register for the 2011 season, DBYS will again field an 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U tournament team. He also announced that nominations for the 2011 tournament team coaches will be accepted at the February 2011 meeting. He reminded everyone that while it is a volunteer position, a member of the DBYS organization MUST nominate those interested in coaching a tournament team. Ben also advised everyone of the Cal Ripken rule that states tournament team coaches must coach (head or assist) a recreation team in the same age division he/she wishes to oversee as tournament team coach.

Ben explained that should we receive nominations for more than one coach in any age group, our by-laws indicate that the Board has thirty days from nominations to vote on and select the coach for that respective team. Ben also explained that once coaches are selected for each age group, evaluations and tryouts for the teams would take place. We are projecting those evaluations to take place in late March, early April.

The following questions/answers came about as a result of tournament team discussions:

Since the Diamond League is now competing for and may take many of our 12-year old players, is it possible that 11-year olds can try out for the 12-year old team?

Ben explained the Board discussed this as a possibility, but has not yet made a decision on this. Camille asked all in attendance for their opinion on the subject and how they all felt about it. The overwhelming consensus was that 11s should absolutely be allowed to tryout for the 12-year old team (since the same rules apply for both age groups). Almost all in attendance agreed that the best players, regardless of whether they are 11 or 12, should make the 12U team.

If 11s can tryout for and make the 12U team, will we still have an 11U team?

As long as there are enough 11-year old players interested in playing, yes – we will have an 11U team.

Can 10-year olds tryout for the 12U team?

The rules for Cal Ripken 10U Tournament baseball are different than that of 11U and 12U, therefore, a 10U player *cannot* tryout for the 11U or 12U team.

Would DBYS ever consider allowing for a 12A and a 12B team?

We certainly want as many kids playing tournament ball as possible. DBYS would consider an A and B team in any age group where enough kids/parents show interest and are willing to dedicate their time. Only the “A” team, however, can represent DBYS in Districts and States.

Do we usually keep the same tournament team coach each year?

Traditionally, tournament team coaches do follow their team up to the next division each year. Being a tournament team coach requires much time and dedication; not many coaches are willing to give up their days all summer long, which is required by those who coach tournament teams. That said, there have been situations where a tournament team coach from the previous year receives competition for the position or opts to not coach again the following year. The Board always has final say (30 days to select the coach) if multiple coaches request to coach at the same age level.

Who selects the tournament team players?

We feel our coaches are very fair when it comes to selecting players for each tournament team. There are several days of evaluations and often scrimmages set up for all prospective players to show off their abilities. While independent evaluators are used to help provide input and skills scoring, the overall final decision is always up to the head coach of the team.

Can the league make it a formal rule to have independent evaluators select tournament team players?

During June, July and August meetings, the DBYS Board accepts and then votes on all new rule or rule change suggestions made by members of our organization. DBYS members in attendance at the August meeting vote to accept or decline any proposed new rules or rule change suggestions. This suggestion can be raised at that new rules meeting in June.

What if I am the coach and my son/daughter doesn't make the team?

Based on how much time and dedication is required of the coach, we've never run into a situation where the coach's child was not selected. We would think and hope that the best players on the team receive the most playing time and that the coaches selected always put the best team forward. If at anytime a coach feels he/she cannot fairly select a team, or no longer wants to assume the role because his/her child did not make the team, we'd expect the coach to step down from the role they originally assumed.

When are assistant coaches selected?

While the head coach is in place before the team is selected, all assistant coaches (Cal Ripken allows for two official assistant coaches) are selected by the head coach *AFTER* the team is selected.

Can a 7-year old tryout for the 8U team?

Since there is no team younger than 8U, yes – 7 and even 6-year olds can tryout for the 8U team.

Coordinators/Commissioners:

The following volunteers, either at the meeting or via email, offered their time to support the following important roles for the Spring 2011 season:

League Commissioner:

T-Ball: No volunteers as of yet
Rookie: Brian Linsenbigler, Mike Pence
Minors: Greg Whelan
Majors: Jeff Goodrich
Softball: Matt has a list of volunteers

Field Commissioner:

T-Ball: No volunteers as of yet
Township: Jay Hall
Lake Drive: Bob Bridegam
Hill Road: Karl Degenhart

Snack Bar Director: Jean Bean

Snack Bar Site-Coordinators:

Lake: Matt has list of volunteers
Hill: See volunteer list
Township: Kaitlyn Popplyn

We will continue to accept volunteers for these and all roles up until January 31st. In early February, all volunteers selected will receive a description of the responsibilities associated to the volunteer position.

Ben opened the meeting to the floor for any additional questions or items that needed to be addressed/discussed.

With no additional questions or concerns raised by league members, Ben Marchese adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM on a motion from Tom Cote and a second by Randall Yenser.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 8th, 7:00 PM – Villas at Morlatton