

Department of NH American Legion Baseball

Meeting-Minutes Fall Meeting

Hudson Post #48

November 4, 2018

Chairman Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

Chairman Harvey provided handouts to the committee that included the agenda and correspondence.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the baseball committee were accepted as posted on the Baseball website

Chairman Harvey provided status update of teams participating in the 2019 baseball program. 15 senior teams and 12 junior teams have registered for the 2019 season. Merrimack Post 98 will move into District A in the senior division. This will put 7 teams in A District and 8 teams in District B. In the Junior Division Hudson will move to District A to balance the league. Regular season start date will be on June 11th. The senior division finishes its regular season on July 20th and the juniors will finish on July 27th.

(FYI – Since this meeting there is a real possibility that Weare will enter a junior team into the program for 2019. If that happens then Hudson Post 48 will revert back to District B – Chairman)

Rick informed the committee that he has been working with Nashua Parks & Recreation to secure Holman for future state tournaments. The positive relationship between NH Legion Baseball and the City of Nashua for the use of Holman stadium is a benefit and is not taken for granted.

Chairman Harvey announced that the Senior State tournament will be held at Holman stadium on 7/26/19 to 8/1/19 and that the 2019 Jr state tournament will be held at Michele Park in Salem from 8/2/19 to 8/8/19.

There was discussion on hosting a Junior Regional Tournament. NH is in the rotation to host the Junior Regional in 2019. There has been difficulty in locating a host site. Concord, Holman and Gill have been considered. Timing and finances have proven the need to consider alternative sites. Craig Walfield will look into the possibility of using Spaulding High School and communicate with Rick.

No action was taken on requiring players to play in a minimum percentage of games during the regular season in order to participate in the State Tournament. No action was taken in regards to restructuring the qualifications for tournament play when divisions become unbalanced. This concern will be addressed in the spring if any teams should withdraw prior to the start of the 2019 season.

Instructions to purchase insurance will be sent out when available. Changes made at SA Van Dyke for the upcoming season have been made in an effort to streamline the process.

The location of the showcase game has not been determined. An effort is being made to obtain Holman Stadium or St Anselm's College.

There was a proposal to change tournament brackets schedule. Motion was made by Pete St Pierre to revert back to A1 vs B4 at 9:00am, A-2 vs B3 at 12:00, A-3 vs B2 at 3:30 and A-4 vs B-1 at 6:30 with host team having the option of playing in the game #4 slot on day one only. Game times subject to change and schedule will alternate yearly between A-1 and B-1 to play in game #1 slot. Motion was second and passed.

Discussion on tournament bracket structure was also discussed. It was generally agreed upon that winner of Game #11 was getting an unfair advantage of an extra days rest with the current straight double elimination format. A motion was made by Jay Hunnewell to revert back to former bracket where teams remaining will play each day until the championship game and is consistent with the bracket format used at the regionals. Motion was second and passed. This is the same bracket we used for many years and it is still used at our regional tournaments.

Chairman Harvey discussed the courtesy runner rule and the intent of the rule to speed the game up. On many occasions the courtesy runner rule was being used as a strategical advantage. Pitchers and catchers were being subbed with courtesy runners with less than two outs. A motion was made by Gary Webster to allow a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher only when two outs are recorded. Motion was second and passed.

Chairman Harvey discussed the desire of teams to use BBCOR bats. There was interest in using BBCOR bats that respond like wood bats but would last longer and would save teams money. Also discussed was the adjustment players need to make upon reaching the Regionals where the metal BBCOR bats are used. The general consensus was NH was at a disadvantage when reaching the Regionals. The disadvantage appears to be on defense as players are adjusting to ball speed. Motion was made by Pete St Pierre to utilize bat rule as established in the National rulebook. Motion was second and passed.

Rick discussed the need to establish our mission statement. The future of our baseball program depends on how we co-exist with AAU baseball and other baseball programs competing for players.

Chairman Harvey floated the idea of creating a marketing director within our committee to promote the program and our mission. Using social media such as twitter and Facebook along with press releases would be a benefit to the program. No action was taken at this time. Derry coach showed an interest at the fall meeting in September. Rick will follow up.

Chairman Harvey announced that Norm Gravel would now be District A Director. Ron is stepping away from the Director position and will remain active on the committee.

Chairman Harvey presented the opportunity to form a 14U program geared towards providing players between middle school and freshman in high school to play baseball. It is generally agreed that players cut between middle and high school give up on the sport because they do not have a place to play. By providing this program we may be able retain and capture those players for future participation in either the junior or senior program. Although no action was taken to form this program we will further research for potential inclusion in 2019. Rick will follow up at a later date.

Rick informed the committee that both the senior and junior state tournaments went well. A modified shot clock for basketball was used to keep pitch counts at the Jr tournament was a benefit. Rick will look into purchasing something by the committee that could be used in the future.

Rick informed the committee that future Junior Legion Regional Tournaments would follow ALBB and MLB rules. The past practice of junior tournaments allowing re-entry, courtesy runners etc. will no longer be permitted.

Mike Lopez of Sweeney Post #2 addressed the committee to promote the American Legion centennial anniversary. Mike proposed supplying commemorative centennial patches for all NH Legion Baseball teams. Each team would receive enough patches to place on the uniform of each player and coach to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Legion organization. After discussion it was determined that the committee would provide appropriate locations on the uniform where the patch would be worn. Gary Webster made a motion to accept the centennial patches and require that all players and coaches uniforms have the patch affixed for the 2019 season. Motion was second and passed.

At 11:45 the meeting continued with a few teams in attendance. Chairman Harvey provided overview of the above meeting minutes for discussion.

There was no further action taken by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55.

Respectfully

Jay Hunnewell

Vice Chairman NHALBB