

Chesapeake MSBL All Hands Meeting

Held Virtually on March 3, 2025 via MS Teams. Meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm.

- **League Secretary Nomination:** Mike announced that Pat Miller has volunteered and been nominated to serve as the league secretary, replacing the previous secretary who stepped down. Mike opened the floor for any other nominations, but no objections were raised, so Pat will continue serving in that role.
- **League Recap and Team Updates:** Mike recapped the previous year's league winners and provided updates on team changes, including new teams and team mergers. He also discussed the scheduling format for the upcoming season, including the division of teams into pools and the number of games each division will play.
 - **Previous Year Winners:** Mike recapped the previous year's league winners: the Patriots won the 21 A division, the Blue Crabs won the B division, the Reds won the 35 division, the Pirates won the 45 division, and the Blue Claws won the first-ever Silver Racket playoff.
 - **Team Changes:** Mike provided updates on team changes, including the addition of new teams (Maryland Marlins and DMV Dogs) and team mergers (Yard Goats and Backyard Bandits merged to form the Backyard Goats). The Expos moved down to the B division, and the Blue Crabs moved up after winning the B division.
 - **Scheduling Format:** Mike discussed the scheduling format for the upcoming season, including the division of teams into pools and the number of games each division will play. The 21 A and 45 divisions will play 22 games, while the 21 B division will play 24 games due to having 13 teams.
- **Equipment and Scheduling:** Mike and Alex discussed the status of baseballs and scorebooks, which are delayed due to shipping issues. They also provided tentative dates for the start of the season and the number of games each division will play.
 - **Equipment Delays:** Mike and Alex discussed the status of baseballs and scorebooks, which are delayed due to shipping issues. Alex mentioned that the baseballs are expected to arrive between the 12th and 15th of the month, and scorebooks have already been received.
 - **Season Start Dates:** Mike provided tentative dates for the start of the season, with opening day scheduled for April 22nd. He explained that this date is set to avoid starting before Easter and to allow for more make-up opportunities.
 - **Payment Deadlines:** Teams were reminded to pay their final balances by April 1st. Mike emphasized the importance of this deadline as the league needs to start paying non-refundable fees such as county and MSBL fees.

- **Game Changer App:** Mike encouraged teams to use the Game Changer app for scorekeeping, highlighting its ease of use and the benefits of accurate record-keeping. Ben raised a concern about updating schedules in the app, and Mike agreed to look into it.
 - **App Benefits:** Mike encouraged teams to use the Game Changer app for scorekeeping, highlighting its ease of use and the benefits of accurate record-keeping. He mentioned that the app makes bookkeeping easier and allows for the verification of games played and stats.
 - **Schedule Updates:** Ben Kaiser (Spartans) raised a concern about updating schedules in the Game Changer app, noting that manual updates are required when field locations shift. Mike agreed to look into the possibility of making these updates automatically through the league account.
- **Important Dates and Scheduling:** Mike outlined important dates, including no games on Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Father's Day, and the potential for games on July 6th. He mentioned that Father's Day can be used for make-up games if both teams agree to play.
 - **July 4th Weekend:** Mike mentioned that there will be games on July 1st and 2nd, but no games on the 3rd and 4th. He noted that the league will try to avoid scheduling games on July 6th, but it is not guaranteed due to permit situations and scheduling challenges.
 - **Rescheduling Policy:** Mike emphasized that games will not be rescheduled due to a lack of players. He explained that there are enough reasons to cancel games, such as weather and field conditions, and rescheduling due to player availability would make it more challenging.
- **Field Maintenance and Conduct:** Mike and Alex stressed the importance of field maintenance and respectful conduct, including using clean versions of music and avoiding smoking and drinking on high school fields. They also discussed the need for accurate scorekeeping and the use of Game Changer.
 - **Field Maintenance:** Mike and Alex stressed the importance of field maintenance, including dragging the infield, watering the plate, mound, and infield area, and picking up trash. They emphasized that maintaining the fields in good condition helps improve the league's reputation.
 - **Respectful Conduct:** Mike and Alex highlighted the importance of respectful conduct, including using clean versions of music and avoiding smoking and drinking on high school fields. They mentioned that players and teams represent the league and should promote good sportsmanship.
 - **Scorekeeping Accuracy:** Mike discussed the need for accurate scorekeeping and encouraged teams to use the Game Changer app. He mentioned that accurate record-keeping is essential for verifying games played and stats, and it makes the process easier for everyone involved.
- **Tryouts and Player Requirements:** Mike announced that tryouts will be held on March 9th and discussed the draft order and player requirements, including completing waivers and registering on Sports Engine. He emphasized the importance of completing these requirements before opening day.

- **Tryout Details:** Mike announced that tryouts will be held on March 9th and provided details about the draft order. He mentioned that all divisions will try out at the same time, and players will wear different color jerseys to designate their age group.
 - **Player Requirements:** Mike discussed the player requirements, including completing waivers and registering on Sports Engine. He emphasized that players must complete these requirements before opening day to be eligible to play.
 - **Attendance Confirmation:** Mike mentioned that he would send out an email midweek to get an attendance count of who is planning to come to the tryouts. He also noted that there is a \$10 cover fee to help cover the rental cost of the field.
- **Field Availability and Maintenance:** Mike and Alex discussed the availability of fields for the season, including the status of specific fields and the need for field maintenance. They also mentioned the possibility of using AI to help generate schedules.
 - **Field Availability:** Mike and Alex discussed the availability of fields for the season, including specific fields such as Kanan, Bachman, Annapolis NE, North County, Southern, Bestgate, Glen Burnie, and Mead. They mentioned that Old Mill is closed due to construction, and Crofton High is unlikely to be available.
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 - **AI Scheduling:** Mike mentioned the possibility of using AI to help generate schedules, which could provide more flexibility and speed up the scheduling process. He noted that AI could help program out some flexibilities that were not possible before.
- **League Operations and Involvement:** Mike and Alex discussed the need for more involvement in league operations, including the role of division reps and the importance of having a smooth transition for board members. They encouraged league members to step up and get involved.
- **Proposals and Voting:** Mike presented two proposals for voting: changing the 45 division regular season games to 7 innings and reducing the playoff eligibility requirement to 5 games. He emphasized the importance of having league members' opinions heard.
- **League Apparel and Conduct:** Alex announced the availability of league apparel through Stinger Sports and reiterated the importance of respectful conduct, including no smoking or drinking on high school fields. He also mentioned the need for proper disposal of trash.
- **Team Assistance and Mergers:** Chris from the Bay Sox requested assistance in finding additional players due to a shortage caused by government job impacts. Danny

suggested that teams in similar situations consider merging and provided contact information for potential field rentals.

Follow-up tasks:

- **Field Maintenance Materials:** Order additional materials for Bestgate and organize a field day for distribution. (Danny)
- **Field Usage for Practices:** Discuss with the county about the potential use of Bestgate and other fields for practices before the season starts. (Alex)
- **Hall of Fame Nominations:** Contact Bob Bengelmeyer for criteria and process for Hall of Fame nominations. (Mike, Alex)
- **Field Maintenance Inventory:** Meet the delivery team at Bestgate to inventory and receive new field maintenance materials. (Alan)

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:46 PM.

Notes prepared by AI, approved by Mike Largent, Vice President