



### SMVLL Board of Director's Meeting – 12/21/2017

A Board of Director's meeting was held with the SMVLL Board of Directors on December 21, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Board of Directors in attendance included Mike Michota, Amy Mitton, Garrett Mitton, John Holland, Bryan Ray, Kristin Dak, Chris Rowe, Mike Walls, Rich Conser, Stacia Garner, Tori Yokoyama, Adam Scalero, Jeff Lance, Tim Moegen

Special Guests: Ezio Petrella, Michele Cole and Sam Griffith from District 68

#### **District Updates (Ezio, Michele and Sam):**

- Ezio provided overall updates on the rule changes from the league
  - New rule books came out yesterday, month earlier than normal
  - Rules clinics for all the leagues and mechanics clinics (2 for adults and 1 for youth) are already scheduled
    - North will be hosting the youth clinic this year
    - Western Region does clinics too if we need additional assistance
- Ezio provided updates on the new bat requirements
  - Easton bat grants will be available for under privileged families, applications can be filed with the district
  - Tee-ball only, you can apply for a USA baseball sticker to apply to your bat for this year, and this year only
  - Wood bats do not require a sticker and are an accepted bat for the upcoming 2018 season
- Special focus will be placed on the intermediate program as a supplemental program (not stand-alone) in 2018. Leagues will draft their major team, junior team and then any 13 or 12 year old in intermediate can be put into buckets for a draft
  - Cox park Sunday league
  - 35 pitch maximum
  - No major games until Tuesday so it doesn't affect pitch counts
  - If a group plays in 60% can be eligible for All Stars. Up to the BOD to decide
- Junior National:
  - Group entry - only requirement is boundary lines of District 68
  - Need to charter all the teams, Ezio and District 68 will charter these teams personally
  - Kids should sign up with the SMVLL, this team is eligible to play All Stars for us (waiver was passed and approved)
- Junior Central:
  - 54/80
  - Normal rules apply
- Junior American:
  - This league is for 13 year olds that want to play in a less competitive setting
  - Should be for kids that have little to no past experience in little league and want to learn the game fundamentals

- Seniors:
  - May be able to field a few teams among District 68
  - Request to let Ezio know if we have interest level to help form teams
- No limit of 12 year olds on Major teams this year
  - # of teams is dictated by the league
  - Recommendation was made to take special care in not compromising AAA with majors – look at it as a long term program/approach
- Any waivers for league age 11 players in Majors teams are not likely to get approved at this time
- Michele provided updates on news and events throughout District 68
  - City of Mission Viejo is hosting their first 5K on 3/3/2018 – there is an opportunity for league to advertise on the website and receive a rebate on registrations
- CIF rule changes will apply to juniors league
  - Information is forthcoming – the District is asking for support in promotion on the SMVLL website and social media channels
- A request was made to share any news and updates from a marketing and communications perspective to allow for cross promotion through the District, and vice versa
- Fall Ball Elite program was a great success this year. The district is planning on growing the program next year
- Angel Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>, tickets are already on sale. Tickets will be on a first come and first serve.
  - District 68 will be setting up a booth as a meeting place for all teams in the parking lot, with a meet and greet opportunity to meet district representatives for Little League
- General Q&A followed the league updates
- Ezio addressed Little League rule changes that went into effect last year which required that if you were drafted as National, you stayed in National going forward (same would apply for American league players)
- A question was asked on the origin and thought behind the rule for the Manager requirement of drafting their child in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the draft
  - The general assumption is a Manager's child may perform at the upper level for skill in the league age; the goal of this rule is to even this out
- A question was raised on player eligibility for players who reside outside the District boundary lines
  - The player must apply for waiver – the league the player is currently from must approve the waiver. Following this, the league the player is going to must approve. When these actions are complete, Ezio approves for the district and it gets approved by Williamsport
  - The player is ineligible to play All Stars for the new league for that season. Should the player return to their District league, they are eligible to play for All Stars in the same season
- A question was raised on the overall decline in District registrations in Little League
  - Overall housing and market dynamics are impacting registrations; less young children are living in these areas
  - District 68 and SMVLL are looking to employ creative and unique ways to bring new kids into the program
  - Discussion was had on the potential future need to consolidate leagues. Discussion on the pros and cons of consolidating leagues (such as North and South) was had

- Although the District would be in favor of such a consolidation, the benefit to the individual South League is yet to be realized by the Board of Directors
  - The Board of Director's and District representatives discussed changing some boundaries and allowing for a flow of players to underdeveloped leagues such as Viejo as way to keep multiple leagues under the registration cap
- Final discussion topic was on the broader scope for inter-league play
  - Discussion was had on using this opportunity as a marketing tool for next year
  - Could be for 2018 or 2019 season
  - District would schedule these games for AAA and Majors

*District 68 Representatives departed after this session of the meeting. The remainder of the Board of Director's meeting was held in close door session.*

#### **News & Notes (Mike Michota):**

- Our Mission Viejo City Representative, Stephanie Hanes, is retiring at the end of the calendar year
  - Stephanie was instrumental in aiding the league with permitting and field needs
  - She has been a great partner to SMVLL and will be greatly missed
  - SMVLL looks forward to working with Stephanie's replacement
- Opening ceremonies date is set in stone on 2/24/2018
  - The City of Mission Viejo has expressed some concern over parking with North and South opening ceremonies occurring on the same day
  - Current schedule is with South starting ceremonies at 10am and North at 1pm
  - Majors opening game will occur after the opening ceremonies
  - Invitations went out on December 21<sup>st</sup> to the Council Members and the Mayor requesting their attendance
- Update on Manager assignments – slate is not full, need one more for AA and a few for coach pitch
  - Teams will be put together the end of next week
  - If we are unable to get new sign-ups, may have to break up teams with multiple managers
  - Email vote or emergency vote may be required on this prior to tryouts
- Reminders to the Board of Director's; email binding votes need to be voted on by all members. We need more than quorum on these votes
- Inaugural town hall meeting was a success, looking forward to hosting another next year
- Submitted local rules to District and have received feedback. Board to review tonight and review, accept, deny or modify these local rules changes

#### **2018 Calendar Review / Upcoming Events (Mike Michota):**

- Tryout dates are set for January
  - Majors and AAA on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>
  - AA and A on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Makeup tryouts will be on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

- Draft will occur Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> for major divisions and AAA to accommodate District attendance
- Craft for AA and A will occur on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> as lower division drafts do not require district attendance
- Managers meeting is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>

#### **Sponsorship Update (Mike Michota):**

- Currently, behind where we were last year
- Thank you to Adam Scalero and Tori Yokoyama for new pledges
- Call to action for BOD to get more companies signed up to close this gap
- Accepting checks or PayPal

#### **Financial Update (Rich Conser):**

- League is in good standing financially
- Cash balance is less from this time last year

#### **Fields and Equipment Update (Mike Walls):**

- Received 2 quotes for fencing and mesh replacement
  - One quote is just fencing
  - One quote with mesh and fencing
- Mike Walls made the recommendation to complete the fencing with one vendor, and purchase screen separately from another vendor
- City will install the fencing; labor for installation is the majority of the difference
- Request was made to order extra mesh to repair and patch as necessary
  - Quoted for 700 feet, measured it at 580
- Request to purchase new locks for the sheds
- Request for additional funds to cover the below
  - Diamond DII-1 baseballs 55 dozen. 44 are for Managers and the remainder is for Single A for game balls until they start kid pitch
  - Diamond Tball - 18 dozen for coach pitch
  - Trigon L-screen 96"
  - Trigon fungo screen 7x7 with wheel
  - Mizuno catchers gloves repair
  - 2 new Mizuno catchers gloves
  - 3 sets of catchers gear
- Request was made for a more formal process for retrieving game balls from Managers to be created. Mike to follow up on this process
- Discussion was had on implementing a ball return on all fields (currently only available on Majors fields)

#### **Safety Update (Bryan Ray):**

- 70 new live scan applications from the clinic, great turnout, but we still need more volunteers cleared before the season starts
  - 80+ people now approved and listed on our website
  - Company that supported us with the clinic will bill back to us at no out of pocket cost to our volunteers. More efficient and cost effective for our league volunteers
- Need to double check the Managers list with the live scan approvals to ensure everyone has completed the application and is cleared
- Once we get a final team count, will order the first aid kits
- Will increase the number of ice packs available to teams once the season begins
- Updates to the safety manual will be made after the safety manual meeting

#### **Snack Shack (Jeff Lance):**

- Replaced the fridge in the snack shack
- Working on procuring a large coffee machine, will provide a quote to the Board of Director's for consideration
- Plan on having baked potatoes in the snack shack
- Would like to change the lock after tryouts on the 13<sup>th</sup>
- Need dates for applications so we can add to the website and send out a league email

#### **Events Update (Amy Mitton):**

- Kick-off Angel Day – Julie Morgan and Stacia Garner to co-chair the event
  - Angels Day is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Need to determine the ticket level
  - Suggest 201-204 section that will be in the shade
  - \$23 per ticket
  - We will start marketing for it ASAP
- Opening ceremonies – We are in need of volunteers
  - Recommendations were made to shorten the ceremonies overall for our younger players, and also allow for more games into the schedule
- Moms and Bombs will reoccur this year, will need volunteers and a committee
- Photo Day will also need volunteer support

#### **Communications/Marketing/Website (Amy Mitton):**

- Website committee is working on all the updates and doing a fabulous job
- Marketing is quiet for the moment, but will increase as we get closer to season

#### **Uniform/Spirit Wear Update (Kristin Dak):**

- The Board of Director's reviewed logos and spirit wear options
- Initial orders will be accepted at tryouts as a bulk order with delivery at opening ceremonies.
  - Those who intend to purchase the spirit wear at tryouts will be required to pay by check at tryouts for their order to be included

- After tryouts, spirit wear can be ordered through an online store and picked up at the vendor store, or shipped directly to the purchaser
- No league preorders with the exception of a few samples available at the uniform sizing table at tryouts
- Purchased items can be personalized for \$5 extra
- Request was made by the Board to add a dri-fit option to the selection
- Uniforms will be the same as last year
  - V-necks for AA and above. Dri-fit jerseys for AAA and above
  - 2018 is the last year for Majestic until Under Armor takes over
  - Pants – Amy received samples from Rawlings and Mizuno as alternative pant suppliers to our current vendor, Allesson. Recommendation is to stick with Allesson as the pants are of good quality and quite a bit cheaper than Rawlings and Mizuno quotes that were received.
    - Alison is adjustable drawstring and no belt tee-ball and coach pitch
    - A and above will be pants with belt
    - If teams choose to upgrade their pant selection, they upgrade at their own cost
  - Samples will be available at tryouts
  - Teams are only allowed one game jersey and one practice jersey this year, NO EXCEPTIONS
    - If a team arrives at the field with jerseys not sanctioned by the League, they will be requested to leave the field until the team jersey is put on

#### **Baseball Ops Update (Mike Michota):**

- Registration is at 295
- Projecting at 305-310, down approximately 7-8% from last year
- League finds itself in an In-between year with Majors based on current registration
- Finite number of players and local rules dictate:

#### **UIC/Local Rules (Tori Yokoyama)**

- Board reviewed comments from District 68 on the local rule changes proposed and approved on 11/16/2017 by the Board of Director's
  - Trades approved by BOD Vote (not drafting committee) – Rule 1.4 board approves of this update
  - Remove mention of Big League, replace with 50/70 – Rule 1.5 board approves of this update
  - Any player drafted into majors must have played AAA previous year - Rule 1.7 was removed. Board approves of the removal of this rule from the local rules
  - Remove punishment statements like “as decided by the Board” - Rule 2.5.7 was approved to be removed
  - Remove statement of “alternate coaches.” Alternate coaches is not a recognized position – was approved to be removed
  - Managers should not have the option of how many players are carried for All Stars. It should be a Board of Director's decision or stated in the local rules – Rule 8.2 was not approved to be changed as requested

- After four balls the coach will take over the strike count – Rule was approved to be changed
- AA playing rules:
  - Inning can end when team bats thru order (greenbook rule) was not approved to change
  - A last inning can be declared by the umpire was deemed as not necessary and was not approved to change
- AAA playing rules:
  - Score reverts only if enough innings have been played to constitute a regulation game was deemed as not necessary and was not approved to change
  - A last inning can be declared by the umpire was deemed as not necessary in the local rules and was not approved to change
- Mandatory play requires an additional statement that it does not apply if a shortened game is played was approved to change
- Tori requested budget for the following items
  - 2 Shin guard sets
  - 2 Chest protectors
  - 15 Indicators
  - 5 Plate brushes
  - 30 Polos

**Motions:**

1. Approval of the minutes
  - a. Motion – John Holland
  - b. Second – Amy Mitton
  - c. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains
2. Approval of fields and equipment costs including replacement of fencing which includes installation and screen mesh
  - a. Motion – Mike Walls
  - b. Second – Rich Conser
  - c. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains
3. Approval of field equipment purchases
  - a. Motion – Garrett Mitton
  - b. Second – Adam Scalero
  - c. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains
4. Motion to approve local rule changes
  - a. Motion: Tori Yokoyama
  - b. Second – Chris Rowe
  - c. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains
5. Motion to approve UIC budget
  - a. Motion – Garrett Mitton
  - b. Second – Amy Mitton
  - c. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains

6. Email binding vote on December 9 to approve budget for the purchase of 50 dozen logo baseballs
  - a. Motion – Mike Walls
  - b. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains
7. Email binding vote on December 10 regarding the 2018 local rule changes was voted on
  - a. Motion – Tori Yokoyama
  - b. Voting: All in favor, no declines, no abstains