



## **Guelph Minor Baseball Association Inc.**

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### **Special Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Meeting was held virtually, using Google Meet video conferencing.

**Present:** Jeff Hoffman, Stefanie Mocuik, Ryan Herron, Iain Durk, Jill Gillis, Adam Fanjoy, Erik Tremblay, Kirk McNabb, Rob Robinson, Dave Shapka, Heather MacPherson,

**Absent:** Donato Dibucchianico

#### **Approval of the Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

Moved by Erik, Seconded by Adam. Motion approved

#### **Declaration of Conflicts**

Kirk declared a conflict with the both the motion to reopen the discussion on the current suspension and the subsequent discussion if the motion passes.

The Board recognizes the conflict and Kirk will abstain from participating in those discussions

#### **2021 House League Rules**

Adam provided a brief update

- Rules committee have finalized the recommended updates to the House League rules.
- A copy will be shared with the board within the next day
- Adam requested that board members review the document before the next board meeting and provide feedback ahead of time.

**Action:** Adam to send update House League rules book to the board for review prior to March 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

#### **Reopen discussion on the current suspension of in-person baseball activities**

**Motion:** The GMBA board re-opens the discussion on the current suspension of GMBA Activities. Moved by Jeff, Seconded by Rob. Motion passed with a 2/3<sup>rds</sup> majority.

## **Discussion regarding the suspension of in-person of baseball activities**

Rob initiated the discussion by walking us through a document outlining “what we know”

Key points are as follows

- WDG Public Health, the Province and OBA provide Guidance
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – GMBA suspends operations when Guelph moves to red status
- City of Guelph closed all facilities
- Shutdown order from Province effective Dec 26<sup>th</sup>
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Emergency order is set to end. Guelph to return to red status.
- Province to re-assess March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- City facilities will re-open subject too Provincial Covid protocols
- PPA will be re-opening Tuesday for training.
- Locally, other organizations are re-opening (hockey, basketball, soccer)
- Email communication to Rep teams last week, 9 teams ready to train, 1 not supportive.
- ICBA/OBA do not have new guidance as of today.
- Rules restrict indoor training to 10 individuals.
- Marden would be 10 per side. If the same team splits the field, 10 per side is allowed, but must be bubbled for entire training period.

Rob also noted that they are not being pressured by Marden to resume practices. They are understanding of the situation and will only bill for the facility time being used (pay as you go).

Jeff facilitated a round table discussion, key conversation highlights are included below.

Adam commented that he received communication of the U of G fieldhouse and they are advising groups of 10 players and 2 coaches. Asked for clarity on the numbers. Stefanie confirmed the Provincial and OBA guidelines are 10 individuals, inclusive of coaches.

Iain asked about the Finances with Marden. Do teams know they could be paying double for the usages of a full field? Rob advised that coaches have been informed of the costs.

Heather asked if the parents on the teams understand the financial impact, or just coaches? Rob noted that he has communicated with the coaches and cannot confirm what coaches have shared with parents or team managers.

Heather also questioned the need to return while still in red, why could we not wait until orange status? Rob noted that our peers are weighing the risk as well and the city is re-opening facilities for use, which is different from when we first entered red.

Rob suggested that as a board, we should inspect and confirm compliance to the protocols. Stefanie noted that we can't do this without breaking the 10 individual max. We will need to rely on coaches to ensure compliance.

Stefanie also reminded us that if a team was found to be in non-compliance, OBA could remove the team for the season.

Heather commented that the kids do not have issues complying with the regulations and were great at ensuring masks were worn during the House League Clinics.

Stefanie informed the board that for the ICBA teams, Waterloo is closed until orange. Kitchener is closed until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Brantford is only allowing practices at their own facility, where adherences can be monitored, others are delaying decision until March.

Stefanie also noted that when we entered red status in December, we had an average of 11 new cases a day with just over 50 active cases in the community. As we re-enter it now, we are at double those numbers with more contagious variants starting to circulate.

Stefanie commented that she spoke to 6 coaches over the weekend and 5 were against going back while in red status.

Stefanie also commented that 3 members of rep committee are against returning while in red status, but hasn't connected with Rob yet.

Rob noted that he supports resuming training while in red subject to coach training and timing.

Jill asked if GMBA can enforce masks if we go back.

Jeff noted we could enforce it, however we should be following the OBA guidelines and not creating our own. Facilities such as Marden and PPA will already enforce masks.

Erik noted that he is concerned on the optics for house league, our messaging has been consistent that the health and safety of the players is paramount. If we return while in red, could that impact the perception? A large portion of the questions he received after the opening of the house league registration focused on how we will mitigate the risk to the players.

Ryan noted a risk concern on liability if someone gets sick. Coaches will need a Covid training refresher and ensure compliance.

Jeff noted that the city of Guelph decision to re-open facilities should be a factor in our decision and returning coaches have already been trained on Covid protocols.

Stefanie noted that not all coaches have been trained, as we have new coaches in the systems. The Rep committee was working on the training refresher and it was targeted to be delivered before we moved to Orange.

Training would need to be expedited if we return during red.

Jeff commented that by returning while in red, we are not breaking any Province or local Public Health rules. We also have guidance from OBA on safe return to play. As long as we have coach training ready, we should be ready to reopen.

**Motion:** GMBA will resume in person training effective Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, subject to adherence to Local, OBA and Provincial protocols. Moved by Rob, Seconded by Ryan  
Motion Passed.

### **Other Business**

#### **Outstanding Payments**

Stefanie noted we have 4 teams and multiple players without outstanding payments.

#### **Teams**

- 4 Teams with outstanding invoices.
- This is carry over from fall ball.
- Rep committee could suspend the coaches if needed. Is looking for guidance.
- Recommendation is to let them resume, but continue to work on getting the outstanding payments cleared up.

#### **Players**

- Currently multiple players have outstanding balances
- One player is not yet registered.
- Iain has contacted all families and provided a Feb 19<sup>th</sup> deadline for payments.
  - Any player with balances outstanding after Feb 19<sup>th</sup> are to be considered “Not in good standing” and prohibited from participating in team activities when they resume.
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#### **House League Registration**

Adam noted that house League registration opened today.

We already have 75 players registered.

### **Adjournment**

Moved by heather, Seconded by Dave. Approved

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02PM