

Minutes of CGSL Manager's Summit – December 16, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.
100 Merton Street – Rec Room

Present: Tim Connolly, Big Bats/Field Ops (formerly)
Rob Duchene, TBD
Jameson Glas, Woodpeckers
Mark Hamilton, Secretary / Bolts
Eric Henry, Cocktails
Tyler Marshall, Royals
Trevor McFarland, TBD
Tanner Richardson, Benders
Kevin Sun, Commissioner / Outlaws
Ron Ward, Royal Pains

1. Welcome / Opening Remarks – Tim Connolly – Formerly Field Operations Chair

- 1.1 Tim welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending the meeting. Because some new managers were present, everyone introduced themselves. Tim said previous two Managers' Summits were excellent brainstorming sessions.
- 1.2 Tim chaired the meeting as Ken Tedford was unable to attend the meeting.
- 1.3 Tim said that managers also must attend Managers Council Meetings, which are held every month or two starting in February.

2. Names of Divisions – Tim Connolly (for Ken Tedford / regrets)

- 2.1 There is confusion about division designations when GGSL teams attend out of town tournaments. We may need to get away from C and D division names. Kevin said divisions could be named after sponsors or neighbourhoods. This question appears in the league survey so this data will be considered.
- 2.2 There may be as many as 26 teams in 2018. Last year, the league had 2 large divisions. This was something that many teams wanted to try out. Tim said that if a ladder system is used, teams may change divisions part-way through season.
- 2.3 Kevin said that disadvantage of rejigging the divisions during the season is that the full playing schedule isn't available at the start of the season. However, the advantage is that teams can be put in the proper division that reflects their capabilities.

3. Setting Up Bases – Tim Connolly

- 3.1 Tim suggested that teams arrive early to set up bases + to help other teams.
- 3.2 Ron asked if a diagram could be provided for base set up. Kevin said it is provided in the Managers' Handbook which is distributed at the start of the season. *Kevin said a laminated copy of the proper base set up will be put in the storage shed for reference purposes.*
- 3.3 Tim asked that bases/clocks, flip charts, etc. be put away neatly in the shed so as to prevent damage. No other leagues currently use the storage shed. Please remind your players about the importance of maintaining the equipment and storage shed properly.
- 3.4 Dugouts: Tim reminded teams to clean up their water bottles, etc. when leaving the player dugouts after a game. Tanner said that some teams enter the dugout too early + don't give departing teams enough time to clean up and leave. Tim agreed that there could be a longer buffer period between games.

4. Managers' Duties – Tim Connolly

- 4.1 Tim said that team members can request team budget from managers at any time. He recommended that teams appoint a treasurer to handle team funds. The league can also request to see a team budget. It's best to maintain a paper trail of team funds. Managers should notify Membership Chair if any player owes money from the team funds.
- 4.2 A player may be relegated to non-player status: 1) if there is no satisfactory response after 3 weeks of no contact; 2) if the player exhibits inappropriate behavior as per Ethics Policy.

- 4.3 Team removal from the league: After 3 forfeited games, a warning is issued and the Arbitration Committee is notified. After 5 forfeits, the team is no longer entitled to participate in the league. Players from this team retain their membership privileges.
- 4.4 Kevin said teams shouldn't forfeit as they can pick up players for games except in playoffs.
- 4.5 Tanner asked if assigned positions have been eliminated for pick ups. Yes, the requirement for pick up players to play certain positions has been removed. Kevin said teams should bring in pickups who are at a playing level roughly equivalent to players being replaced. *Kevin said he will post the player ratings on the spare list if the managers agree to this at the next MCM.*
- 4.6 Other managerial duties include responsibility for rosters, lineups, ratings, educating players about rules as well as ethics and the code of conduct.
- 4.7 Treatment of umpires: Managers should also educate players about the need to treat umpires respectfully. If anyone has an issue regarding an umpire, they should email the Field Operations Chair and cc the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner. However, players may ask an umpire for clarification of a rule.
- 4.8 Tanner asked about mat ball. This is a different way of playing the game. Kevin said one reason this isn't used is because this it doesn't conform to NAGAAA tournament rules.
- 4.9 Eric asked if the league would consider holding team funds on behalf of teams. It would be additional work for the league Treasurer but it could solve some problems. Tim thought it was a good idea. Mark said it was an issue for the Treasurer to consider.

5. Report on NAGAAA – Kevin Sun

- 5.1 The next NAGAAA meetings are in January 2018. The 2018 Gay World Series (GWS) will be in Tampa around Labour Day starting on the Tuesday after the long weekend.
- 5.2 Kevin said we need to know fairly soon what teams are going to GSWS. 2017 was the first time in 5 years that the CGSL had a GWS team. Kevin said the CGSL has 2 C team berths + 2 D team berths with rostered teams. *Kevin to check if we can send 4 C or 4 D teams.*
- 5.3 Kevin said NAGAAA is talking about an E division, as there is a wide range in calibre among D teams. E division would be purely recreational. This is not yet approved but is being discussed.
- 5.4 There is also talk of northern + southern divisions as the GSWS is very large.
- 5.5 Another possibility is expansion of NAGAAA to Mexico, UK, etc.

6. Safety – Masks, Bats, Cleats, etc. – Tim (for Ken)

- 6.1 We are revisiting the issue of safety masks for catchers/pitchers/batters. Kevin/Tim said players can wear safety masks if they want under the current rules.
- 6.2 The mandated wearing of cleats by all players was voted down last season. However, players must wear closed toe shoes. Kevin recommends wearing footwear with traction.
- 6.3 Bats: There is a new list of banned bats / approved bats every season. If a team plays a NAGAAA tournament, bats must have an ASA stamp, but USSSA stamp not required. For CGSL games, teams can use bats with USSSA stamp. For GWS games, bats are supplied.
- 6.4 Tossing of bats: Last season, 4 members (mostly umpires) were hit by thrown bats at home plate (3 C, 1 D). After hitting, please do not toss the bat more than 1 foot. Players may be thrown out of game for this infraction but are normally given 1 warning by the umpire.

7. Schedule / Fields / Playoffs / Northern Classic – Tim Connolly (for Ken)

- 7.1 The league has requested fields for Fri/Sat/Sunday for McCleary + Greenwood for 2018. The Executive will review the results of the Dec 2017 members' survey.
- 7.2 For the playoffs, the survey asked about the option of using 1 field complex. The league has asked the City about using the East Point complex in Scarborough for playoffs. This is a 4 diamond facility with concessions + washroom facilities.
- 7.3 Tim said there is a possibility of sponsorship for the playoffs. The league would like to create a festive atmosphere for the playoffs.

- 7.4 East Point is also a possible venue for the Northern Classic tournament. Sponsorship is a possibility + refreshments will be available.
- 7.5 The regular season schedule is contingent on number of teams + availability of fields. Three people have volunteered to serve on the Scheduling Committee in order to help with developing the playing schedule. There is room for 2 or 3 more to serve on this committee. It would be best to have representation from all divisions.
- 7.6 Kevin said we have intentionally overbooked so that we can flesh out the schedule and use some excess capacity for clinics, tournament, playoffs, etc.
- 7.7 Tyler asked if divisions would be split between field locations. Kevin said there would likely be 1 division per field but on a rotating basis.
- 7.8 Eric pointed out that teams rarely see players of other divisions during the season. Tim said this is because there are few venues in Toronto with more than 2 fields. We can solve this problem for the playoffs + tournament with the use of East Point, for example.
- 7.9 Tim said it would be great if all teams could play in the Northern Classic. It would likely be held on long weekend in early August.
- 7.10 Rob D suggested that we ask that City vehicles not drive across fields. This causes ruts and damages the fields. Tim said an ex CGSL member runs the fields so this should be helpful going forward. We are trying to get the City to properly maintain the washrooms.
- 7.11 Tyler said that ruts at home plate are a problem for batters. Tim said it was less of a problem this season but players should be asked to refrain from digging ruts at home plate.
- 7.12 Tim said that we hope to have a Field Maintenance Committee this season.

8. Playoffs / Tournament – Tim Connolly / Kevin Sun (for Ken)

- 8.1 Most of these topics were covered in Section 6 of agenda (above).
- 8.2 Kevin said that we should try to avoid modifying the rules too much in the playoffs (e.g. unlimited runs). He would recommend limiting runs through to playoff finals. Kevin feels that rules should be consistent from regular season through the playoffs.

9. Commitment Line – Tim Connolly (for Ken)

- 9.1 Kevin said this idea comes up annually. It was discussed at the AGM and was voted down. Other leagues use it but they play the mat ball format. CGSL attempts to follow NAGAAA rules.
- 9.2 Rob said that the dome league uses the commitment line. Kevin said this could be voted on at the Managers Council Meeting before the start of the 2018 season.

10. Open Forum – Open to Everyone

- 10.1 Trevor favours the commitment line in order to avoid collisions at home plate.
- 10.2 Tanner said that teams often put their weakest player as catcher at home plate.
- 10.3 Eric asked about date for Northern Classic. Tim said it would likely be the long weekend in early August 2018. The league should know by February after fields are confirmed.
- 10.4 Kevin said the Tournament Committee can get to work as soon as the dates are confirmed.
- 10.5 Email from Chris Boosalis (CGSL Umpire): Tim presented Chris's comments as follows:
- The league should hire someone for \$50 to landscape the fields each weekend.
 - There should be a Scheduling Committee every season.
 - Games should be played into September.
 - More hitting and fielding clinics should be held.
 - There is a growing issue of mistreatment of league umpires.
- 10.6 Discussion of Chris's Recommendations:
- Eric agreed with the concerns about lack of respect for umpires.
 - Tim said we can invoke the Ethics Policy in order to get players to behave properly towards umpires. Tim agreed that players should act more respectfully towards umpires.
- 10.7 Tim said he'd like to see the league return to what it used to be in terms of social aspects of the CGSL.
- 10.8 In terms of playing into Sept, this may create conflicts with other gay sports which begin their seasons in Sept.

- 10.8 Tim and Mark said there may not be a playoff round robin in 2018. Instead, playoffs may be played in one weekend. Mark said this may allow another weekend of regular season.
- 10.9 Kevin recommended that team managers inform Field Operations Chair Ryan Webb if their team is unable to play one weekend so the schedule can be adjusted accordingly.
- 11. Wrap Up – Tim Connolly**
- 11.1 Tim thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and said that he appreciated everyone’s helpfulness and contributions.
- 11.2 The next Managers Council Meeting (MCM) will be held in February (date TBA).

--- The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm. Thanks to all who attended! ---