

**St. Anthony sports Boosters Softball Association (SABSA) Board Meeting Minutes  
2019, October 14  
St. Anthony Community Center – 6:30 pm**

Attendees: Kirsten & Derek Stendahl, Danielle Bogucki, Natalie Dougherty, Aaron Rosha, Al Bates, Rossi Cannon, Katie Brustad, Sara Strain, Andrew Kagol, Steve Munson, Dick Gallagher, Mark Reimer, John Grindeland, Fred Bainbridge

The meeting was called to order by President Al Bates at 6:35 pm. Al expressed a goal of finishing the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Approval of the prior meeting's minutes:

Meeting of September 16, 2019. Motion by Rossi Cannon, second by Andrew Kagol; motion passed.

President's Update: Al – To better accommodate the Listening Session portion of the meeting, Al asked for a motion to suspend the normal order of business to advance the Listening Session to the next item on the agenda. Motion by Rossi Cannon to hold the listening session first, second by Katie Brustad. Motion passed.

Listening Session:

Kickoff – Al and Rossi thanked the Parents/Members in attendance for coming to address the Board & kicked off the session with a brief explanation of what we did differently in 2019, (mindful of the points raised in the last listening session), and where we are now, regarding the planning for the 2020 Season.

*Member Comments included:*

- There was a question about whether or not the board is considering having an "A" team at 10U like 12U and 14U? Plusses and minuses were noted. Considerations (each year) is given to numbers, pitching, coaching, retaining players, and more.
- A question was posed regarding feedback on having an A team at 12U last season. The feedback from those involved with that team was largely favorable. A parent said it went great – that it was good for the players to see stronger pitching and hitting. Highly recommend they continue to look at that for next year. A downside was that it was tough to have depleted the lower teams of pitching and catching; how could that be fixed?

- There was concern raised that one of the two Named Pitchers on the 12U A team did not get 1/3 of the innings (as was supposed to happen). The parent bringing the concern related that, (over the entire season), their calculations indicated that the “shorted” Named Pitcher only got significantly less than 1/3 of the innings, while the other Named Pitcher got more, but still less than 1/3, and the bulk of the Pitching went to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Player (who did not hold one of the Named Pitching spots). Al and Andrew volunteered to follow up on the question, with the Parent of the “shorted” Pitcher, and with the Coach(es) of the team involved.
- Concerns/questions were also raised about older girls who didn’t make it on the A team as a result of evaluations scores, but, being older may become much stronger players by the time the season starts because of their accelerated development playing school ball – in-between the time of Evaluations and the start of the SABSA season.
- It was pointed out that we need community support for getting gym time to allow pitchers to practice – and what might take get that to happen? One challenge is that Village Kids has all of Wilshire Park reserved until 6:00 PM. There was strong support for trying to get Open Gym times.
- There were concerns about cuts and what that process is. It was mentioned that the website has language about “Evaluations becoming Tryouts” in any given year, but would it be possible to communicate even better about the process/expectations so parents can keep other options open?
- A question was raised regarding whether we should we announce a registration window in neighboring communities who haven’t been able to field teams recently so their athletes have a chance to look here earlier so they could evaluate or be integrated sooner.
- Another question was whether we should we open and close registrations earlier in order to know numbers sooner.
- Feedback on Pitching Evaluations included choosing evaluators unaffiliated with players (ie: not former volunteer Parent Coaches), and there was a suggestion to incorporate a radar gun into the Pitching Evals.

- A follow-on question inquired about the effect on Player Registration Fees if we were to hire Outside Evaluators for Pitching.
- Katie Brustad spoke in favor of using Outside Evaluators exclusively to help change (Parent) perceptions. She also favored integrating prior year Coaches' Evaluations of Players into the "Evaluation Scores". An ensuing comment was that it will still be difficult to gauge the progression of skill which occurs for those Players who improve via playing for school programs – in the time between Evaluations and the start of the SABSA Season.
- There was a comment that it was great to have Catcher Evaluations, and that there is the prospect that those Evals could be even better in 2020 if/when players know more what to expect. There was also a related comment in favor of bringing in outside Evaluators for Catcher Evaluations as well.
- A question was posed regarding whether we will use the Parent Evaluation of Coaches Evaluations in the Coach Selection process. There was a comment advocating in favor of these Evaluations being used in the Coach Selection process.
- It was mentioned that Registrations are scheduled to open Jan 1, 2020.
- Also, regarding Evaluations & Evals Committee Meetings, Evals will likely be early again in 2020 (similar to 2019, as that timing yields a good period of time for the Coach Selections process.
- The SABSA Board is planning on again having a Working Session & Meeting on Team Formation.

This concluded the Listening Session portion of the Meeting. Rossi and AI thanked the Member Parents who attended, and many opted to leave at this point.

President's Update: AI –

Fence Project update – we have not yet heard back from Joe Wax regarding a reschedule date for the Boosters Baseball Board to replace the canceled meeting at which we were scheduled to present the Fence Project to the that Board to solicit their support.

Treasurer's Report: Al Bates, acting Treasurer.

The "Bank" Balance at September 11, 2019 has been corrected to \$15,287.31, putting the YTD "profit/loss" at a loss of <\$2,412.87>. There was an error in the Boosters' Statements, with some significant Soccer expenses having been included in our expenses by mistake; that has now been rectified.

A rough draft of Actual Expenses by category was presented; comparison to Budget to be presented at the next meeting.

We still need to invoice the HDC for Equipment Rental and Balls purchased.

Coach Updates/discussion by Coaches & Board Members regarding Pitching time comments from Parents:

- There was discussion ensued regarding keeping, dropping, or modifying the requirement/expectation/percentage of the amount of Pitching reserved for the Named Pitchers on a top tier team, and the enforcement of the percentage. And if enforcement is the preferred direction, how does that get enforced? It was also mentioned that in the absence of a 'guarantee' of a certain amount of the Pitching reserved for the Named Pitchers on an A team, some players would likely choose to stay at the lower-tiered level to be assured of more pitching time.
- Conversation followed about how to compute pitching "percentage" distinctions moving forward – whether the "rule" should be 1/3 for each Named Pitcher on a top-tier team, and should that 1/3 be "1/3 of the Innings", (which apparently did not happen this year on the 12U A team), whether Pitch Count should be the "basis" (1/3 of the pitches thrown), or perhaps 1/3 of Batters Faced would be better – as all "innings" are not equal. Also, if "Innings" is kept as the basis, we should have a clear definition of what we mean by "Innings". How should tournaments, both in-season, and post-season factor in, the same, or different than league games? If post-season tournaments (Qualifier, State, Nationals) are different than league games, how much should Coach's discretion come in to play, if the Coach is trying to achieve a Balance of Fairness to the Players and to the Team? Should we have a mid-season check-in to determine how well the team is adhering to a "1/3 Rule"?

## Coordinators' Updates

### Player & Coach Development Update: Danielle/Al

Winter Skills Clinic Update – We have applied for Gym Time on Jan 5, Jan 26, & Feb 2 – dates MFA was available. No confirmation yet.

Open Gym – will potentially be Feb 1, 2020.

### Equipment: – Al

All Equipment has been returned; we need to do an 'inventory' for purchasing purposes.

### Fields: - Steve

Nothing to add to the earlier discussion about the Fields Project.

### Umpires: – Derek

No report.

### Spirit Wear & Online Store: – Erik/Rossi

We have not been planning on doing a Holiday Sale. But, it would be potentially possible to reopen the Online Store with Dave's Sports, or to do a small (maybe 3 items) X-grain offer.

### Uniforms: – Erik

No report.

### Fundraising: – Andrew

- Sponsorships received this year were (our Thanks!):
  - St. Anthony Mobil - \$500
  - Village Orthodontics - \$250

A new idea would be an Online Silent Auction, perhaps at Evals?

### HDC Liaison Update: – Scott/Al

Al reported that Scott McCleary had sent out a nice congratulatory letter to the Fall Ball participants. As not all SABSA Board Members received the letter, Al will forward it to the Board.

## Old Business

### Yearly 'To-Do' Calendar Creation

AI has a rough draft of items to be included and will type them up to give a starting point for this, working together with Rossi.

### "Back Burner" Items:

Ice Cream Social. This item will not be carried forward in Agendas any longer.

## New Business

None noted.

### Next meetings' dates:

Monday, Nov 11 time: 6:30 pm & location: Village Pub, restaurant side  
& Monday, Dec 16 time: 6:30 pm & location: *tentatively* Village Pub

- Adjourn time: 9:30