

Augusta Minor Softball Association
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 3, 2010

Opening: The regular meeting of the Augusta Minor Softball Association was called to order at 7:15PM on Wednesday March 3, 2010 in Roebuck Hall by Steve Ferguson.

Present: Karen Greatrix, Penny Bell, Bill Pakeman, Derek and Shelley Whittker, Mark Smallegange, Gerry Mullin, Vicky Kipke, Adam McNamara, Kevin Marshall, Hugh Hanna, Mike Limburg, Colleen Render, Charlie Murray, Steve Polite, Roxanne Riddell, Darlene Foley, Jeff Morrison, Tom Burchill, and Steve Ferguson.

Approval of Agenda: N/A

Approval of Minutes: N/A

Open Issues:

1. Election of Executive Positions - Chair (Currently Emily Miller), Rules and Discipline (Currently Kevin Marshall), Scheduler-Stats-Website (Currently Steve Ferguson), Umpire Rep. (Currently Karen Gratrix) and Secretary (Currently no one).

There were two nominees for Chair - Darlene Foley and Larry Lamin, it was voted on at the meeting and Darlene Foley was nominated.

Kevin Marshall said he would do the Rules and Discipline again this year, Steve Ferguson agreed to be the Scheduler-Stats-Website, Karen Greatrix agreed to be the Umpire Rep. and Penny Bell agreed to be the Secretary this year.

2. Registration - age divisions, inclusion of Juvenile, deadlines.

In review, there were no overage players allowed to play in Midget division. There was a motion by Kevin Marshall to have Male players under 21 as of Jan. 1 play. This motion was opposed and declined. The organizations felt that there would be a greater risk of injury for the younger players if we allowed this age group to join.

There was a discussion on whether to leave the age and allow up to two overaged players in the Midget division. After a discussion it was decided that the motion would read that the age for Midget boys be increased by one year. The second motion to have male players under 20 as of Jan.1 play was presented and this motion was passed.

It was decided since we have increased the age group for the boys to match the girls there would be no need for a Juvenile team.

3. House league vs. Select vs. Rep Ball - a discussion and reminder of the differences and how it fits in Augusta softball.

- Steve distributed a letter from Lyn that addresses their plans with select teams and it follows the guidelines that have been discussed in the past. (see attached)

- Website needs to be updated with guidelines for select ball. It was agreed upon that the players for Select or Rep ball has to be registered in a house league. The player's can play in any organized Select or Rep team of their choice. They do not have to be in their own house league rep team. For example, their house league may be Lyn but they can play on the Greenbush rep team.

- House League - players are to register to play in the closest community offering softball

- Grey areas do exist as we do not have boundary's in place
- No soliciting of any type is to take place by reps or coaches to attract players from other areas to play on house league teams.

- Select Ball - all organizations are free to organize select teams.

- Players from all areas are invited to play if host teams desires
- Every organization should have tryouts for these teams but again it is up to the host recreation.

- Rep Ball - all players are welcome to play rep ball

- Rep teams are not part of Augusta Softball and will need to request permission to play in Augusta.
- Players that are on rep teams can play for their local house league teams.
- Rep teams that draw players from other areas in August undermine the local house league teams and this should be considered when a team requests permission to play.
- Some areas may have a rep team that is from players strictly within their recreation and these teams would be considered for inclusion into Augusta softball with some restrictions like play up a division.

4. Williamsburg (Shelley Whitteker) - requested to play in our league. It was motioned and accepted to have Williamsburg's Bantam Girls play in our league this year.

Domville requested permission to field a Peewee girls team in the league. Since Domville is part of the Augusta boundaries they did not need to be voted on.

5. Umpire Clinics in the area. Lyn will be hosting a Level 1 on April 24 at the Lyn Public School. For time and amount please contact Gloria bates-Hanna @ 613-342-4794. I have also attached list of other clinics in the area.

6. Umpire Concerns - Greg sent this email to Steve.

All the rules, and disciplinary actions for the league need to be updated. This is necessary to reflect the current state of the sport, and to clarify the rules to more black and white standard. The last time an overhaul of the rules and disciplinary actions was completed was in 2004. Also, in view of past incidents, a disciplinary procedure needs to be addressed for the umpires. There should be an expectation from the associations and the league on the skill level desired, and the competence of each umpire, depending on the level of ball they are doing. When this is completed, the umpires can be addressed and advised of what your concerns are, and your expectations so everybody in on the same page.

It was discussed about umpires all have to be carded in order to umpire. It was also brought forward about umpires doing multiple games in a night. It was suggested by Karen Greatrix that if they were to be doing two games a night it should be at the same diamond or within a 5 to 10 minute drive of each other. The reason behind this is so that the first game is not be hurried along and the second game does not start late.

There was also discussion of only having one umpire for some of the games, such as PeeWees. It was discussed about having a parent or someone who knows the game to volunteer to help out. However, it is up to the carded umpire whether they want the help or if they choose to do it themselves.

It was left that Steve, Darlene and Kevin would come up with wording. This would then be discussed with Greg for his thoughts and then brought to the next meeting for approval.

7. Skill development Clinics - Scott Rice and Machca Hanna have attended the pitching clinic offered through Softball Ontario to become certified pitching instructors. OASA has a free Player skills and Coaching Clinic being offered on Saturday April 17 in Napanee. You can have one of them come into your association and have a clinic but you have to contact Softball Ontario.

8. Association Fees - It was discussed last year that there would be a fee of \$10.00 per team, per Association to play in the Augusta League, however not all Associations paid this. Steve was going to find out from Emilly on the income from team fees and a financial update. His thoughts would be that only new teams in the league this year would pay into the kitty for expected expenses. i.e. Athens paid \$60 in 09. If we have 7 teams this season, we pay only for one team in 2010. Once we know the amount in the account we will make a decision as to the charge for this year. It was discussed about \$10.00 per Association. This will be discussed at next meeting.

9. 2009 Expenses - Scheduling software license for 1 year - \$48.08 Cdn in 2009

10. Association Fees - It was determined that each Association has the right to determine their own registration fees.

11. Tournament Fees - There was a discussion that the tournament fees should be looked at. It was suggested the we should cap the price the Association can charge for trophies. It was stated that the point of tournament's is to breakeven not make any money. You are to make your money from the canteen. It was suggested that you would have to forward the cost of tournaments 3-4 weeks prior to the tournament to involved associations to agree to. The visiting teams need to agree to the price of the awards. Maybe each association should be paying cash for their tournament fees.

Agenda for next meeting will follow shortly.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Steve. The next general meeting will be at 7:00PM on April 28 at Roebuck Hall.

Minutes Submitted by: Penny Bell

Approved By:

