

DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE

January 25, 2016

The meeting of the Department Baseball Committee was called to order by Nels Cronkright, Chairman in Flint, Michigan, on January, 25, 2016. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Nels Cronkright, Tom Romain, Bob Eggert, Jeff McGinnis, Michael Trickey, and Dave Stanifer

GUESTS: 4 Guests were present

Business:

Tom Romain discussed his trip to the National Baseball meeting in the fall.

- National is adopting the Pitch Smart program that aims to prevent injuries in pitchers.
- National rule changes are proposed on odd years and implemented on even years.
- American Legion logoed balls will be used on state finals and above.
- National is rolling out new promo and marketing booklets and such.
- National handed out research and statistics regarding why teams are diminishing
- Discussed 7 inning rule
- Discussed player participation in at least 1/3 of games if playing post season
- Fundraising information

Representatives from the Hudson Post (Dave Warren and Dennis Jones), and Dave Stanifer discussed the 2016 A & AA tournaments. They will both be held in Adrian. A will be at Siena Heights University, AA will be at Adrian College. The entry fee pass will get you into both tournaments. There will be one program book that will have both tournament teams listed in it. Chuck Walters will be chief umpire for A, Terry Meyer will be chief umpire for AA. A teams will be housed at the Holiday Inn Express, the AA teams will be housed at the Carlton. There will be a joint event for all teams involved with details to be released later. A pre-tournament booklet will be available in June.

Terry Meyers discussed umpires. Terry, Mike, and Bryan will return for the 2016 tournament. Discussion was held on obtaining umpires form all 5 zones, with no more than two umpires per zone for AA tournament. No relatives from player's teams umpiring games was discussed also. It was suggested that some of the A umpires work a AA game in order to grant them experience at the state tournament and to also give the committee a chance to see their work. It was also suggested that the Chief umpire be behind the home plate during the championship game.

Zone 1 report from Jeff McGinnis – he is anticipating 4 teams in his zone.

Zone 2 report from Tom Romain – Blissfield team will be returning with an A & AA team. Hudson will either have 2 A teams or an A and a junior team. Looking for a district 2 baseball chairman. Current district 4 chairman is also planning on managing a team.

Rule 24 change: It was moved by Mike Tricky and seconded by Bob Eggert to add to the rule. "Exception: when the District and Zone tournaments are combined, and the Zone Chairman is the Tournament Chairman, a manager or coach can serve as a District Baseball Chairman." Motion carried.

Zone 3 report from Bob Eggert – Chief Pontiac will be playing, but need to look at their enrollment numbers. Berkley may not have a team due to not having a coach. Royal Oak will not have a team because their coach is gone. Fraser will not have a team. Milford will still have a team, Lansing may have two teams this year, and Lapeer will have a new team.

Zone 5 report from Mike Trickey – Sault Ste. Marie will be an AA team, Marquette and Copper Country may register as AA teams. The rest will register as A teams (10 teams A counting 3 of them as junior teams). Bark River and Stephenson will file as an A teams but will play as a third tier among themselves.

Zone 2 clarification over host team for state A tournament. Discussed if the host post has two teams, who would represent the post as the host team. Coin flip, zone tournament standings, and playoff was discussed. Ultimately, it is the zones decision how they proceed.

Zone4 report from Nels Cronkright – Sanford has a new coach. Zone will still be around 9 or 10 teams.

Rule 27 change: It was discussed to edit rule 27 regarding the damage deposit required for the state tournament. It was moved by Bob Eggert, seconded by Mike Tricky to edit rule 27 to read: “Each team in the State Tournament must submit a \$200 damage deposit **at the end of the zone tournament** to be returned to them minus any charges after the hotel bill is paid. **Deposit will be forfeited if the team fails to appear.**” Motion carried. Forfeited money will be given to the tournament host to asset in covering losses due to no-show.

Chairman discussed calls to all teams, past and present. Many of the complaints about Legion ball revolved around releases, cost, and rules. There were many positive comments as well.

2017 state tournament will be hosted by zone 3, probably by Chief Pontiac post.

It was moved by Jeff McGinnis and seconded by Mike Trickey to elect Tom Romain Vice Chairman and Dave Stanifer as Secretary. Motion carried.

Baseball scholarship eligibility was discussed.

State protest rule was discussed. Further action has been tabled until Fall Conference.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before this committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Nels Cronkright, Chairman