

DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE

October 3, 2014

The meeting of the Department Baseball Committee was called to order by Nels Cronkright, Chairman at 1:00 pm, Friday, October 3, 2014 in the DEC Room of The American Legion Department of Michigan Headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. The following people were present:

MEMBERS: Nels Cronkright, Tom Romain, Bob Eggert
Mike Trickey & Dave Stanifer were excused
Jeremy Bell was absent

GUESTS: Terry Meyers, Head Umpire, Ed Holder 10th Dist Chairman, Lon Carlisle Clare Burt Post,
John Ruselowski, Fort Dearborn Post

BUSINESS:

Uniform Consistency - The committee discussed providing new teams with the Legion Baseball & American Flag patches upon registration. It was moved by Tom, supported by Bob that the committee provides new teams with a Legion Baseball & American Flag patches. Motion carried.

Use of Electronics Devices - It was discussed and agreed upon that electronic devices would not be tolerated on the field as per national rules.

Statistics at State Tournament was discussed.

Medal Awards for team State Tournament - The committee discussed the pros and con to awarding medals for each player who made it to the State Tournament. There is a line item in the budget for such awards in the amount of \$500, and will remain.

Relatives umpiring- The topic was brought up at the national meeting and discussed in detail. It will remain in the best interest of everyone to not have relatives umpire games to protect the integrity of the tournament.

Size of State Tournament - The state tournament will continue to be a six team bracket unless the AA team number grows significantly. The goal would be to have an eight team bracket for State Tournament.

Nine Innings - The rule will remain, games must be 9 innings starting at Districts up through World Series.

Buying Baseballs - National was trying to require a Legion Logo on balls, but was rebuffed. The committee is open to group purchasing options to save money, but currently do not have any options at this time.

19 Year old rule is same as 2014 - Graduated student who are in the approved age range, must have played Legion ball for the same team in prior year. National rules are expected to be released in later this fall and have been promised to be clearer than last years.

State Tournament & Great Lakes Regional will end on Saturday- Looking at moving state tournament up a week in order to adjust the schedule based on Nationals recent adjustments. National is moving up the Regional and World Series a day based on ESPN's needs.

SAL Representative from each zone - The committee was encouraged to find SAL representatives in each district to help assist with growing the baseball program.

Combine District/Zone Tournaments - The committee discussed the benefits of combining the district and zone tournaments. Three of the zones already do this. It was moved by Tom, supported by Bob to combine the District & Zone Tournaments in all Zones. Motion carried.

Rule 4 - Committee will need to review rule for and update it reflecting the combined District & Zone Tournament.

Contact old legion teams - National suggested that the committee contact all the old Legion teams that no longer play to find out why and encourage them to come back.

State Tournament Contracts A & AA - 2015 "A" Tournament will be held in Escanaba and "AA" Tournament will be held in Sault Ste. Marie. Contracts are being mailed out to them.

Division 2 tournament - There was a discussion of a seven state tournament of "A" Legion teams. Michigan has been invited to send a team. Tom will be gathering more details about it, but we do know there will be a team cost of \$850 to enter. The team chosen (looking at Class A champions) would be responsible for all costs.

Report on National Meeting - Chairman discussed what he had learned at the National Meeting last week.

Post Benefits letter - The committee discussed composing a letter encouraging posts to form a team, and the benefits of doing so. It was decided to publish it in the Michigan Legionnaire in Nov/Dec.

Shorten Length of Games - Terry handed out and discussed a submission to the baseball subcommittee at National regarding a list of ideas to shorten game times.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before this committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nels Cronkright, Chairman