

Minutes – March 5, 2015  
Augusta Softball General Meeting  
North Augusta Community Hall

**Present** -(13 people) Brent Smith, Scott Neild, Joe Chabot, Amy Finucan, Kendra McIntosh, Darlene Foley, Greg Beach, Mike Limburg, Karen Greatrix, Richard Hanna, Tom Burchill, Michael Seed, Mark Baldwin

**Regrets-** (3 people) Dan Dunbar , Lisa Lockett, Derick Whitteker

Joe and Brent called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

### **Election of Executive**

- As per the previous meetings Karen has indicated that she would step down of Rules and Discipline and Umpire Rep in 2015, no one stepped forward so it was decided that the Co-chairs would take over the roles with the help from rest of executive. There was a discussion that we needed a treasurer as we are starting to collect fees. So Amy Finucan has stepped up to be the treasurer for 2015.

### **Election of Executive**

Co-Chairs – Joe Chabot and Brent Smith

Scheduling /Statistician – Derek and Shelley Whitteker

Umpire Rep – Joe Chabot and Brent Smith

Rules & Discipline -Joe Chabot and Brent Smith (with help of the other executive members)

Secretary- Scott Neild

Treasurer- Amy Finucan

### **Review of Member Associations responsibilities-**

Reminder that a rep from each association is responsible for attending the league meetings and follow these rules:

#### **A. The Township Recreation area must:**

- Appoint a Softball Representative
- Hold public registration
- Not solicit players from other areas
- Ensure all players receive equal playing time
- Be responsible for the conduct of all players and Coaches within their organization
- Ensure that all Coaches and Umpires in their recreation be aware of the rules of Augusta, Ontario, and Canadian Minor Softball

#### **• B. Softball Representatives of each area must:**

- Attend Augusta Minor Softball meetings. In the case of a representative being unable to attend a scheduled meeting it is his/her responsibility to ensure someone attends on his/her behalf. Attendance at Augusta Minor Softball meetings is mandatory
- Have team lists completed, submitted to league via email to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) and a copy kept by coach for reference purposes if required.
- Submit proof of Insurance to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) before start of season. Teams that do not submit proof of insurance will not be allowed to play scheduled games and all games will be forfeited until Insurance coverage is proven.

### **Registration Dates**

Please send your registration dates and location to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) for publication on the Augusta Softball website. If you send your dates by March 12<sup>th</sup> we try to get all them published in the Recorder and Times. Please have your registration dates starting in March and April and come prepared with your expected teams in each division at the next league meeting at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. If registration numbers are not sufficient in a recreation, an effort needs to be made to place all players in a nearby recreation.

### **Required qualifications required to umpire at different levels**

Umpires must be Registered/ Carded with Softball Ontario  
 For Mites, Mosquito, and Squirt Levels -----JD umpires  
 For Peewee, Bantam and Midget Levels ---- 1 carded umpire with the effort to have 2  
 ----Umpires must be an age higher than the game they are umpiring.  
 Level II umpires can umpire any level. (as per general rules on website)

### **Umpires Report and Rule changes**

Greg Beach presented some information on this year's possible rule changes.

**Bats** – ISF bats will be allowed in 2015. It was decided that Augusta would go with Softball Canada Standard rules for current bat requirements, bats stamped with ASA 2000 and 2004 are still allowed we are now allowing ISF bats. Greg has a current list of the Banned Bats list. Newer bats as discussed last year are being stamped with ASA 2013. These bats are **not** legal for fast pitch. They are designed for slo-pitch and are not safe for use in fast pitch.

**Balls** - It was decided that Augusta would stay with the current ball requirement as posted in the current rules. .47 with a compression of 375.

### **Updated Rules-**

- a) Defensive conference's per game:

“There will be unlimited substitutions in all leagues. The defensive conference rule is in effect and a pitcher is removed after ~~2 defensive conferences~~ is **Change to 3 defensive conferences per game and Peewee and below 5 per game..** The removal applies for the balance of the inning only

- b) Jewelry :

Jewelry can be worn as long as it is not a distraction to opposing players, this is up to the Umpire discretion on whether it is to be removed or covered up

c) Game time:

Time of the Game starts is when the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch is thrown.

d) Pitching rules have changed:

- Pitching Rule Points of Emphasis Augusta Minor Ball

In all female categories, and in all male categories up to and including **Peewee (Bantam was removed)**, the pivot foot must remain in contact with, or push off and drag away, prior to the stepping (non-pivot) foot touching the ground.

The portion of the rule allowing the drag, leap, or hop and then throw affects ONLY the male **add Bantam** and Midget category in Augusta Minor Ball.

e) Midget Girls runs per inning rule

It was asked if we could removed the 7 run cap per inning in the Midget Girls division, this decision will be tabled at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and voted on at that meeting by all the Midget Girls division associations.

- An inning is described as 3 outs or **7 run cap per inning, with unlimited runs in the 7th inning ONLY.**

f) Steel Cleats

Steel Cleats are being allowed by Softball Canada at the Midget Boys level. Augusta Minor Softball will table this decision at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and voted on at that meeting by all the Midget Boys division associations.

g) Coaches must call time and be granted time

Coaches must call time and be granted time before entering the field of play. 1<sup>st</sup> time will be warned by the umpire if enter field before granted time. 2<sup>nd</sup> offence could result in ejection from game at the Umpire discretion. This must be made aware at the Coaches meeting in May.

h) Mosquito rule everyone bats

Current rule “• An inning will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first (Modified June 2008)”

Change rule to “modifying the rules for MOSQUITO to reflect how MOST associations okay it. Everyone bats. The batting order is only to keep the batters organized. No score is kept. This is directly in line with softball Canada recommendations.” So an inning would consist of each team’s full batting lineup.

i) Squirt Division Umpire Rule

We would like for the Year End Tournament in Squirt to have a Level 1 Carded Umpire behind the plate for the Semi-Final and Final games of the tournament instead of only a JD umpire. To be decided at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting by all associations with Squirt teams.

**Inform the Coaches**

All the associations are asked to prepare their coaches for the season and make sure they have copies of the rules on hand during the games and the score sheets should be filled out with first and last name.

**Coaches Meeting in May and Coaches Code of Conduct Form Signed**

It was decided to have a Coaches meeting in May again like last few years to review all the schedules and review rule changes and for Greg Beach to go over rules. We would like all coaches to attend. At this meeting or before the first regular season games an Augusta Minor Softball Coaches Code of Conduct Form needs to be signed by all coaches and be submitted to Augusta Minor Softball

We need to set a date for coaches meeting at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Peewee /Bantam Divisions**

There is concern for these divisions as there were only a few teams. Especially in Peewee girls. The Mallorytown Peewee girls team is joining a Kingston league that has 4 teams if there is any other interest from other areas they are open to more teams. Bantam Girls division could be an issue with only a couple of teams. Will review again at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Bantam Boys Team from Osgoode**

A team from Osgoode (can play games at North Gower or Kars) would like to join the Augusta League Bantam Boys division, they are a decent team and played Johnstown and Lyn last year in exhibition games. They are looking for more competition. It was voted yes to allow them into this division.

**Association Insurance Form and Team Lists form**

The association insurance form and all teams players list with DOB must be handed in to Augusta Minor Softball before any game is played for that association; if Augusta Minor Softball does not have these documents games played will be forfeited until documents are received.

**Zero tolerance for players and coaches**

There has to be zero tolerance towards unacceptable behavior on the ball field from coaches and players during the season. Bad language and unsportsmanlike behavior towards the actual game will not be tolerated.

**Submitting scores on time!!!**

Rule needs to be tweaked, too many scores not submitted on time.

New rule in place for 2015 season:

Scores must be submitted within 48 hours of the game by both teams. Rainouts must be communicated within 48 hours of the game. Failure to do this... results in 0-0 score final and both teams get zero pts. Scores are sent in to [scores@augustasoftball.com](mailto:scores@augustasoftball.com) .

**Mite & Mosquito ....do we split East & West? Consistent nights played? 12 game schedule?**

Mallorytown Mosquito and Mite teams are joining the Augusta league. Last year its Mosquito and Mite teams played just in Mallorytown against each other for the first year back in softball. Now they are ready to join the league with players who know how to play softball.

Idea is to have two divisions for Mite, an east and west divisions, play only 12 games instead of 14 and have a mid-season tourney added so all the teams get together twice a year, mid-season and year end tourney. The idea in two divisions is to keep travel down for the regular season games and distance to travel for 6:15pm is hard.

In 2014 season Mallorytown had 2 teams, Athens 2 teams, Westport 1 team to make one division west, other division Maynard 1 team, Spencerville 1 team, North Augusta 1 team. At the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting we need to see how many teams we would have for the East –West split. The idea is you play one home and one away with your division against each team and then play one team in the other division home and away game. Another idea is to pick consistent nights to play each week so you know each week what night and easier for parents to plan, Mondays and Thursday nights were the nights decided at the last meeting.

**Tournament commitments possible fee/deposit at beginning of year?**

Discussion was around getting a deposit in place for the Year end tournaments for the host teams. Talked about placing a \$50.00 deposit for spot in the tournament, paid to the Treasurer. A treasurer is needed for 2015 season and Amy Finucan has stepped up and will create a bank account for Augusta Minor Softball. This is to help the host association of the tournament have some money to start off with and if a team backs out last minute the host association has some money to cover the ump's and/if medals or trophies are bought.

**Yes was agreed upon that Year end tourney deposits of \$50 per team to be handed in during the May Coaches meeting to the treasurer of Augusta Minor Softball. This deposit will be taken off the tourney fee required for each team. Augusta Minor Softball will pay the host tournament association this deposit, this deposit must be factored into costing for each team.**

Idea for Midget and Bantam divisions for boys and girls is to have Main Large trophy created to give out each year instead of the medals or a small trophy for the winner of the division. This way there is some meaning to winning the title.

**Yes \$10 per team in Bantam and Midget boys and girls division to get a large trophy for each division. To be handed in during the May Coaches meeting to the treasurer of Augusta Minor Softball.**

**Website and Communications**

We need to review possible website services to replace our league website and possible website that will schedule games and give each association a website option. We have a possible person interested in the scheduling portion of the website Derek and Shelley are reviewing this new program to see if can replace our manual process we have now.

**Each association will pay \$5 per team to Augusta Minor Softball to start a fund to pay for a new scheduling program and hopefully a new website in coming years. This is to be handed in during the May Coaches meeting to the treasurer of Augusta Minor Softball.**

### **Recap of the New Associations Fees**

The fees to be handed in to the **treasurer of Augusta Minor Softball** at the May Coaches Meeting. These fees must be handed in on time. We are setting up a new Augusta Minor Softball bank account and we will let you know at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting who to make the cheques out to.

- \$5 fee for each team in your association
- \$50 deposit fee for each team in each division Year End Tournament format
- \$10 fee for each team in Bantam /Midget boys and girls to purchase a Large Champions trophy for each division (4 trophies). This trophy is returned to Augusta Minor Softball the following year at the first meeting.

**(Next meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 we need team submissions, home nights, tournament dates/ hosts, overage player approvals, Please be ready !!)**

**Next Meeting – Thurs April 23 2015, 7pm at North Augusta Hall**