

Department of NH American Legion Baseball

Committee Meeting - Minutes Fall Meeting

Hudson Post #48 Hudson NH

November 5, 2017

In Attendance: Committee Members-Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Steve Drescher, Wayne Perra, Norm Gravel, Gary Webster. Guests-Charlie LeVeille, Bill Roy.

Chairman Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:18am. Chairman Harvey opened meeting with pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Harvey provided agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. Motion made with a second to accept the minutes of the previous meeting passed.

Rick gave an update on Jim Dupont.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee that Weare has a proposal to drop the Jr team and transition into the senior program. Weare is requesting to use Goffstown High School as its base school. A motion was made by Gary Webster to accept Weare franchise into the senior program using Goffstown High School as its base school. Motion second. After discussion, the motion passed.

Rick provided proposal and request from North Conway to enter a team into the senior program. Chairman Harvey noted that North Conway is still in the development process and will have firm commitment based on numbers and support at a later date. Gary Webster made a motion to accept the franchise request from N. Conway provided a solid commitment is received no later than December 31st 2017. Motion Second. After discussion the motion passed.

Chairman Harvey discussed the 2017 game forfeits by Milford and Exeter. Rick stated that he spoke with team managers at both Milford and Exeter for explanations, discussed what can be done in the future to avoid forfeits and the fines policy. Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher stated he had an issue with game umpires being paid after Exeter game in which a coach was ejected and refused to leave the dugout/field. Gary Webster commented that Exeter had always run a solid program and never had issues in the past. Chairman Harvey noted that Exeter would be required to pay fines in order to field a team in 2018. General consensus of the committee was that Exeter needed to be penalized for game forfeit at the Department Tournament. A motion was made by Jay Hunnewell to suspend Exeter for the 2018 season for the late season and tournament forfeits and disregard of directives issued by the Department Chairman in accordance with the rules. After discussion the motion second and passed 6 to 2.

Gary Webster followed up action to suspend Exeter with subsequent motion to allow for appeal by Exeter provided they pay fines and demonstrate that they have a capable coaching staff in place by November 30th 2017. Motion was seconded and passed 7-1.

Rick presented proposal by Raymond for a franchise in the junior program. Rick stated that they have the numbers and staff committed to support a team. Motion made by Steve Hernandez with a second to accept Raymond franchise request into the junior program in District A. After discussion, the motion passed.

With Raymond entry into the Jr program in District A the need to balance the District out with teams is apparent. A motion was made by Gary Webster to move Londonderry over to District B. Motion second and passed after brief discussion.

Chairman Harvey discussed issue of teams changing schedules after the season starts. This practice causes issues with lost dates to get games in and hampers efforts to schedule rain make-ups as previous open dates would no longer be open. Gary Webster made a motion that no schedule changes will be permitted after the season starts without prior approval of the Department Chairman. Games postponed due to inclement weather will be rescheduled in accordance with the rulebook. Motion second and passed after brief discussion.

Chairman Harvey presented the committee with rule changes adopted at the National level at the fall meeting of the National Americanism Commission. Motion made by Gary Webster to follow lead of the Americanism commission to change length of games to seven innings, allow courtesy runners for pitchers and catchers for the regular season only (both for the junior and senior program) and allow for the utilization of the American Legion Baseball re-entry rule for the regular season only for both the junior and senior program. Motion was seconded and passed.

Rick also informed the committee that National made a change to ruling concerning 19 year old players. 19 Year old players that were never rostered to a team are now permitted to play for team closest to their parents domicile.

Chairman Harvey discussed issues with form 76's and form 77's. Would prefer that players signing 77's be locked in for at least two years. This would prevent players from bouncing around. Team commitment from player to team and team to player is preferred. After discussion a motion was made by Gary Webster to lock or freeze player to which a 77 is signed for. Motion to second was made and motion passed.

There was discussion about the annual issue of late roster submittals. Although a fine policy was discussed there was no action taken. Teams will be reminded of deadlines and encouraged to submit rosters as they develop to avoid potential issues with ineligible players or not be recognized as a team by National for late submittal.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher discussed the fee schedule change for umpires now that we have reduced games from nine to seven innings. The suggested fee for senior games will now be \$75.00 with junior games at \$65.00. Ejections were down to four in 2017 from nine in 2016.

2017 Tournament Chairman Charlie LeVeille discussed tournament financials. While a profit was made at the tournament the increased costs to cover umpires fees, field costs are making it difficult for other Posts in NH to place bids for Department Tournaments.

Chairman Harvey discussed the scheduling of additional games if teams are scheduled to play less than 14 games in their respective districts. Teams will schedule additional games within district with direction from Chairman Harvey if the district has less than 8 teams. The second tie breaker for seeding purposes to the state tournament will be by win percentage in the districts affected by the additional games.

Bill Roy shared information in regards to hosting a Regional tournament in NH. NH would likely be awarded a regional if it placed a bid due to the length of time that has expired since NH has hosted a regional. Host post would need support of the Department in order to run a successful tournament.

Frank Ulcickas discussed preliminary 2018 Senior State Tournament details and bid to host at Nashua's Holman Stadium. As in the past the host will help out the winning team with funds raised from the tournament book and gate sales to offset the costs associated with participating in the regional tournament. Frank and Rick will communicate in future in regards to game times and tournament schedule now that game length has been reduced to seven innings. Gary Webster made motion to accept Nashua bid to host Senior Tournament. Motion second. Motion passed.

Chairman Harvey introduced bid from Portsmouth Post #6 to host Junior Tournament in Portsmouth. Matt Gladu of Portsmouth informed the committee that he had the support of the local post and has Leary field for the tournament. Gary Webster made motion to accept Portsmouth bid to host Junior Tournament. Motion second. Motion passed.

Charlie LeVeille discussed the financials in regards to the 2017 tournament held at Gill Stadium and hosted by Henry J Sweeney Post #2. A lot of work by a dedicated group of people ensured a profit to the host post through tournament program book, gate, concession and 50/50 sales. Overhead costs to host tournament include but not limited to pre-tournament dinner, field cost, umpire fees and baseballs. In general the 2017 state tournament was a success.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee that they were welcome to stay for the general meeting with teams that are present.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:25am

Respectfully,

Jay Hunnewell

Vice Chairman NHALBB

Department of NH American Legion Baseball

Minutes Fall General Meeting

Hudson Post #48 Hudson NH

November 5, 2017

Chairman Harvey opened the meeting at 11:35am

In Attendance: Committee Members: Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Steve Drescher, Wayne Perra, Norm Gravel, Gary Webster. Guests-Charlie LeVeille.

Team representatives in attendance: Russ Spaulding Post 79 Manchester, Brian LeVeille Post 2 Manchester, Carl Nolin Post 21 Concord, Matt Skoby Post 21 Concord, Josh Jarnot Post 21 Concord, Mike Lynch Post 9 Derry, Dave Rouleau Post 8 Dover, Matt Gladu Post 6 Portsmouth, Joe Dee Post 1 Laconia, Dennis Pelletier Post 65 Weare, Mike Henzley Post 98 Merrimack, Steve Hernandez Post 124 Nashua.

Rick presented teams in attendance with a brief overview of the action items acted upon at the previously held baseball committee meeting. Included in the overview were all of the rule changes adopted at the National level at the fall meetings in Indianapolis.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher asked about space availability to host umpire clinics at posts that are willing to donate the space for a few hours. Consensus from representatives from multiple posts was that getting space would not be a problem upon request. Clinics could also be held at different post locations to accommodate umpires around the state.

Rick discussed showcase game success and provided details for the 2018 showcase. Teams will do an hour on field batting practice and 45 minutes of field drill before competing in a 9 inning game to showcase their skills in front of college scouts etc. NH will host showcase on alternate dates of Massachusetts and Connecticut to maximize exposure.

Sweeney Post #2 has expressed an interest in hosting regional tournaments in 2019 and 2020 and will have until February 1st to submit bid.

Rick discussed potential usage of Fisher Cats stadium for future state tournaments. Rick has been communicating with stadium staff to work out logistics. This would be a great benefit for American Legion Baseball in marketing our product and attracting young players to the program. Mike Lynch from Derry asked that details such as infield warm ups and on field activities be discussed prior to committing. Mike commented that at high school tournaments tournament staff was strict in allowing players to enter the stadium in a timely fashion, into dugouts or on the field prior to games which took away from what is an exceptional experience for the players.

Matt Gladu presented a detailed proposal for a league scheduling system. Teams would be directed on what days of the week they could schedule games leaving other dates open for rain make-ups. Saturdays would also be left open due to the realization that many players play travel ball and are available during the week and not on weekends. Consistent scheduling similar to that at the high school

level allow for players to schedule work and family functions easier. Most in attendance agreed that scheduling make up games is a perennial issue. While many found the proposal favorable there was no action taken. We will suggest that teams follow the model voluntarily and work out and share any unforeseen issues so that we may revisit proposal in the future.

Joe Dee from Laconia asked about field conditions and what can be done to have some consistency across the league. Playing games at sites that are well kept help in marketing our product to potential players. Coaches also expressed frustration with either having to do all of the work for field maintenance or none of it due to local restrictions. Some teams pay for field maintenance and each team has to deal with field conditions. Understanding that not all communities have access to fields or stadiums with lights it should be general practice that games are played on fields that are mowed and in safe playable condition.

Rick asked for suggestions to better track the pitch count rules during the season. Joe Dee discussed what is used at the youth little league level where an affidavit is filled out and signed by managers after each game. This system seems to be effective and may be implemented at a later date.

Mike Henzley of Merrimack suggested that an additional showcase be organized for after the season is over. A possible late august or fall showcase may benefit the players.

Chairman Harvey thanked the teams that attended and for their input.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm

Respectfully,

Jay Hunnewell

Vice Chairman NHALBB