

White Bear Area Fastpitch Softball Association Board Meeting Notes

April 7, 2024 at Jimmy's Restaurant Banquet Room - 6PM

1. Call to Order: Meeting Called to Order at 6:08 PM
2. Roll Call: Joni Joy, Lindsay Lacktorin, Lindsey Shellenberger, Scott Kasten, Jen Verplaste, Sheila Evans, Swen Pearson, Stacy Lessard, Gerritt Scheenman, Carrie Rivard
 - a. Visitors: Julie Retka, Jamie Borndale, Jenn Hielsberg
3. Public Forum: No Visitors Requested/Emailed prior to meeting to talk
4. Director Updates: (Carrie)
 - a. Coaching Clinic/Training:
 - i. We need to put a plan in place for next year for official online coaching and programming for our coaches that want them. Maybe do this in the off season
 - ii. Have Jill Leverty come in to help coaches learn techniques - due to weather and issues we really only have the option for coaches to be able to come in and attend Varsity practices in order to see what may be options.
 1. Carrie to check in with Jill on slides or information from Jill going to send this information to coaches or not
 - iii. Positivity Training email to Joni from a coach - trying to learn more information to research further
 - iv. Coaches need directions on who to contact to be able to attend Varsity practices or even do our own clinics and invite them. - Joni to connect with Jill on dates that may be easiest
 - v. Scott brought up a good idea where we seem to be discussing a lot but no action is being taken due to no assignments being given to other board members.
 1. We still have plenty of time this year that we can get started to either have Julie R., Beth W., Rico G., to see if we can coordinate training for all coaches - Sheila to take lead and work with Julie Retka to invite coaches to a Sunday night training session along with. Sunday Night April 14th from 5-6 PM when equipment will be handed out to all coaches as well.
 - b. Scott discussed messages from SportsEngine and no board is on it so we need to address - Lindsey Shellenberger to create groups for coaches, board and other groups that we feel may need to be created.
 - c. Refund Policy
 - i. Carrie mentioned that refunds occurred due to the 14s having to be cut, all but the tryout fees were refunded. Bylaws also state about only tryout fee being kept. Families are already angry for not making a team, do not make them eat that cost either. - Confirmed we will keep language that if we have to cut players, all fees other than the tryout fee will be refunded.
5. VP Updates: (Joni)
 - a. Spring Tryout Overview and Recap
 - i. What went well?

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1. Volunteers were awesome, hands on and helpful. Team Genius worked great. Couple of glitches overall. 138 we used for profiles and we paid for 150 and they gave us a bonus 25 player profiles. Wifi issues, school did an override for Joni. Tryouts ended at 9PM and scores were concrete with the Team Genius. Aux gym was used great for only Pitching/Catching.
 2. Evaluators themselves were very hands on, knowledgeable and helpful with comments. 2 evaluators were done previously but we may not need 2 evaluators at multiple stations so that we can cut back and save money.
- ii. What needs to change?
1. Pitchers and Catchers being reintroduced into the tryouts were a little - Sunday evening in addition to the main tryout night only for pitching/catching or use the last pitching open gym time
 2. Separate Evening for pitchers/Catchers potentially because it seems to be issues during Spring Tryouts. 10s are always the hardest since they are the largest and leaders can be in each group. - Would 14s or 16s or HS girls who could be the leader
 3. Feeder balls have to be used in machines instead of the softies - Lindsay to inform the district that we won't be able to use softies in certain areas
 4. Hitting was a delay, we need to use both nets more effectively next spring. Evaluators also said on the hitting side that WIFI wasn't great so we may need to set up differently in the fall or set up hotspots for the tryouts.
 5. Fall 10U tryouts we can make it the 12U/14U/16U pitching/catching as the tryout night.
 6. Check In Times need to be kept to, we were not ready and then players were all coming in.
 7. Gerritt asked about can we see data or areas for improvement where we can improve the fields and discussed that it was already discussed at the team formation night but we can definitely look at that again. Is this a potential additional meeting
 8. We do not have a contract or invoice from the evaluators. We are not to write checks out to individual evaluators. Stacy wants to have a contract/invoice ahead of Fall Tryouts.
- b. Optimize Camp:
- i. Abby has been reaching out to Joni for Optimize Camp and Lindsay has been working with Jon. Lindsay has stated that Jon is asking for a ton of things before we can accept that offer. If Abby wants to continue this line of discussion we all agree that she needs to contact the district directly.
 - ii. Conflict of Interest if our evaluators start learning our girls, not really a objective tryout review anymore.

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- iii. Forest Lake also contacted us for use of the fields for an S&C camp.
Again direct to district
6. Apparel Update: (Jen)
- a. A whole lot of things came in, jerseys and belts are almost all in, pants are almost all shipped but they were custom. Jen will contact Lindsay for a schedule in order to drop off at fields or even drop off at
 - b. Coaches Swag was requested and need response by end of the week. Strauss will be the vendor we are using for the coaches swag. New logos have been provided to them as well. Board will added to the board shirts and Tournament Director
 - c. Neill Designs has had orders and will be providing our first % coach
 - d. Pins for softball teams at end of year have already been set up. NAFA/MONSTA - coaches need to know if they are or are not attending in order to
 - e. Carrie made a motion to add Jim Rotteger as our 3rd At Large Board Member, Seconded by Scott and Vote: Yays all, Nays - None. Motion passed
 - f. Jen V. then confirmed that she will not be continuing on as a board member at Annual Meeting
7. Scheduling Updates: (Lindsay)
- a. Dumpsters at Otter:
 - i. Delay in response times due to new hires
 - ii. Asked for a locked dumpster by the fields but they only have the trucks that can lift by the schools. We need to add one for sure but then Lindsay will confirm if we can get a lock and if not what they will do for our garbage since we never have space since they are all full by the time we need it.
 - b. Gyms times this week and scheduled to next week but next week we hope to be outside. April 15th would be the earliest we could be outside but we will know more information
 - i. Tri-County meeting - MN Softball is being different this year for scheduling. Coaches/Scheduler is currently finding the times that we play away. Lindsay scheduled for our teams due to the size and number of teams we have. MN Softball gets a lot of different requests from all associations. Lots of issues but Lindsay is managing the changes as they come. We need to submit all of the issues that we have with this new system in order to hopefully improve moving forward
 - c. Most of teams but 10U white have pretty good schedules for their games
 - d. MNSoftball needs to be informed how many issues
8. Treasurer/DIBS Updates: (Stacy)
- a. Current Balance: \$105K, still pending lots of checks and tournament fees, banners, dirt, swag.
 - b. DIBs: DIBS are out for this weekend. 4 people are signed up and they are 2 hour slots. DIBs are for setting up fields and Stacy will send out an email to entire groups and coaches. Saturday from 11-3 PM will be the time for setting up fields.

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- c. Card/Contactless Payments: Square gives you the Point of Sales System for free with the card/contactless payments. We need to have two stations for people moving through. We can use ipads potentially but Stacy needs to confirm the specs compared to what Square needs. Hotspot may be needed because we do not have WIFI at the fields for use of the POS. Potentially look at adding cameras? Briefly discussed - Gerritt can look into some options for Hotspots or WIFI options along with POS systems for the fields for POS/Card machine use.
 - d. Google form for check in for DIBs at field for this weekend as well as moving forward.
9. Social Media Updates: (Scott)
- a. Thanks for those that tested the media submission photos/videos link. Seemed to work really well.
 - b. Lindsey S. to send link out to coaches so that they can share photos/videos for players and teams throughout the season.
10. Equipment Update: (Swen)
- a. Screens are proofed and Carrie will confirm with the date of arrival of the new banners.
 - b. Equipment Sign Out Sheet -
 - c. New Balls as tryouts killed a lot of what we had and we were already low on inventory (Or did we find others?)
 - d. Regarding Field regrading...with snow (hopefully) gone for good, do we want to look at setting a date for us to get this done? Or did Jon A. state that we couldn't since they are the 'district's' fields?
 - i. We do have to pay for fields 3&4 and if we use someone else we need to get approval.
 - ii. Swen confirmed it is the same vendor but instead of paying for all of it we will just pay for the dirt which is about \$600-700 and Scott will bring the dump trailer to take away old stuff.
 - e. Three people to help open boxes and set up and then have coaches sign out the equipment. Anything else that may be needed will be provided once it comes in.
 - f. Swen needs to instruct how to use the Gator to anyone who comes and wants to learn. 11-1 and 12-3 for Saturday and then Lindsey to send email about 5-6 on Sunday for pick up at Otter Lake. Then they will start signing out all of the gear that they pick up.
11. Tournament Updates: (Sheila)
- a. Full other than 1 - 12U spot
 - i. 10U Tournament is full but St. Anthony is a higher B team so requested to move to the A/B side of the bracket. We will either move White or Orange 10U team down to the B/C side of the bracket.
 - ii. 12U Tournament is mainly B with 1 A and 1 C. Did have a C team reach out to potentially come in.
 - iii. Medals will also be looked at soon and will be confirmed metal. About 210 medals have been ordered in the past.

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- iv. T-Shirt vendor will be the same as last year.
- 12. Carrie then added that coaches have been asking to go to DBat instead of gyms. Carrie just made sure that coaches know that they will NOT have insurance covered as the Association is only covered when on a White Bear District Field not at a separate location.
- 13. Fundraising/Concessions Updates: (Carrie?)
 - a. Did we ever confirm buying a program for concession stands now that we have the iPads we could use? We discussed it but never confirmed based on my review of meeting notes
 - b. Stacy will add Sams Club to add Tax Exemption account and then we can have an association log in
 - i. Fundraising can we move this position around in order to bring someone on for more Concessions help that we need. - Tournament Director position to take on Fundraising role for this season/year in order
 - ii. Concessions position is the one organizing the pick up/delivery, set up management of volunteers at the - Carrie to contact the person who was interested to hopefully get them on board to help for the season.
 - c. DIBS can be added for a pick up time at Sam's Club and then drop off at the fields.
 - d. Job expectations are created and just need to be laminated to be placed in the shed.
 - e. Need to buy a new awning for over grill
- 14. HS Liaison Updates: (Jill)
 - a. 8U Jamboree moved to be with the Youth Night this year instead of a separate night. April 24th youth night and boosters will be running small concessions. No 8U players will be playing a game. Wear jerseys and have HS players afterwards.
 - b. Get enough Cup N Cone certificates for all 8U players.
 - c. Scott to promote youth night on the website and social media. Lindsey S. to send out emails to teams. Boosters will provide Hot Dogs and Chips for players in association only so WEAR JERSEY.
- 15. Next Board Meeting: May 5th, 2024 6PM at Otter Lake Shed bring a chair
- 16. Motion to Adjourn: Carrie made a motion to adjourn at 8:12pm, Sheila Seconded. Meeting Adjourned.