Board Meeting Date: 02/22/2021

Board Members Present: Kevin Wood, Kristi and Mike Willis, Gabe Johnston, Ian Humber, Darin Phelps, Jennifer Carroll, Rich Thomas, Gary Navarro, Cliff Walker, Bob Greene, Jay Striniste, Denise Whitmire

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

1. ***Review and Approve Minutes:***

Kristi motioned to approve the Board minutes for 1/28/2021 and Cliff seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

1. ***Review and Approve Email Vote Results (10-Year-Old eligibility for Majors Draft)***

At the last Board meeting on January 28,2021, the Board decided not to allow 10-year-old players to be eligible for the Majors Division draft. On January 31st, after careful consideration and survey of other league practices and District 35 rules, Kevin sent out an email requesting that the Board vote to change the decision about 10-year old’s eligibility. The results of the vote were 10 Board Members voted yes, 0 Board Members Voted No, and 1 Board Member abstained.

**Cliff motioned that we amend the Local Rules to allow 10-year-old players that have played a minimum of 1 year in Minors are eligible for the Majors draft. The motion was seconded by Rich and was carried unanimously by the Board members present. Eight parents of eligible 10-year-old players were notified and 1 player was drafted to a Majors team.**

1. ***Registration Update:***

303 players are currently registered (365 last year)

***Players by Age:***

* 15 2
* 14 8
* 13 24
* 12 27
* 11 24
* 10 45
* 9 35
* 8 52
* 7 30
* 6 32
* 5 24

Kristi sent out an email asking if any 50/70 players that wish to dual roster for the Juniors team. There has been an inquiry regarding whether or not we will accept any new players. Kevin said that anyone wishing to play should contact Kristi and they will be placed on a waiting list. We will attempt to place anyone on the waiting list on a team if possible. Kevin expects that after people see us practicing on the fields that we will get further inquiries from kids wanting to play that did not register in January.

***Teams per Division***

* Senior 0
* Juniors 1
* 50/70 2
* Majors 4
* Minors 5
* Farms 6
* Pee Wee 5
* T-ball 4

28

We are still in need of Managers, although we did pick up another Pee Wee Manager. We need 1 more Farms Manager, 2 more Pee Wee Managers, and 4 T-Ball Managers; another email has gone out to Parents, and Coaches and Assistant Coaches.

1. ***Update New Sports Covid-19 Guidelines***

Governor Gavin Newsom has changed the requirements and has created some havoc. So, effective February 26, the District News Flash states that Little League is considered moderate outdoor contact and can return playing if in the Red Tier.

If within a County that does not drop below the required 14% per 100,000, a League may begin playing games if a waiver is signed by each player’s parent or guardian stating that they are aware of the risk of Covid-19 exposure.

According to Bob, there is no rule in affect currently that would require a team to stop playing if the numbers climbed back above 14%.

Currently, Sonoma County is at 14.2%. We will be creating a template for our League waiver form and distribute it to the Managers. An email will be sent to parents emphasizing a need for them to sign the waiver in order for their child to play scrimmages or games. We will get the forms signed even if we drop to the red tier just in case.

Kevin received positive comments from Parents thanking him for the email and for the League taking responsibility and for the wording of the email about the Covid-19 positive test by a volunteer at the13 year old assessments. The District was notified of the positive test and praised the League for how the matter was handled.

1. ***Mark West Covid-19 Guidelines***

In our practice guidelines developed early in 2020, we stated that if 3 Mark West individuals are suspected of being ill with COVID-19 at the same time, the season will be suspended immediately. This requirement is way outside of the County or State requirements which specify a percentage rather than a number.

Therefore, Cliff motioned that we change our practice guidelines to say that if 4% of the League (Board, Managers, Coaches and Players) is suspected of being ill at the same time with Covid-19 that our season will be suspended immediately, and Gary seconded. The motion was carried by the Board members present.

1. ***Picture Day and Game Schedules:***

We will have to be flexible regarding Team Photos this year. We also will have to move our Picture Day to at least two Sundays in order to accommodate safety requirements required by Covid-19. We cannot have Pictures on Saturday as it would impact games.

Kevin will follow up with Don on the matter of Team photos, but it is possible that we will not do them this year.

Kevin was present at our first practices and stated that even the kids that have been playing ball are rusty and are out of shape.

No T-Ball-Farms practices will begin until March 8 and it will be April before they will start games.

Minors-Juniors will not be allowed scrimmages or games until March 29th. We will be playing interleague games this season.

We are looking at only one weekday game and a Saturday game this year for all divisions. We are focusing heavily on practice to get players in shape; games are more for the parents.

Disposable masks (3) have been provided to each Manager and extra masks are available in the Tower. All Adults: Mark West Volunteers, Parents, Grandparents, Friends, etc. of Players must wear masks at all times when at Mark West, Schoplin, or Jack London for games or practices.

Also, no one is allowed on the playground near the Mark West T-Ball field. Parents will probably need to be reminded. Also, any Board member at a practice or game that observes a person with their mask off needs to say something. It is easy for people to pull it down because they are farther than 6-feet from others or because they drink or eat something and forget to pull it back up, but we must insist it be worn covering the nose and mouth, except when they drink or eat their own food, then it must be pulled back up. Kevin likened it to practice for when players go back to school. Failure to observe this requirement could jeopardize our ability to continue playing.

1. ***50/70 Field (SRA & Westside)***

Kevin spoke with both Santa Rosa American and Westside a little while ago about their needs regarding our 50/70 fields. Santa Rosa American said they did not need to use our fields and Westside said they would be utilizing El Molino’s fields, but they are not receiving any communications from Forestville now. Both Leagues are now asking to play games at Mark West.

The Board members present all believe that because of the Covid-19 requirements, we cannot monitor safety protocols for either Santa Rosa American or Westside to play their games at our field. Therefore, we unanimously concur that only interleague games are going to be allowed. We also need our fields for practices since we only have Jack London, Schopflin, and Mark West.

1. ***Miscellaneous:***

Bob thanked everyone on the Board for their participation and dedication to the League which is represented by our player registration numbers.

Jay wanted to remind everyone that we need to continue trying to get Sponsors, we need the money and there is plenty of space on the fences.

We have one Juniors team and Kevin attended the Interleague meeting in which he volunteered to take over for Dan Hermsmeyer who will be retiring as the Interleague representative. Looks like there will be a split between Sonoma and Mendocino County. Right now, there are 9 Junior’s teams and ten 50/70 teams. El Molino and Sebastopol have not shown up to the meetings.

To follow up:

1. An email will be sent regarding signatures on the Covid-19 waiver form.
2. an email will be sent informing parents of the requirement to wear masks at all time when attending practices or games and included in the email will be that use of the playground near the T-Ball field at Mark West is not allowed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

/drw

Next Board Meeting: Monday 03/15/2021 (TBD)