

**Minutes of CGSL Manager's Council Meeting – February 12, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**519 Church Community Centre**

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Present: Chris Boosalis, Storm/Umpire	Sula Pazianas, Rage
Lisa Cameron, Paisanos/rep. Sons	Blaine Perry, Team TBA
Jim Downey, Bolts	Perry Peters, Benders
Doug Duffy, Nighthawks	Jim Rebstock, Hey Sailor
Scott Fraser, Bombers/Umpire	Tanner Richardson, Benders
David George-Cosh, Bringers	James Scott, Swallows
Jameson Glas, Woodpeckers	Kevin Sun, Commissioner/Outlaws
Mark Hamilton, Secretary/Bolts	Will Symister, Shameless
Jason Lau, Bringers of Rain	Ken Tedford, Assist. Comm/Paisano
Luigi Mariani, Lumberjacks	Dan Villeneuve, Team TBA
Tyler Marshall, Royals/Royal Pains	Ryan Webb, Field Operations
Tim Morton, Hot Dogs	

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

Ken welcomed all to the meeting as Kevin was delayed. Dan V + Blaine P were welcomed to their 1st MCM meeting. Ken continued with his agenda items until Kevin arrived.

- 1.1 NAGAAA: Topics discussed at recent winter meetings in Tampa included: Hall of Fame, Roster submission procedures/ratings changes + permitted bats. Going forward in 2019, bats must have USA stamp. In response to Jim D. Kevin S. said revised ratings questions will take effect in 2019.
- 1.2 Ken T. said there will be 5 NAGAAA divisions: A/B/C/D/E. Kevin S. said the E division will start in 2019 at the Kansas City Gay Softball World Series (GSWS). Ken T. said the E division will accommodate players who are new to the game. Chris B. said he thinks our highest teams will still be in the C division despite the realignment.
- 1.3 Kevin S. said the biggest impact will be the split between D + E divisions.
- 1.4 There will be revised ratings questions for pitchers.
- 1.5 Gay Softball World Series: 4 CGSL teams expressed interest in attending 2018 GSWS in Tampa. Kevin S. said we must field a team. CGSL is permitted to enter 4 Rostered Teams: 2 C Division and 2 D Division rostered teams. These teams consist of a minimum of 10 players (unlimited from team + 4 from CGSL). If CGSL cannot field 2 Rostered teams then a non-rostered team can be entered in any division to a total of 2 total entries (rostered + non-rostered). Non-rostered teams may participate with any combination of CGSL team players. In the event that there are no teams entered into GSWS then CGSL can enter 1 non-rostered team with participation from other NAGAAA cities. A minimum of 10 players (unlimited from CGSL + 4 from NAGAAA Associations).
- 1.6 Ken T. said GSWS teams now are allowed 3 straight players. The relevant question posed at registration asks whether players identify with LGBTQ player.
- 1.7 Kevin S. said 2019 GSWS guidelines will mandate as follows: C teams – maximum rating of 150 for top 10 players (max. 16 rating); D teams – maximum rating of 120 for top 10 players (max. 13 rating); E teams – maximum rating of 85 for top 10 players (max. 9).
- 1.8 Sula P. said our ratings don't match those of US teams as we rate our players higher. Ken said this is being addressed through the revisions.
- 1.9 Luigi M. suggested a coaching session to train managers on new ratings. Ken T. agreed.
- 1.10 Jim D. said there used to be rule limiting player ratings reduction to 1 point.
- 1.11 Kevin S. said we'll need to track batters as NAGAAA is drafting new modified batting average calculation.
- 1.12 James S. agreed with Sula that player rating questions can be open to interpretation. Chris B. said that the ratings procedures provide guidelines to help managers do their ratings.
- 1.13 Luigi M. said managers should be taught to streamline their ratings with US standards.
- 1.14 James S. asked if the NAGAAA protest procedures are effective. Sula P. said there is a \$200 deposit for GSWS ratings challenges in the SinCity Classic (deposits may vary by NAGAAA Tournament).

- 1.15 Ken T. suggested that this discussion be taken off line so we can discuss other matters.
- 1.16 Jim D. suggested that managers help other managers to do ratings. Luigi M. suggested that managers pair up to do ratings. Ken T. agreed with this suggestion.
- 1.17 Blaine P. said in Vancouver, one group assesses all players in the league. Kevin S. said he knows most players so he monitors the ratings submitted by managers.
- 1.18 With respect to rating pitchers, Kevin S. said they will receive higher rating for varying pitches. Perry P. said some pitchers do not yet have this skill.
- 1.19 MIST Tournament Rotation (i.e. Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament): Kevin S. confirmed that Toronto/CGSL has been confirmed to host MIST in 2020. There are normally more than 36 teams with 12 from each city in the rotation plus additional teams from other cities. Other locales are Detroit, Cincinnati + Cleveland. Kevin S. said we'll need to form a committee to work on this.

## **2. Treasurer's Update – Rob Tanguay (regrets)**

- 2.1 Budget Update: Budget matters will be discussed at a future meeting.

## **3. Assistant Commissioner – Ken Tedford**

- 3.1 HOUSE RULES UPDATES: Cleats will not be required this season as this rule was rescinded. However, all players must wear closed toe shoes.
- 3.2 Pickup players are not required to play certain positions on the field. However, they must be placed last in the batting order.
- 3.3 The wearing of face masks is voluntary but is recommended for catchers and pitchers.
- 3.4 The commitment line / scoring line proposal was discussed at the recent Managers' Summit meeting. It was not favoured but a new rule has been put in place: Defending players must provide a lane for runners to reach bases (e.g. home plate). It is suggested that catchers and other defending players use a swipe tag on runners to avoid collisions.
- 3.5 LEAGUE SURVEY: The recent league survey in Dec 2017 received 130 responses from CGSL members from a good cross section of players/divisions (Q1). Thank you for the high level of participation/helpful input. Ken reviewed responses to the survey questions.
- 3.6 Playing Division Names (Q2): 60% supported maintaining the existing C / D division designations. As a result, there will be no changes in this regard.
- 3.7 Managers (Q3): Respondents overwhelmingly rated their managers highly (e.g. communication). Thanks to the team managers for doing a great job!
- 3.8 Playing Schedule (Q4): The current Friday/Saturday game schedule was supported by 60% of respondents, while 40% supported the Fri/Sat/Sunday option. The Executive is considering options for the 2018 season. The City of Toronto has not provided a favourable response to our request for additional fields on Friday nights.
- 3.9 Jim R. asked about extra fields on Saturday. Ken T. said we could check into this.
- 3.10 Chris B. asked about the willingness of players to play on Sunday if necessary. Ken T. said we asked the City for Friday/Saturday permits. Nothing has been determined as yet. We could possibly extend game hours on Saturdays. We may have to go back to the City in order to explore additional schedule options.
- 3.11 Chris B. said his team would not want to play Sunday games in order to accommodate new teams. Ken T. said we used to play on Sundays.
- 3.12 Perry P. asked about the # of teams. Ken T. said we have 18 – 22 teams from last year + the league has been approached by 3 – 4 additional teams.
- 3.13 Perry P. said he thinks we could play additional Saturday games due to the open fields. Ken T. agreed with this but said Greenwood Park is not available on Fridays.
- 3.14 Ken T. agreed that there is a consensus favouring the Friday / Saturday game schedule.
- 3.15 James S. said he'd prefer Fri/Sat but would agree with Sunday games to accommodate new teams/expansion.
- 3.16 Perry P. said we should consider byes for teams. Ken T. said this option was brought up at the Executive meeting.
- 3.17 David G. suggested a cap of 24 teams.
- 3.18 Scott F. asked about the length of games. Ken T. replied "60 minutes".

- 3.19 Playoff Location (Q5): This result was close: 51% favored use of 2 venues: 49% wanted playoff games in 1 location. Q7: 2/3 favoured more social activities (e.g. at fields).
- 3.20 James S. suggested that teams could play more than 2 games per weekend, especially before the playoffs. Ken T. said he agreed with a more condensed playoff schedule.
- 3.21 Clinics (Q8): Ken T. said that 74% favoured clinics. Hopefully, we can facilitate this. Chad Simon is committed to holding clinics.
- 3.22 Open Input was provided in Q10 of the survey. Comments were provided on various topics including the provision of concessions at the fields.
- 3.23 Northern Classic Tournament: Ken T. confirmed it will take place on the long weekend of August 3-4, 2018. Team reg. fee is \$400/\$450 (after June 23 until July 21, 2018). Please contact Ken T. or Kevin Sun to register. 12 teams played in 2017 + we hope to have more teams this year. We hope to have sponsors for the tournament.
- 3.24 2018 PLAYING SCHEDULE: We hope to begin play in the first week of May although it depends on the field permits. The end date for the season will be August or Sept – TBD. In Sept, there are potential conflicts with other tournaments.
- 3.25 James S. said there should be no lull in the schedule. Kevin S. said there is a 2 week period in which the Gay World Series and MIST tournament are played. Will S. said he also agreed there should be no gap in the schedule in the late summer.
- 3.26 Ryan said we need to ensure there is time to play the rained out games. He said that many managers said last season was too short. Chris B. + David G. agreed.
- 3.27 Perry P. said we could play to late Sept. Ryan said it is up to the league to decide based on field permits and other considerations.
- 3.28 Chris B. asked if there will be a weekend off for the Ottawa tournament which collapsed last season. He said he doesn't think that the CGSL schedule should be guided by conflicts such as other sports leagues. Ken T. said many CGSL members play in other leagues.
- 3.29 James S. said the biggest issue is when overlap occurs in the schedule for championships + playoffs for various leagues.
- 3.30 Luigi M. said CGSL schedule should be finalized ASAP so players can avoid conflicts.
- 3.31 Jim R. said playoff schedule should be provided in advance. Sula P. agreed.
- 3.32 David G. suggested playoffs in last 2 weeks of Sept for all teams able to participate. James S. said he didn't believe a voluntary tournament would work.
- 3.33 Ryan said the league is trying to get 1 venue (e.g. East Point) for 1 weekend of playoffs.
- 3.34 VOTE ON PLAYOFF SCHEDULE: 14 favoured September; 3 favoured August. Kevin S. said it looks like we will have playoffs in Sept after a 2 week break.
- 3.35 VOTE ON PLAYOFF DURATION: The majority favoured 1 weekend of playoffs.
- 3.36 Kevin S. said that regular season standings would determine playoff seedings.
- 3.37 A manager asked about long weekends. Ken T. said we don't schedule games then.
- 3.38 For the Gay World Series weekend, other teams may play – perhaps a social weekend.
- 3.39 Perry P. asked about rainout weekends. Ryan said this would be built into the schedule. At all costs, he would like to avoid giving automatic points to teams for rained out games.

#### **4. Field Operations – Ryan Webb**

- 4.1 Field Permits: We expect confirmation from City early March on time frames + fields available for 2018. Then, we have a month to get back to them with what we want. Ryan said the chances of getting another field on Fri or Sat besides McCleary are slim.
- 4.2 Schedule to go to the Scheduling Committee for review before being finalized. Ken T. said they will try to make a fair schedule.
- 4.3 Luigi asked if it may be possible to play additional games on Friday nights. Currently, games are already played to 1030 pm.
- 4.4 Chris B. asked for the Executive's position on adding more teams. Mark H. said it depends on the availability of fields. Ken T. agreed that we need this info first.
- 4.5 Perry P. said that social aspects of the league should be considered. For example, if games are played even later, it will be difficult for some teams to attend league/team events. Luigi said events can be held on other nights besides Fri/Sat.
- 4.6 James S. said he doesn't agree with cap on # of teams. There are no alternative gay leagues (for men) + the CGSL is supposed to be inclusive.

- 4.7 Sula P. likes additional straight teams but we may need to cap based on available fields.
- 4.8 James S. said playing later on Sat would not be a fatal blow to the league. Playing a full Sunday schedule would be difficult.
- 4.9 Ryan proposed 7 weekends of games before late June break + 7 weekends after. This includes allowance for rainouts, clinics, etc. Length of schedule affects the league budget.
- 4.10 Ken said last year's schedule had to be revised as Pride weekend was overlooked.
- 4.11 Ryan suggested 7 weekends prior to Pride + 6 after + one for rainouts, etc.
- 4.12 Ken T. said Ottawa tournament is June 15 weekend.
- 4.13 DIVISIONS: Last year, there were 2 large divisions. Ryan asked managers what they would like to see. Previously, Ryan had a floating rotation format which worked well. Jim R. said he doesn't like a low number of potential opponents in each pool – 6 is reasonable.
- 4.14 Perry P. said the floating format was used 2 years ago.
- 4.15 Jim R. agreed with a split schedule of 2 parts while 3 is too many. There was a consensus among managers favouring a 2 part schedule for the regular season.
- 4.16 Jim R. said the schedule for 2<sup>nd</sup> half can be devised ahead + team spots can be filled after 1<sup>st</sup> half of schedule is complete. Jameson agreed with this idea.
- 4.17 Ryan would like some crossover games between brackets in order to challenge teams.
- 4.18 Perry P. suggested 4 divisions of 6 teams with shifting to take place.
- 4.19 Doug D. said this scheme would only allow for 5 opposing teams for each team. Three divisions would allow for higher number of opponents per team. David favored 2 groups. Ryan said these 2 groupings would be too large. Approx. 6 opposing teams works well.
- 4.20 Jim D. asked if schedule would be known in advance. Yes, it will be set but teams will have to wait for results in first half before knowing their precise schedule.
- 4.21 Perry suggested 3 groups of 7 teams each.
- 4.22 VOTE ON FLOATING FORMAT: Ryan asked managers if they agree with floating format. 17 of those present agreed with this format.
- 4.23 David: Can Fri/Sat split be avoided for teams? Ryan said he'd try to avoid this.
- 4.24 VOTE ON PLAYOFF SCHEDULE: 17 favoured completing playoffs in 1 weekend.
- 4.25 Luigi asked what might happen if East Point is n/a for playoffs. Ryan said we'd have to try for another single location.
- 4.26 PART-TIME PLAYER PROPOSAL: Ryan said the idea is to create roster of pickup players who don't want to play on 1 team. The reg. rate may be close to full cost as we can't easily monitor # games per player. These players would be able to attend clinics.
- 4.27 Ryan agreed with Chris B. that these players would primarily be lower skilled, new players. They would have to be rated.
- 4.28 Cap of games per player from this new category was discussed. There was consensus that the cap makes sense + it would be done on an honours system. Chris B. said this may be abused + it could lead to complaints from regular roster players.
- 4.29 Jim D. said this may also appeal to some veteran players.
- 4.30 Jameson asked if p/t players would only be allowed to play if a team had less than 10.
- 4.31 Chris B. suggested these players be allowed to play on same team maximum of 2 games.

## **5. Player Ratings Clinic / Player Draft**

- 5.1 This is scheduled for Sunday, April 22. Draft to be held afterwards as in 2017.
- 5.2 Ken T. said revised draft procedures are in the works. James S. has been working on a proposal. This will be finalized by the Player Draft Committee.
- 5.3 Ken T. said he will ask for volunteers to serve on committee with James + Ken.

## **6. Events/Registration – Kate Fudge (regrets)**

- 6.1 Registration Event is likely to be held Sat April 7 at The Drink, Church St (TBC). Other registration details to be made available ASAP.
- 6.2 Opening Pitch Party scheduled for Saturday May 5 at Woody's.
- 6.3 Opening weekend games expected to be May 4 and May 5 (TBC).

## **7. Round Table – Open to Everyone**

- 7.1 Will S. asked if fundraiser raffle tickets can be made available earlier in May. Ken agreed.

- 7.2 Draft Process: Perry asked if this would be ready for next MCM. Ken agreed.
- 7.3 Banquet Venue: Tanner asked if another location could be found. Ken said we looked last year at other locations – but the Courtyard Marriott is cheaper.

**-- NEXT MANAGERS COUNCIL MEETING (MCM) - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 --**

**--- The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. Thanks to all who attended! ---**