

Minutes of CGSL Annual General Meeting – August 23, 2017 – 8:20 p.m.
519 Church Centre

Present: Chris Boosalis, Storm/Umpire	Mark Hamilton, Secretary/Bolts
Paul Boyle, Paisano	Jason Lam, Bringers of Rain
Lisa Cameron, Paisano	Corey LeBlanc, Sons of Pitches
Tony Catalano, Cocktails	Paul McComb, Cocktails
Tim Connolly, Field Op/Blake Hse	Perry Peters, Benders
John Cox, Benders	Jim Rebstock, Sons of Pitches
Jennifer Curtis, Pounders	Chad Simon, Storm
Jim Downey, Bolts	Kevin Sun, Commissioner/Outlaws
Darryl Flowers, Outlaws	Will Symister, Shameless
Scott Fraser, Bombers/Umpire	Rob Tanguay, Treasurer
Kate Fudge, League Rep/Bombers	Ken Tedford, Assist Comm/Umpire
David George-Cosh, Bringers	Kevin Tokarz, Storm
Eric Henry, Cocktails	

1. Welcome / Opening Remarks – Kevin Sun – Commissioner and Ken Tedford – Assistant Commissioner

Kevin and Ken welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending the meeting. There is sufficient quorum to discuss CGSL rules tonight but not for changes to the CGSL Constitution.

2. Co-ed Rule and 175 Foot Arc Rule

- 2.1 The co-ed rule would require at least 2 women on each team. One speaker said we should not try to enforce a gender balance rule.
- 2.2 This would involve a change to the league's Constitution, so we can only discuss it. The majority of those present agreed with shelving this proposal for now.
- 2.3 The 175 foot arc rule would be difficult to enforce.

3. Requirement for Cleats

- 3.1 Scott F said his team feels that the wearing of cleats shouldn't be a hard requirement. As an umpire, it is difficult to check everyone's feet.
- 3.2 Darryl F said he favoured closed toe shoes. Jason L agreed.
- 3.3 Jim D said players want options of what to wear. He agrees with a more relaxed approach.
- 3.4 Chris B asked if cleats are required for insurance purposes. Ken T said no.
- 3.5 **MOTION: That the CGSL require players to wear closed toe shoes in all league games.** *Moved by Darryl Flowers, seconded by Scott Fraser.*
MOTION APPROVED – To take effect in 2018 season.

4. Collisions at Home Plate

- 4.1 Darryl F said he wanted clarification on the responsibility of base runners + catchers to avoid collisions at home plate. This should be in the league rules.
- 4.2 A wide ranging discussion followed on whether catcher can block home plate. One suggestion was that home plate be treated the same as first base in terms of tagging.
- 4.3 Lisa C suggested a safety line at home plate with no requirement for runners to touch home plate. Perry P suggested a commitment line between 3rd base + home. Ken T said this should be done in tandem.
- 4.4 Tim C said this is a safety issue. If runner doesn't cross commitment line, they could return to 3rd base and avoid potential collision at home plate.
- 4.5 A motion was moved and seconded (Lisa C/Chad S) to recommend a commitment line 8 feet past 3rd base + a scoring line at home plate.
Darryl F said only a scoring line is needed to avoid collisions at home plate.
Lisa C withdrew her motion.
- 4.6 Discussion continued. Jim D said he liked the traditional live home plate. He hasn't seen many injuries at home plate. Darryl F said catchers should be told not to stand on home

plate with a runner coming in. Perry agreed with this approach + said umpires can guide players toward behaviours that reduce the threat of collisions. Jennifer C said managers should coach their players appropriately.

4.7 Darryl F said he brought this up due to a recent incident where a runner hit a catcher at home plate. The umpire had no grounds on which to call the runner for intent to injure.

4.8 **MOTION: That the CGSL require catchers to give base runners a running lane to home base unless there is a forced play at home.** *Moved by Chad Simon, seconded by Scott Fraser.*

MOTION APPROVED 23 to 2 – To take effect in 2018 season.

5. Pick Up Players

5.1 Scott F said the current rule requires pick up players to play either catcher, pitcher or right field. He feels this rule should be abolished or enforced properly.

5.2 Perry P suggested the rule be amended to require pick up's to play catcher, 1st base or right field. Darryl F suggested adding 1st base as a 4th option for pick up player positions. Jason L said rule should be enforced or scrapped. Corey L questioned the purpose of the rule.

5.3 **MOTION: That the CGSL abolish the rule requiring pick up players to play certain prescribed positions.** *Moved by David George-Cosh, seconded by Tim Connolly.*

MOTION APPROVED 21 to 7 – To take effect in 2018 season.

5.4 Darryl F said that pick up players must still bat at the bottom of the batting order. Ken T said this will remain in the rules.

6. Legal Bats

6.1 David G. applauded everyone for a great season.

6.2 David G suggested that the league acquire a bat testing machine so that legal bats can be tested. This would be a fairer approach. Currently, umpires look for the required stamps.

6.3 Darryl F said he knew a case in Ontario where a bat with required stamps failed the compression test.

6.4 James S suggested deferring the matter to allow for further research.

6.5 **MOTION: That the CGSL form a sub-committee to examine the issue of bat testing and report back to the Feb 2018 Managers Council meeting.** *Moved by James Scott, seconded by Chad Simon.*

Perry P said bats should be checked at the beginning, middle and end of season.

MOTION APPROVED 21 to 0.

David G. agreed to serve on the sub-committee.

7. Game Schedule

7.1 David G said he was disappointed with the scheduling of games this season. His team played on Friday frequently and the schedule appeared to be unbalanced.

7.2 **MOTION: That the CGSL game schedule be balanced between divisions in the future.** *Moved by David George-Cosh, seconded by Paul McComb.*

MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

7.3 Corey L asked if there is a scheduling committee. Ken T said there used to be a scheduling committee. Corey said both divisions should be represented. Darryl F suggested a scheduling committee with reps from all divisions + consisting of 3 to 6 members.

7.4 **MOTION: That the CGSL require that a Scheduling Committee review and approve game schedules and that said committee have representatives from each of the divisions.** *Moved by Lisa C, seconded by TBA.*

MOTION APPROVED nearly unanimously. Chad S did not vote for the motion as he felt that wording of motion should be changed so that it states that (scheduling) “committee may have reps from all divisions”.

8. Maximum Five Run per Inning Rule

8.1 Kevin T said he'd like to see this rule eliminated, especially for the playoffs – or changed to maximum 7 runs per inning. Jason L + Corey L said he liked the status quo.

- 8.2 Chad S suggested maximum 7 for C division + maximum 5 for D division. Perry P agreed.
- 8.3 Tony C said it should be the same rule across the board.
- 8.4 **MOTION: That the CGSL retain the maximum 5 run per inning rule. Moved by David George-Cosh, seconded by Tim Connolly.**
IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT A MOTION WAS NOT REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT 5 RUN RULE.

9. Full Time Pick up Players

- 9.1 Eric H proposed this idea. Rob T said the Executive would have to look at this issue.
- 9.2 Jim R wondered about insurance coverage. Darryl F said the usual \$20 fee per player would apply. Darryl said these players should play a limited number of games. David G agreed. Darryl F suggested that the Executive look at the insurance issue.
- 9.3 Lisa C said she knows several players who'd be interested in this option.
- 9.4 James S suggested a maximum number of regular season games + no playoffs.
- 9.5 Ken T said the proposal would be discussed by the Executive.

10. Length of the Season

- 10.1 Chad S suggested that the season begin June 1 as this would avoid rainy weather in May. He said the season should continue to late August followed by playoffs in Sept. As well as better weather, this may reduce pressure on players to attend all games.
- 10.2 **MOTION: That the CGSL regular season begin June 1 with games continuing to the end of August followed by playoffs in the first half of September. Moved by Chad Simon.**
- 10.3 Darryl F said this would mean that we'd miss 3 weeks of ball games at the start of season.
- 10.4 Tim C said we'd had 3 years in a row of bad weather in Sept. This year we had 26 games including playoffs. There is a high risk of rain in Sept. James S agreed with this comment but said both May + Sept are risky in terms of weather.
- 10.5 It was suggested that this matter be tabled until the next MCM meeting in Feb 2018.

11. Number of Divisions + Playoff Format

- 11.1 David G suggested a discussion on the number of divisions. With an additional team, there could be 4 divisions of 6 teams.
- 11.2 Discussion followed on the allocation of teams to divisions with respect to issues of safety, fairness, and NAGAAA player ratings.
- 11.3 Paul M likes getting the schedule early rather than waiting for a second schedule after the halfway point. He favours rejigging of teams/divisions only for playoffs. Darryl F agreed.
- 11.4 **MOTION: That the CGSL return to a 4 division format in 2018 with reshuffling of divisions at the halfway point in regular season. Moved by David George-Cosh.**
- 11.5 Ken T said this should be left to the Scheduling Committee.
- 11.6 David G said the issue of what teams face each other in playoff games (e.g. 3 vs 6, 4 vs 5, etc.) should also go before the Scheduling Committee.
- 11.7 Ken T said the 1st weekend of playoffs could be eliminated and we could have a backup weekend for playoff rainouts. Chris B agreed.
- 11.8 James S proposed: Week 1 – rainout weekend; Week 2 – 1st playoff round; Week 3 – double elimination + finals. Darryl said this would add an additional weekend to the regular season.
- 11.9 Kevin T said we don't need the round robin. Darryl F agreed that the double elimination round could be seeded based on final regular season standings.
- 11.10 Tim C said teams got to play other teams in round robin that they didn't play in the regular season.
- 11.11 Ken T said we'd look at all of this next year.

12. Volunteer Service to the League

Chris B said it is important for members to step up and volunteer to serve on CGSL committees.

13. Player Draft

- 13.1 Darryl F proposed that lower C division teams have the chance to draft top tier players so they can improve their teams. Will S pointed out that all teams may not want to move up. Ken T said we will discuss this issue next year.

14. Third Diamond

- 14.1 Corey L + Perry P suggested that the league consider a third diamond for Friday night games so the games end sooner on those nights.
- 14.2 This suggestion will be considered by the league.

--- The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm. Thanks to all who attended! ---