

Arrowhead Fast Pitch League Association
Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2023
Blackwoods Proctor 6pm

Called to order at 6:19pm

Members present: Stewart Goldberg, Melissa Fracker, Dennis Peterson, Theresa Leopold, Jessica Larson, Jacque Volk, Kelly Goeb

1. 2023 Season Summary

a. Regular season

- i. Overall, season went well. Several Wednesdays were canceled due to weather or air quality. Not all games were made up for several reasons. Board had some discussion about implementing a point system for wins/losses/ties for seeding for playoffs to encourage teams to make up games when they have been canceled. This would be a change from using winning percentage for seeding. We should consider this at 14/16/18U level. Further discussion at next meeting.
- ii. Coaches survey. Jacque will work on a survey to send out to coaches to get some feedback from the season.
- iii. Coaches Conduct. We had a few coaches with inappropriate conduct this season. The conduct was managed at the community level. Discussion about each board member being more active in the 2024 season and trying to attend more games to observe behavior.
- iv. Line up cards. Discussion about rosters and teams picking up players at time of game to fill out the team. In 2024, we will require 14/16/18U teams to provide a line-up card to the ump and opposing team. If non-rostered players are added to a team (ie, from a younger team), they should be at the end of the batting order.

b. Playoffs

- i. Discussion to change our 16/18U league to a “high school” division. Teams will still need to be registered as 16U or 18U with USSSA, but playoff medals will then be “high school” division as we have allowed all teams to participate in playoffs the last two years, unless they are unavailable due to playing at NAFA.

- ii. 10U division. We need to clarify that the coach should be standing on the mound when he/she takes over as the pitcher. Some coaches were standing very close to the batter which could be advantageous.

c. Umpires

- i. 14/16/18U. No concerns
- ii. 10/12U. Coach and parent conduct has again become an issue. As a league, we need to support our umpires at these younger age levels. We will ask our UIC to provide a couple of preseason clinics this winter/spring to empower our younger umps with confidence and the ability to excuse coaches or parents for conduct. We will also find a way to give the younger umps immediate contact information for board members to support them.

2. Financial Report

- a. 2023 income \$42,828.00, 2023 total expenses \$42,634.00

3. Considerations for 2024

- a. Air quality policy. Will add rule that air quality reading of 200 or more at 3:00pm will result in cancelation of games in that community. 8/10/12U games will need to be aware of where they are playing and what the reading is in that community. Each community may have different rules and may cancel games if reading is less than 200, but cannot play if it is more than 200.
- b. Metal cleats. USSSA allows cleats at 14U and older and we will continue to follow that rule.
- c. Select team. Discussion about one community having tryouts for one of their teams. Kelly will reach out to the questioned team for clarification. If all members are from that community, then they do not count as a select team even if they have tryouts.
- d. Tracking concussion training, safesport. Much discussion about how to track this as it would take too many hours to track it for every coach of over 100 teams. Stew and Melissa will reach into their resources. Tabled until next meeting.

4. Fees for 2024. Should be no change for next season unless insurance costs go up.

5. Dates for 2024 Season.....start dates, playoffs, etc. Tabled until next meeting

6. Additions:
 - a. Softball promotion. Stew will look into ways to promote softball, perhaps clinics with USA players or college players. Further discussion.
 - b. Motion by Dennis, second by Jacque to reimburse treasurer as we have been at \$500 and also secretary at \$500. Approved. (Kelly currently serving both roles.)
7. Annual Meeting, November. We continue to look for additional board member. Dennis reached out to one contact who is interested in attending the next meeting.
8. Next Meetings.
 - a. October 15, 6pm at BlackWoods in Proctor
 - b. November 12, Annual Meeting at 6pm followed by Board meeting, site TBD
 - c. December 10, 6pm, site TBD
 - d. January 14, 6pm, site TBD
 - e. February 11, 6pm, site TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Goeb, Secretary