

September 28, 2016 West Region – Minutes of Meeting

Start Time: 7 PM --- Springdale Recreation Center

Meeting Presiders: Glenn Schaaf, West Region President and Gene Drozd, West Region Treasurer.

In Attendance: Donnie Schilling – Lockland, Barry Marsh – Fury BB, John Wagner – Springdale, Jon Rose - St. Bernard, Taffy Jackson – Forest Park, Derrick Ramsey – Forest Park, Bonnie Rack – Reading, Eddie Wesley - Harrison, Bryan Hill – Wyoming, John Fuller – Woodlawn, Mike Reynolds – Glendale, Gary Otten – Greenhills, Diane Logbons – Finneytown, Joel Allen – Fairview-Clifton

Handouts: Agenda, Critical Dates, West Region Listing of Revenues and Expenses, and March 2016 West Region Rules

1. Review – Districts replaced by regions – GCKA now consists of 4 Regions (North, South, East, and West).
 - a. Number of Western Region Teams in 2016
 - i. AA – 3 teams (requires minimum of 20 person roster)
 - ii. A- 12 teams
 - iii. B-2 – 8 teams.
 - iv. B-1 – 9 teams.
 - v. C-2 – 15 teams
 - vi. C-1 – 15 teams
 - vii. D-2 – 23 teams
 - viii. D-1 – 23 teams
 - ix. Coach Pitch (not directly supervised by Western region) – approximately 42 teams
 - x. T-Ball (not directly supervised by Western Region) – approximately 49 teams
 - b. Gene noted the high number of teams in the younger age groups (90+ in Coach Pitch and T-Ball)
 - i. Way to build program
 - ii. Encouraged to ‘recruit’ kids for this for these age groups
 - c. GCKA – hopes to organize/match zip codes with applicable community programs
 - d. Need to expand Board to 5 people per GCKA By-Laws (need two more volunteers) (Board Positions: President, Secretary, Treasurer and two at-large positions)
 - i. Also need volunteer to coordinate West Region website and assist with Regional Tournament
 - ii. Bill O’Brien will serve as Secretary
2. Critical Dates:
 - a. Open Registration (West Region) – December 1
 - b. Preliminary Team Commitments – February 1
 - c. Final Team Commitments – March 1

- d. Season Starts – April 8
- e. Regular Season ends – June 12
- 3. Final Rosters – June 1 (can add or delete from Rosters prior to this date)
- 4. Importance of signed contracts emphasized – goal to turn in with Team Fees (\$25) by start of Season (April 8).
 - a. Form of Contract on West Region website
 - b. Paper copy will be available also
 - c. Signatures required – thus Form can NOT be completed on-line.
- 5. Same tournament format as last year
 - a. Top 4 teams qualify for World Series (Starts June 17)
 - b. All other teams (age class) can play in (optional) regional tournament (Starts June 15)
 - i. Can age players – position limitations and age limitations (player added must be playing –up).
 - ii. But can use to expand roster to field a team.
 - c. Optional All-star (by age group) Tournament starts July 13
 - i. Last year – pool play with 3 game minimum
 - ii. No teams from National Division of SWOL
 - iii. Can assemble All Star or play your existing team
- 6. Scheduling
 - a. Cooperation of submission of team number is CRITICAL and ESSENTIAL
 - b. Note on Scheduling Form (will be same form as last year) potential conflicts
 - i. Easter and Easter vacation (Easter is April 16)
 - ii. Kid Glove games
 - iii. Community events
 - c. Knothole team can play in two leagues – but must be able to play on Saturdays (pitch rules would apply)
 - d. Schedules will be completed by mid/late March
 - e. Strong encouragement to start registration process early
 - f. Will not (as was done last year) issue partial schedules for D-2 (with balance of schedule from and following Memorial Day) to be made based on pre-Memorial Day records
- 7. Monetary Matters
 - a. West Region has separate checking account
 - b. Cash basis – YTD through 8/30/16 - Total income \$13,950 (with \$300 in tournament credits)
 - i. Goal is transparency in financial matters.
 - ii. Total expenses \$12,379.
 - iii. Office expenses will be higher next year (previously expenses absorbed by one or more communities)
 - c. \$25 team fee (due before start of season)
 - i. Contracts also discussed – required as in the past/ want submission of Completed forms by beginning of Season (April 8).
 - d. All checks payable to Knothole Baseball West
 - i. Avoid cash payments
 - ii. Cash delivered or US mailed to Gene's house

- e. Can (completely optional) use new Knothole logo on game balls
 - i. Anticipated cost \$32/\$34 per dozen game balls
 - ii. Need to circulate artwork for new logo – could use on uniforms
 - 1. Brand development concept
- 8. Team awards
 - a. Top two teams receive team trophy and individual player award
 - b. Player award could be a trophy, patch, shirt, or ring
 - i. Shirts and rings require ‘sizing’
 - c. Awards also presented to Regional Tournament winners
 - d. Discussion on what type of awards should be distributed (wide range of thoughts on this with final decision to be made at the next meeting)
- 7. Rules (Revised West Region Rules – revised March 17, 2016) reviewed
 - a. Short discussion on U-8 (D-1) rules – no changes anticipated.
 - b. Much discussion on U-9 (D-2) rules – focus on whether modified rules followed by West Region should be continued (City Tournament does not follow the modified rules)
 - i. By far, most discussed topic of night. Communities/Organizations to get comments to Bill O’B and this issue will be revisited at next meeting
 - ii. Philosophical question (modified rules are designed to make the game ‘easier’ for younger kids – question is should some or all of those rules remain in place and/or should we try to group D-2 teams (23 last season) into upper and lower division (lower division would follow modified rules and would not be eligible for City Tournament)
 - c. The ‘start with 8 and finish with 9’ rule was also discussed (have to have at least 9 players at the game for the team to qualify for a win).
 - d. District leaders should share rules with coaches in their communities and send comments (suggested modifications, problems, etc.) to Bill O’B by December 1.
 - e. Importance of manager’s both knowing the rules and having a copy of the rules available at the game was stressed.
 - i. Goal is to avoid ‘community exceptions’ to the Rules – same Rules and all communities are both aware of the Rules and follow them.
 - ii. Again, comments to existing Rules were requested. (Comments due by 12/1 to Bill O’Brien – baseballcollegehill@gmail.com)

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Recorded by Bill O’Brien