

Department of New Hampshire

Minutes Fall Meeting

Hudson Post #48

November 3, 2019

In attendance: Committee members-Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Gary Webster, Gary Wayman, Wayne Perra, Jim Blake, Steve Drescher

Others: Rich Beard, Keene Jr. Head Coach, Dept. Vice Commander Charlie Arkwell

Chairman Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:32am and led the pledge of allegiance. All in attendance recognized the passing of past chairman Gary Webster with a moment of silence.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee that he received a \$300 check from Keene for game forfeits in the 2019 season. Rich Beard was in attendance and spoke on behalf of the Keene baseball program. Rich informed the committee that great strides have been made in improving communication and the formation of a booster club to promote the baseball program. Rich also stated that they are moving try outs to the fall with a goal to have a minimum of 12 players committed for the 2020 season. The remaining roster spots would be open with goal to fill remaining spots in the Spring. Following the presentation from Rich Beard a motion was made to re-instate Keene back into the program was made and accepted.

Chairman Harvey discussed possible restructuring of the league schedules to allow for crossover games into the other district. **After discussion it was decided that the senior program would be left alone and that a crossover schedule was desired in the junior program. A motion was made for junior teams to play each team within the district twice and play each team in the other district once with the chairman deciding home and away games in the other district. The motion was second and passed unanimously.**

Jim Blake informed the committee that there would be no Londonderry junior team in 2020. Also noted was that Derry coaches Dylan Mullin and Mike Lynch will be stepping down from Derry baseball leaving a coaching void. To date the committee is not aware of who will be coaching Derry in 2020. The Derry Post is committed to fielding a team in 2020 per Derry Post commander. **(Since the meeting, Derry has withdrawn their team from our program).**

Chairman Harvey presented the committee with a new prep team for Windham. A motion was made and second to accept Windham. Motion passed unanimously.

The committee also has commitments at this time from Salem, Dover, Lebanon and possibly Hudson, Exeter and Merrimack for inclusion into the prep league.

Rick presented the committee with a request for a team sponsor/name change for Post 124 Nashua. It is the desire of Nashua to return back to Post 3 Nashua. Post 3 has the leadership in place and transfer is amicable. A motion was made to approve the name/sponsorship change and second. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick discussed the showcase dates which have June or July option. **The 2020 Showcase date was voted upon by the committee to be held on Tuesday July 21st at Gill Stadium.** Also discussed was possible cross state showcase to stimulate interest among scouts and players. More news forthcoming from Rick.

Chairman Harvey discussed the hardships some teams have expressed about the 12 player rule. The 12 player rule dictates that teams must have 12 players rostered that have no other baseball commitments. With AAU and other leagues available to players some teams had difficulty getting 12 players that were only committed to Legion Baseball. **A motion was made to eliminate the 12-player rule in its entirety and let the teams decide how many players they would allow to dual participate and second. Motion passed unanimously. To go along with this rule revision, the Committee voted to raise the fees for forfeits of district games. The fines will be \$150.00 for the first, \$200.00 for the second and \$400.00 for the third and possible reinstatement back into the program.**

Rick informed the committee that teams working out players or playing games prior to the end of the High School season is not a violation of NHIAA rules provided that the student athlete prioritizes the high school commitment and does not miss a HS team meeting, practice or game to attend a Legion tryout or game etc. Caution should be used by the student athlete and coaches to avoid harsh penalty to the player if found in violation of the NHIAA rules.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher addressed the committee about umpire fees and umpire clinics. Currently umpires attend clinics for High School baseball, college and other programs and adding another for Legion may be too much. An online test or training module for Legion umpires is an option and will be looked into. Also discussed was utilizing umpire evaluation forms and nominating experienced umpires to represent NH at a Regional Tournament. Chairman Harvey asked that umpires ensure that first aid kits are available in the dugouts at all games for safety. Steve thanked the committee for their support throughout the season in regards to ejections and rulings. Chairman Harvey also asked that the umpires enforce the uniform rule for players that are in the dugout. Steve also discussed the need to be equitable with other programs in regards to umpire fees in order to retain quality umpires. **A motion was made to increase the junior umpire fees from \$65 to \$70 and the senior fees from \$75 to \$80 and was second. Motion passed. This senior rate is now equitable to what umpires get paid for a high school JV game.**

Chairman Harvey brought before the committee the desire to have the State tournament go back to a straight double elimination bracket in place of the existing Legion Tournament bracket. **After brief discussion a motion was made and seconded to utilize a straight double elimination bracket for the State tournaments and second. Motion passed 6-1.**

Also discussed was the publication of the NH Baseball directory. For cost avoidance measures is publishing and mailing out the directory coupled with technology a motion was made to forgo the publication and mailing of the state directory and rule book provided that it is accessible on the NH Baseball website and was second. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick presented the committee with news of a federal law passed that deals with sex abuse and sexual awareness training referenced as "Pure Baseball". This program will require back ground checks and a mandatory 90 minute online training session. More information will be sent out as this program develops.

ROSTER DEADLINE 6/25/20. In the past, I would change that date if someone was late. I did learn from our National Chairman that I was in error in doing that. **Therefore the on-line roster must be completed next year and future years by 6/25/20. No exceptions.**

Jim Blake discussed his opinion that we should use the bat rules established by National. After brief discussion Jim to provide Rick with a short write up that will be sent out to poll the coaches and put out for a vote that would require a 2/3 majority for seniors and a 60/40 for juniors to adopt a change.

Rick will send out a notice with the objective to get all new prep team applications by December 1st in order set a season schedule and complete the formation of the new prep league.

Respectfully, Jay Hunnewell Vice Chairman NHALBB