



Guelph Minor Baseball Association Inc.

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Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 3rd, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 pm.

Meeting was held virtually, using Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present: Jeff Hoffman, Vicki Marshall, Libby Malott, Ryan Herron, Jim Price, , Kevin Caron, Erik Tremblay, Cory Hanley, Iain Durk, Heather MacPherson, Rob Robinson, Sean Staniforth, Adam Fanjoy, Dave Shapka, Koko Gillis,

Absent: Stefanie Mocuik; Richard Elmes

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Sean. Seconded by Kevin. Approved

Approval of Aug 6th Meeting Minutes

Moved by Heather. Seconded by Koko. Approved

Declaration of Conflicts

Kevin declared conflict with umpire coordinator/diamond coordinator discussion
No other conflicts declared.

Grievance Case Review and Debrief

- Cory noted that he was prepared to bring forward a summary of an active grievance case against to the board however 3 additional incidents involving the case arrived today, which will need further discussion as they may impact the final decision from the Grievance Committee
- Assistant coach was involved in situation with both a player and umpire
- Assistant coach was called an expletive from a London Badger player after blatantly tipping his batter to pitches
- Assistant coach physically threatened the underage player and was ejected by the umpire.
- Assistant coach was consistently disruptive after the ejection

- Original decision from the Grievance Committee was to give the assistant coach a 2 year ban of all GBMA events with the opportunity to appeal after 1 year. This must now be reviewed based on new information.
- Subsequent communications from the assistant coach have been provided to multiple parties within the organization with further offensive comments and threatening behaviour.

Cory is requesting Executive and the Umpire in Chief have an additional meeting to discuss additional incident that occurred today.

Jeff raised question on risk. Based on coach's documented actions, and subsequent communications, risk is minimal.

Action: Jeff to book meeting with Executive and Adam.

Diamond Coordinator Position

- Libby announced that she will be stepping away from the diamond coordinator position at the end of the season. Libby happy to help with the transition to a new position.
- Executive is recommending that use this as an opportunity to merge the Diamond Coordinator and the Umpire Coordinator roles.
- Was noted that historically this was one position.
- Initial discussions have occurred with the current Umpire Coordinator Fiona Caron.
- She has expressed interest in the role and has experience with the system.
- Motion to be raised at October Meeting to formally merge the roles and appoint Fiona into the position.

2020 AGM

Format - via Zoom

- Jeff confirmed that the emergency order in the province does consider Virtual Meetings as In-Person, which meets our constitutional requirement for in person meetings.
- Members would need to pre-register for the AGM and links to the Zoom meeting will be provided.
- Rob pointed out that we need pre-registration as only members in good standing can participate in the votes.
- Format of all motions still need to be confirmed. Zoom polls is a viable option, but backup approach such as google forms is required if a secret ballot is requested.

Membership

- Discussion occurred on what constitutes a member of our organization after the cancelation of the house league season.
- Board is in agreement that all players/families that registered for the 2020 season are to be admitted as members.
- This is applicable based on section 3.1.6 of the constitution states “Any other individual and legal entities as are admitted as members by the Board”

Date

- Jeff proposed hosting the AGM on **October 15, 2020** for the AGM
- No objections to the Date.

Rep Update

Season Update

- Many teams are wrapping up their seasons this weekend with some form of tournament – 4 teams with games continuing into next week
- Positive feedback from several parents about the controls we had in place and how we were one of the few centres taking it seriously

Coaches Evaluations

- Coaches evaluations were reinstated this year
- About a 50% Response rate received.
- Coaches will be receiving summary of results this week
- A lot of people expressed thanks to the coaches and organization for providing some form of normalcy and baseball this year

Coaches Selection

- 16 applications received by deadline
- 4-5 late applications
- Some age group are still being interviewed.
- Once all coaches are selected, board will receive communication on who was selected

Tryouts

- Tryout information and schedule is now posted on our website. Start Sept. 12
- Registration is now up and running. As of 7am this morning, there were 204 registrations (usually is ~ 300-325 final number)
- Players **MUST** pre-register, players who did not complete the COVID waivers this year need to do so before tryouts
- Anyone who lives outside of Guelph and did not play rep this year should have a release from their affiliate before tryouts.

Vicki raised Question on if a cut off will be made for registration this year as we have said no walk-ons this year. Rob will confirm approach with Rep Committee.

Heather noted that feedback from house league families is that they have overheard communication that some rep coaches expressed intention to keep their teams and try-outs are biased to returning players. Rep Committee will re-affirm with coaches that tryouts are to be transparent and that everyone is to get a fair chance of making a team.

Koko is fielding questions on the registration form as to why preferred positions requested were requested.

Action: Adam to remove preferred position question from the sign-up sheet and inform will not be used.

Koko noted that Cambridge will be fielding 15U, 16U and 18U in EBLO this year and we may lose players to that program.

Marden Update

Rob provided an update on Marden booking

- Bookings have not change, despite Covid.
- Marden is still looking for 26 Week commitment with an October start.
- Marden has implemented protocols designated Entry/Exits to prevent player overlap.
- With a cap of 50 people for full field (25 per half), clinic capacities would be impacted.
- Annual cost to GMBA is about 25K. We typically recovered about 80% due to team chargeback.
- Board needs to decided if we maintain the booking, if we lose it, we are unlikely to get it back. Other Indoor options are limited this year.
- New contract from Marden is expected in the next few weeks
- Before Booking, need to confirm Baseball Ontario's position on indoor training
- Currently not allowed as per July 8th communication/

Action: Iain to raise Indoor training at next ICBA meeting for clarity on position

- If allowed to practice indoors, board is in favor of renewing contract.
- Rob to see if start date could be pushed out.

Select Update

- Select is doing well, minimal feedback
- Donato is working on invoices for the teams

Further Discussion occurred on the tryout process – Select & Rep.

- Heather noted that feedback from house league and select player families is that they would like select tryout to happen in the fall after the rep tryouts.
- Koko noted the Select committee preferences is still March. Each center is different.
- Heather noted that parents are primarily concerned about the transparency of the selection process. Not all coaches provide targeted feedback on decisions to release players.
- Iain asked if parents offered suggestions on transparency, on what they want to hear. It is not always possible to provide targeted feedback is not personal.
- Consider a post tryout survey to the community on how it worked, what could be improved.
- Rob will bring back to Rep committee for further discussion

House League Clinics

- Clinics are wrapping up.
- People were a happy
- Feedback that they want to continue with baseball next year.
- Heather – U13 & U11's were mixed due to a diamond issue.
- Turned it into a mini game, may consider doing it again.

City of Guelph Fee Discussion

- Jeff updated us that through the Youth Sports working group formed during Covid, they have reached out to the city about facility costs for next year.
- Mayor has offered to sit down and discuss how budget for fess are gathered.
- Meeting with Mayor is planned 2 weeks from now.
- Group will take a collective approach to try and get fees frozen or reduced if possible

Open Items:

Board of Directors Terms of Reference- Cory Hanley
No updates

Restructuring of Rep Programs Fees

Take away from the Rep Budget Review in July.
Rep Committee need to review Costing Model moving forward.
Adam offered to volunteer to help if needed.

Other Business

Motion to adjourn 10:43PM
Moved by Kevin, Seconded by Koko. Motion Carried.