

West Region Board Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2017

Attendees: Gene Drozd, Glenn Schaaf and Bill O'Brien

Duration: Approximately 2 hours

Discussion topics generated by Glenn's notes of the GCKA meeting on the prior Monday, 9/18.

1. GCKA working with Cincinnati Public Schools to improve baseball participation at the Junior High level
 1. Likely change in AA rules - high school team can bring over its entire team to the AA team (old rule of no more than 4 from the same team likely to be eliminated).
 2. Goal is to improve the level of play and participation in AA baseball
2. GCKA financial expectations of the West Region
 1. Front end charge tournament fees (\$225). This is what other regions are doing.
 2. Now the fee is \$25 - covers cost of website, and various miscellaneous/minor charges.
 3. If tournament fees are front ended, then additional funds can be used to offset website fees (increased to \$1,000/region in 2017 and likely to be the same in 2018).
 4. We have NOT paid this website fee for 2017 - no documentation provided (cost allocated equally amongst all 4 regions).
 5. GCKA pushing hard for pre-funding of tournament fees - it has worked well in regions where it has been tried (some discussion on this - and some thought at GCKA that even if we loose some teams due to the additional cost, ultimately we would be moving the overall program in a forward direction).
3. GCKA thinks West Region needs to be more creative in attracting new teams (we have tried - in cooperation with GCKA- to attract the Northwest Baseball group to join. Efforts still ongoing - limited effective assistance from GCKA. (More specifically, GCKA was not able to close the deal with Northwest baseball last year).
4. Goal of GCKA to grow the number of teams.
5. Discussion (in the context of the up-front collection of tournament fee of \$225) of salary being paid to GCKA president - but the original theory was that Jeff Wiles would be paid from the sponsorships fees he sold and not by the regions.
6. Reviewed in detail our tournament expenditures - this was discussed also in last month's meeting - essentially a break even operation (net loss of \$85.25).
7. West region had a bank account balance of \$919 after the tournament - we agreed to use \$500 to pay for the cost of the GCKA website (the allocation was \$1,000 per region but we agreed to pay \$500).

8. We discussed that West Region did NOT participate in the All Star tournament in 2017 -reason was due to lack of timely information (by time any information was received by West Region our season was concluded).
9. No change to the Bat Rule in 2018 - likely in 2019. All other baseball organizations (at least to our knowledge) are holding off in 2018 from adoptions the new bat rule
 1. New bats would reduce impact of the bat contacting the ball (would be comparable to a wood bat) and thus reduce [arguably] injuries.
10. We did discuss the new conduct rules - and impact on managers and umpires. Bill was requested (and did) communicate West Region's concerns to Jeff Kenney - GCKA's legal counsel (no reply to date)