



## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Department of NH American Legion Baseball

### Committee Meeting Minutes Spring Meeting

### Sweeney Post#2 Manchester NH

03/05/2017

In Attendance: Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Steve Drescher, Adam Gureckis, Wayne Perra, Norm Gravel, Russ Spaulding, John Graham, Bill Roy, Mike Lopez, Charlie LaVeille

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harvey at 9:25am. Chairman Harvey opened up the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harvey provided agenda and copy of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with a second, motion passed.

Chairman Harvey gave an update on the condition of Jim Dupont. Jim is doing well on his path to recovery and is appreciative of those that have stopped by to see him.

Rick announced that Charlie LaVeille will chair the Department baseball tournament hosted by Sweeney Post #2 at Gill Stadium. The tournament begins on 7/21 with available rain dates up through 7/27.

Rick Harvey will chair the Jr. Legion tournament also to be held at Gill Stadium that begins on 7/28 with built in rain dates through 8/3.

Chairman Harvey discussed penalties and consequences for teams that violated Department rules regarding forfeits during the 2016 season. The remaining team with a fine pending will satisfy its obligation prior to the start of the 2017 season. Rule changes adopted at previous meeting of the baseball committee were made to minimize team franchise suspensions for forfeits. Rick felt confident after having discussions with managers of multiple teams that the 2017 season will be successful. The importance of playing out the season schedule was also emphasized.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher addressed committee and proposed that rules be changed to allow an ejected Manager or Coach to return to the team for the following game. In the past Managers and coaches have had to serve a one game suspension. Steve also recommended that umpire fees for Jr. games be increased from \$65 to \$70 for the state tournament and the 2018 season. No action was taken by the committee on either proposal at this time.

Chairman Harvey informed the Committee that Hudson Post 48 will not field a Sr. team this season due to lack of interest. Potential players have opted out for other opportunities. Dropping out of the Jr's program is White River Junction. Plans to support a senior team in the Vermont town have limited the amount of players available to field a Jr team.

Chairman Harvey expressed the need for teams to push the scholarship applications that are available to Legion Baseball players. Also noted was the successful registration process and that the 2/15/17 deadline was met.

Chairman Harvey brought to the committee a proposal to increase the amount of dual rostered players allowed for each team from 3 to 5. Motion made by Jay Hunnewell maintain current maximum at 3 dual rostered players per team, second by Norm Gravel. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Harvey discussed the intentional walk rule adopted by MLB. If an alternate rule is not provided in the American Legion Baseball Rulebook, we follow rules established by MLB. Based on current guidelines pitchers will not have to pitch to batters being issued an intentional walk. Adam Gurekis asked if rule could be amended at the local level to have pitcher execute the four pitches for an intentional walk. A game winning run or a runner could move into scoring position on a passed ball while pitching an intentional walk. The pitches thrown would count against the new Pitch Smart rules. A request to National will be made if there is a desire to amend this rule. No action was taken.

Committee member Steve Hernandez spoke about the background check program. The system is made up of two separate components that do not communicate with each other at this time. Although the program is not perfect it seems to be getting better. Teams will not be able to purchase insurance until background checks have been completed.

Chairman Harvey discussed the All-Star Showcase scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup> at Gill Stadium. Rick shared some correspondence from Derry with some suggestions for selecting teams and pitching restrictions. Chairman Harvey will be asking for more input from managers/coaches for selection process, age groups and other incidentals.

Committee member Pete St Pierre voiced his concern and displeasure with the new Pitch Smart rule adopted by National. While the spirit of the rule to protect pitchers is good, the consequence of one days rest for pitchers having thrown less than 45 pitches could damage the program and the quality of play. After lengthy discussion concerning the Pitch Smart rule.

Mike Lopez of Sweeney Post #2 discussed the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the American Legion. The American Legion is asking that programs incorporate special events and celebrations at legion functions to celebrate it's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday over the next two years. Centennial patch on team uniforms and special recognition at tournaments and games are examples. Participation in civic activities such as parades and local events is encouraged.

The meeting of the Department Baseball Committee was adjourned at 10:40 am

Department of NH American Legion Baseball

Meeting Minutes Spring Scheduling Meeting

Sweeney Post#2 Manchester NH

03/05/2017

The annual scheduling meeting was called to order at 11:05 as Chairman Harvey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harvey discussed shared agenda items discussed at earlier meeting of the baseball committee. Much of the discussion was about the new Pitch Smart rule, wooden bats, dual rostered players and length of games.

With the Pitch Smart, it was generally agreed upon that this we will police ourselves and teams may share pitch counts with opponents prior to the start of games. During the State Tournament pitch counts will be tracked by the tournament committee.

A poll was taken to determine whether we should permit BBCOR bats or remain a wooden bat league. An overwhelming majority of teams favored continued use of the wooden bats.

A poll was also taken to gauge opinion of going from nine inning games to seven inning games. There was a two vote difference in favor of staying with nine inning games. Chairman Harvey was to reach out those teams not in attendance so that every team had their voice heard. With nearly an even split in team votes on game length, the baseball committee will continue to consider game length based on feedback from coaches and managers

Teams in attendance finalized their respective schedules and submitted them to the committee for inclusion in the directory and on the website.

There was no action taken on rules or regulations at the scheduling meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectfully

Jay Hunnewell, Vice Chairman NH ALBB