

Minutes – April 4, 2013
Augusta Softball General Meeting
North Augusta Hall

Present – Hugh Hanna, Karen Greatrix, Steve Ferguson, Greg Beach, Mike Limburg, Roxanne Riddell, Pat Hodgkinson, Kim Lamer, Gary Lamer, Joe Chabot, Kevin Laming, Richard Hanna, Vicki Kipke, Nicole Kehee, Tom Burchill, Darlene Foley, Lisa Lockett

Regrets – John Severson, Amy Finucan, Derek Whitteker, Kent Young

Hugh called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Minutes from February meeting were read and approved. Changes to player affiliation rule was discussed and explained to attendees who missed the last meeting.

Position of Secretary/Treasurer was discussed and the position remains unfilled. No financial report was prepared for this meeting. Penny will be contacted for a final report/statement.

Registration Update and Concerns – associations that were present updated the league on the current results and expected team submissions. Associations not present were discussed based on emails received and conversations had with reps (2nd hand). All submission are based on best guess and current registration results. All associations were reminded to accept all registrants and to actively find placements for players in surrounding associations if unable to field a local team in any given age division.

Johnstown expects to field a Squirt, Pee wee Boys and 2 Bantam Boys teams.

North Augusta expects to field 2 mosquito, mite, squirt, pee wee boys, pee wee girls, bantam girls, midget boys and a midget girls team.

Lyn expects to field a squirts, 2 pee wee girls, 2 pee wee boys, 2 bantam girls, bantam boys, 2 midget girls and a midget boys team

Spencerville expects to field mosquito, mite, squirt and pee wee boys teams

Maynard expects to field 2 mosquito, 2 mites, squirt, pee wee boys, bantam girls, bantam boys, midget boys, midget girls.

Cardinal expects to field Bantam Girls team

Morrisburg expects to field Midget Girls team

Smiths Falls expects to field midget boys, 2 bantam boys and possibly a pee wee boys

Athens expects to field mosquito, mite, midget boys and girls.

Domville expects to field midget boys and midget girls – 2nd hand

Riverside expects to field a Bantam Girls – 2nd hand

Williamsburg expects to field Midget Girls team – 2nd hand

Greenbush currently has no representative and is not expected to field teams.

Over aged Players – North Augusta would like ruling on an overage Midget Boy. Over aged player decisions was deferred till next meeting when all team submissions will be final.

Games times – current rules were reiterated with Karen emphasizing that 2 hour time limits mean that the start time is from the first pitch till the time keepers watch shows two hours. Some games were called in 2012 when the game had not reached the 2 hours. Greg will remind all umpires and the topic will be discussed again at coaches meeting. All 6:15 games have a set end time of 8 pm, meaning that no new innings will begin after 8 pm.

Player Ejections – Karen reminded everyone that umpire reports are required when players are ejected. These can be as simple as an email. It is very important for Karen (rules and discipline) to be notified by the players coach when ejections occur. This will allow Karen to quickly review the suspension and to obtain any necessary score sheet/report information. The score sheet also needs to show the ejection with the umpires signature. Coaches need to show on the following games score sheet that the suspended player is serving a suspension during the missed game.

Bullying - a lengthy discussion was held on the topic of bullying. Difficulty in identifying bullying as it occurs on the field was discussed and the limitation the league faces in policing the problem. Umpires are to implement zero tolerance and all individuals are reminded of “Respect My Game” when participating in this league. We encourage all coaches to participate in the coaches meeting prior to the start of the season. Bullying prevention is the responsibility of everyone involved and we will continue to discuss methods to effectively deal with accusations of bullying. Greg also reminded everyone that in Augusta Softball, umpires are not to interact directly with spectators. Umpires are to deal with spectators through the coaches.

Respect My Game – Greg reminded everyone that all umpires that attend clinics are taught the principals of “Respect My Game”. Softball Ontario has the program explained on its website. Umpires are to review the main principals of Respect My Game at the home plate conference before the game begins. Respect My Game cards are available for download at Softball Ontario.

Umpire Contact and Location Information – Jr. Development umpire information cannot be posted. The full list will be circulated to reps within the association for the hiring of JD’s. All other umpires have been asked to provide phone numbers and email addresses to be posted on the Umpires Contact page of the Augusta Softball website. This will be encouraged again this year and the location will be reviewed to hopefully improve the accuracy of travel allowance.

Bats - Greg reviewed the new certification for bats. Bats stamped with the new 2013 stamp are not legal for Fastpitch in Canada. The stamp is of a home plate with ASA across it.

Balls – Greg reminded us that new balls are being made to compensate for the livelier bats. The Augusta league continues to mandate that all divisions are to use the balls posted on the Augusta Website.

Rule Changes – Greg quickly reviewed the rule changes from Softball Canada that included the safety base and stepping out of the batters box. (see minutes from February 21, 2013)

Final Date for Team Submissions - teams are to be submitted at the next meeting, scheduled for April 25, 2013 at 7pm at North Augusta Hall. Adjustments can be made until May 4. May 4th is the last possible date for changes. Scheduling 9 divisions is a very time consuming process and changes after May 4 is totally disrespectful to the volunteer scheduler and to the league.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.