

# Minutes of West Region Districts

Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Time: Approximately 90 minutes – starting at 7PM

Location: Springdale Recreation Center

1. Overview:
  - a. The Meeting was held following prior notification to all District Representatives
  - b. The list of attendees is set forth on the attached sheet
  - c. The Agenda and accompanying 'pass-outs' are also attached.
2. Discussion Items – Opening Comments
  - a. Glenn welcomed all attendees
  - b. The Kid Glove Program (dates of games and contact information for Paul Kramer included on the Agenda)
    - i. The availability of the Program to raise funds for local communities was discussed along with some ideas of how to implement utilization and potential use of the proceeds raised.
3. Financial Report
  - a. \$1,160 in the Bank – with \$300 in credits held by Sharonville, Wyoming and North Hills
  - b. Thus available cash is \$860 (cash remaining after payment of all 2016 expenses)
    - i. Cash position is where we want to be – slight cushion to take into 2017.
4. Registration – the primary focus of the meeting
  - a. The Agenda included a list of critical dates for the 2017 season and the “Team Registration Form”
    - i. The Form contains all of the required scheduling information
    - ii. District Reps should complete (or review the completed form) for each team from their district that will participate in Knothole’s 2017 season
      1. Again, the Form contains all of the required information and all information must be provided for each team.
      2. Districts/Communities should include on the Form any dates that their team(s) will not be available to participate in games
        - a. Examples: Kid Glove Game attendance, First Communion or other comparable school/church events
        - b. Tell us what dates a team can not play.
  - b. Critical Dates for the Scheduling Process
    - i. Feb 1 – Districts to provide initial estimate of the number of teams in each age classification
      1. This is preliminary information only.
    - ii. March 1 – THE CRITICAL DATE

1. Final Team counts – number of teams from each district/community in each age group (this will be the final number)
2. A \$25 fee (West Regional Fee to cover expenses –primarily related to the Regional Tournament) must be paid at that time.
  - a. No cash
  - b. Checks payable to “Knothole Baseball West”
3. The importance of meeting the March 1 deadline was emphasized repeatedly throughout the meeting.
  - a. This is the starting point for the formal scheduling process
  - b. Prior history is that some communities/districts have had problems meeting this deadline (information has not been provided and/or is not accurate)
    - i. Delays and/or inaccuracies in providing this information unnecessarily prolong (and make much more difficult) the scheduling process.
4. Scheduling Time Line (approximate dates)
  - a. March 10 – preliminary schedules to be circulated
    - i. These are to be reviewed by the District/Community Coordinators (and any final changes are to be made/requested at that time)
    - ii. March 20 – final schedule
  - b. Meeting this timeline is contingent upon getting the necessary information by March 1.
5. Each team will play approximately 15 game between April 17 and June 11 (June 11 is a FIRM stop date to allow for the scheduling of the Regional Tournament on June 15) (World Series start date is June 17)
  - a. Each team will play an approximately even number of home and away games.
- iii. March 1 date for submission of scheduling form and required fees (\$25/team) is FIRM.
- iv. A district/all West Region Communities meeting will be held on March 1
  1. All required information is to be submitted at this time.
  2. Information and funds can be delivered to Gene (his address is included in the Agenda) in ADVANCE of the March 1 date.
  3. March 1 is the FINAL date for submission of this information.
5. Start of the 2017 Baseball Season (Teams D-1(Junior) thru B-2 (senior)).
  - a. Monday, April 17 is the start date for ALL: teams in the above age group.
  - b. The West Region Start date is DIFFERENT from the GCKA date of Saturday April 8
    - i. West Region Start date factors Spring/Easter Breaks and allows for some additional practice time before the start of the season.
    - ii. Approx. 80% of teams in the West Region have school breaks between April 7 and April 16

- c. No games will be formally scheduled over the entire Memorial Day Weekend
    - i. This does NOT prevent teams from scheduling make-up games on this weekend – provided all participating teams are agreeable to this.
  - d. The start date also avoids scheduling games over the Easter Weekend – the start date is the Monday following Easter Sunday.
6. A level baseball starts on May 13 and concludes on June 18
- a. Late start is to accommodate the ‘high school’ rule (player not eligible to play knothole if he/she is playing on a school team and the school team has not concluded its season).
7. There was some discussion on the Scheduling Form
- a. A point of emphasis was that in completing the form each team must identify the day of the week and the field location for the scheduling of their home games.
    - i. A start time must also be provided for Saturday games.
    - ii. Weekday games will be scheduled to start at 6:30
  - b. The importance of indicating on the form any scheduling conflicts (can not play on certain days) was reiterated.
8. Two Divisions in D-2 (D – Senior)
- a. The two divisions will be the American and National Divisions.
  - b. Different rules will apply – particularly the rule changes pertain to lead-offs, pass balls and baser running/stealing.
  - c. The goal of the two divisions is to allow a small group of teams to use the rules that will apply during the World Series.
  - d. The National Division
    - i. Will consist of 6 teams.
    - ii. Any team desiring to participate in the National Division (again D-2 only) should indicate this on the Scheduling Form
    - iii. Community/District Representatives should review this request and discuss with the team manager prior to submission
    - iv. The final decision on teams participating in the National Division will be subject to West Region Board approval.
    - v. Only the top 4 teams from the National Division will be eligible to participate in the World Series (no teams from the American Division will be eligible)
    - vi. The remaining two teams from the National Division (the teams not qualifying for the World Series) will be eligible to participate in the Regional Tournament (with all of the American Division teams).
    - vii. Newly formed teams will be discouraged from participating in the National Division.
    - viii. 6 is the ‘magic number’ of teams for participating in this age level
  - e. The American Division
    - i. Will include the majority of teams in the D-2 (Senior) age classification
    - ii. Will utilize ‘traditional’ D-2 rules (again primarily related to pass balls, base running and the like)

- iii. The traditional rules are intended to facilitate teaching the game and make learning the game more enjoyable (and less stressful) for all involved.
- iv. Teams in this division are NOT eligible to participate in the World Series

#### 9. Rules

- a. The new GCKA Rules were briefly discussed
  - i. These Rules not yet officially published by GCKA
  - ii. The new rules are:
    - 1. Rule 15 – requirements for bats
    - 2. Rule 17 – allowing ‘no pitch’ intentional walks
    - 3. Rule 29 – rewrite of the ‘plowing’ rule
      - a. Judgment call/ presumption is that the player is not engaging in intentional conduct that would result in ejection from the game)
- b. The West Region Rules were included as a part of the Agenda
  - i. The major change were related to “protests” and ‘improper behavior’
    - 1. These changes were briefly discussed
  - ii. The differing rules in the D-2 age classification were discussed earlier.
- c. The importance of using ground rules as a time to discuss possible issue as to rule interpretations was emphasized
  - i. Also emphasized was the importance of each manager having a copy of the Rules with him/her for ALL games.
  - ii. The goal is twofold
    - 1. Discuss potential issues during ground rules.
    - 2. Avoid situation where differing communities apply the rules differently (or ignore rules)
    - 3. This is particularly applicable at the D level (both Junior and Senior levels) where special modifications to the rules apply and umpires are often inexperienced.

#### 10. Umpires

- a. Very briefly discussed
- b. Home team must provide and pay for the umpire for all home games
- c. If a ‘service provider’ is used typical cost for an adult/certified umpire is \$50 per umpire per game.
- d. Each community can elect its own procedures regarding umpires.