



## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of New Hampshire American Legion Baseball

Committee Meeting

Post #48 Hudson, NH

11/06/2016

In Attendance:

Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, James Dupont, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Steve Drescher, Wayne Perra, Norm Gravel and Gary Webster. Guests included Department Commander Tom Wiley, PDC Charlie LeVeille (Manchester Post #2) John Ryan (Salem Post #63), Matt Gladu (Portsmouth Post #6) and Tim Lunn (Nashua Post #124) Carl Nolan & John Bly (Concord Post #21)

Chairman Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:35

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made and second. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee of two applications for new team entries into the baseball program and the reinstatement of Salem Post #63 and Londonderry Post #27. Post #79 has applied for a senior franchise along with Nashua Post #124 applying for entry into the junior program. Londonderry and Salem are requesting reinstatement into the program as a result of automatic suspension from the previous season with multiple forfeits.

Salem Post #63 General Manager John Ryan addressed the committee and provided explanation of how the team would move forward in a positive direction with the proper leadership and the with the current commitment of players that are moving up from the junior program.

The committee discussed the applications for new team entries as well as the reinstatement of both Salem and Londonderry. Motions were made and seconded. After brief discussion Post #79 (Sr.), Salem Post #63(Sr.), Londonderry Post #27 (Sr.) and Nashua Post #124 (Jr.) were all approved entry for the 2017 season by a majority vote of the committee. Motion passed.

Chairman Harvey presented the committee with a proposal to amend the current forfeit rule as written in the Dept. rulebook retroactive to the 2016 season. It was agreed upon by a majority of the committee that the existing forfeit rule should be amended to provide accountability by imposing financial penalty with an opportunity for a second chance to get things right. After review of the proposed rule change it was approved with an amendment to suspend a team for the following season instead of two consecutive seasons. Motion made by Steve Hernandez and second by Norm Gravel. Motion passed unanimously. Also presented were rule changes and omissions to the Department rulebook that are redundant with rules already written in the National rulebook. Motion made by Gary Webster and second by Jim Dupont to accept the rulebook changes presented by Chairman Harvey. After brief discussion, the motion passed with a majority in favor.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee of the Senior and Junior Tournament dates at Gill Stadium in Manchester. The senior tournament will be 7/21/17 through 7/27/17 while the juniors will follow from 7/28/17 through 8/3/17. Charlie LaVeille of Sweeney Post #2 will function as the senior tournament chairman with Post #2 sponsoring the Tourney. Post #2 has also offered to assist with the junior tournament with a concession stand and will follow up with details as we move forward. Motion made by Jim Dupont and second by Steve Hernandez to accept the tournament dates and location. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Harvey addressed the committee with information regarding a proposed one-day showcase. This will be held at Gill Stadium that has been reserved for a July 5<sup>th</sup> double header to be played by selected players going into their senior year or less in High School. College coaches will be invited. Chairman Harvey will coordinate the showcase and is looking for volunteers to assist with the showcase. Motion made by Gary Webster to approve the One Day Showcase with second from Norm Gravel. Motion Passed Unanimously

Chairman Harvey presented the committee with proposed District alignments for 2017 season. After review, a motion was made by Gary Webster to approve the District alignments with second from Wayne Perra. Motion passed unanimously.

There was brief discussion concerning request from Rochester to switch from wooden bats to BBCOR composite bats as allowed by National. Discussion included NH teams being at a disadvantage when playing at Regional level after using wood all season and changing to the BBCOR. There was no motion to amend or change the existing NH bat rule to use one-piece wooden bats only.

Department Commander Tom Wiley addressed the committee. Commander Wiley stressed the importance to open all committee meetings of the American Legion with the pledge of allegiance. The colors were put in place and commander Wiley led us in the pledge. Commander Wiley also informed the committee that all players will stand for the playing of the national anthem. Players exercising their right to kneel or sit or otherwise not stand for the national anthem will be removed from participation in American Legion Baseball. Commander Wiley also stated that any inquiries he receives about Legion Baseball will be sent directly to Chairman Harvey it is the responsibility of the Baseball Committee to handle all baseball program issues. Dept. Commander Wiley also thanked all of the committee members and those that volunteer their time to the baseball program.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher spoke to committee in regards to the arbiter program, umpire scheduling, fees and overall performance. In general everything is going well. There were issues to deal with in the 2016 season and it was suggested that committee be established to review and act upon rules violations. Jay Hunnewell suggested that the protest committee be consulted for resolution. Umpire fees will remain frozen for the 2017 season and will be reviewed again next year.

Steve Hernandez spoke to the committee about the background check process. Steve requested that teams should register prior to submitting names for background checks as it is difficult to determine which team the individual being checked belongs to. Teams should also remove coaches or volunteers from the background check process if that person is no longer with the team. Having the name of a coach/volunteer in the queue for a background check that is no longer affiliated with the team will delay the approval of that team. It was discussed that teams having incomplete background checks of coaches/volunteers will not be

approved until the background checks are completed. Also discussed was the correlation between buying insurance for your team and having incomplete background checks for that team. This will be further touched upon in a letter from Chairman Harvey as our registration process draws near.

Chairman Harvey presented the committee with information regarding the new Pitch smart pitching rule change. There was much discussion on ways to enforce the new rule during the regular season. It was generally agreed upon that the honor system would be piloted the first year. Our tournament staff will monitor pitch smart rules during post-season play.

Matt Gladu asked the committee to consider a fair and equitable way to award playoff berths to teams should the Districts become grossly unbalanced. After discussion it was agreed upon that the committee would deal with late district contraction or team withdrawal on a season-by-season basis and will make every effort to level the playing field as it relates to qualifying for the tournament. Also discussed is accountability of each team to attend annual scheduling meeting. With the advances of electronic submittal of schedules and the distribution of rules and updates by e-mail the committee has gravitated away from requiring a representative of each team to attend the annual scheduling meeting. It was generally agreed upon by the committee that at least one member should be required to attend the annual scheduling meeting as way of formally accepting any rule changes and the submittal of their season schedule of which they intend to uphold. There was no motion or action taken and it is left at the discretion of the Baseball Chairman as to how we will proceed.

Respectfully, Jay Hunnewell - Vice Chairman