

ESSPA Planning Meeting

Minutes

Date: September 14, 2023
Start Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Airways – meeting room

Present:

Bill Donlevy	Karen Armstrong
Kerri Pasqua	Mary Ellen Mimeault
Sue Shave	Grant Huys
Danny Ruesch	Sandy Huys
Darlene Pruden	Medley Russell
Barb Akitt	

Absent:

Tracie Campbell	Rich Ferguson
Tom Smith	Brent Schell

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Division 1 & 2 fees

- At current pricing, to purchase an additional 20 sets of jerseys it would cost approximately \$1,120 (~\$60 for two jerseys)
- Looking at numbers a fee of \$190, which includes the uniforms members currently have, along with uniforms for new players to the division, this can work over a 4 or 5 year period.
- Other option is to lower fees and no uniform will be provided going forward

Motion: Set Div 1 & 2 fees at \$190 in 2024. This includes uniforms currently in members possession, and uniforms for net new players will be provided. Any players requiring a replacement jersey will pay cost of jersey out of their pocket by Grant

2nd by Danny

Passed All in favor, no one abstained

- This will need to be sent out to membership for their acceptance. Can either do in advance or wait to AGM in March

Volunteer Fees

- Tracie raised the point that this raises additional funds for leagues, as not all members volunteer so this extra payment stays with the league
- Unfortunately having a volunteer fee causes extra work for Registrar and Treasurer to set and collect/return the fee
- Discussion around showing appreciation for volunteers, up to whomever is organizing the event on what they would like to do

Motion: to not have a volunteer fee in 2024. Will host a volunteer appreciation event of some sort at the end of the season, date will be set at the beginning of the season by Karen
2nd by Darlene
Passed All in favor, no one abstained

League Discussion - status of men's league, Co-Ed ideas

- League dates for 2024 will most likely be May 6th thru September 20th
- A **men's league** in 2024 is a big question mark, need to advertise as soon as possible if have any hope to get any more teams. **Age category would be 45+ and look to grandfather in any of the 40+ men who played in 2023**
- Discussion around ways to expand co-ed divisions
 - Current co-ed division drop the women's age to 40 so to attract, make more women eligible to play as there was a shortage this year. **Age group would be 40+ women and leave men at 50+, remaining 7 & 3**
 - In order to attract younger membership, look to create a new **co-ed division aged 35+ (7 & 3)**
- Offer 2 games per week, nights TBD depending on interest
- Discussion on how to make the drafted division more appealing as have lost individuals in this league as well. The term evaluation is off putting to many, instead use assessment, and instead of having evaluations, have new members or those looking to change divisions attend a few pre-season scrimmages to see them in action.

Advertising

- Need to get advertising started as soon as possible, need to hit as many social media options as we can find – Facebook, slo-pitch sites, etc.
- Get information out on billboards, electronic signage – Sherwood Park, St. Albert (Bill to check out how to access)
- update graphic that we used for boulevard signage – the color of the lettering made it hard to read, keep what we had for graphic and update to white writing, and adjust for division information above
- Grant will take all inquiries associated with co-ed interest co-edteams@esspa.ca

SPN vs NSA

- Barb received a proposal from NSA (see attached), appears to be fairly close to what SPN offers
- We have not been happy with SPN for several years now, time to change
- Need to understand next steps

Motion: to move affiliation from SPN to NSA for 2024 season by Mary Ellen
2nd by Sandy
Passed All in favor, no one abstained

Policies

Motion: to accept the Field Closure and Game Cancellation policy presented by Kerri (see attached), with a few modifications as discussed by Barb
 2nd by Medley
 Passed All in favor, no one abstained

Motion: To accept the following time frames for our Refund policy:
 - Season start to June 30 – for illness or injury, request for a refund will be reviewed by the Board of Directors, on a case by case basis
 - After June 30 – no refunds will be issued.
 By Sandy
 2nd by Medley
 Passed All in favor, no one abstained

Board Positions to be vacated in 2024

- Secretary
- Equipment
- Vice-President
- Division 1 Co-ordinator

Date for next board meeting will be October 24 at 7pm – location TBD

Action Items from Planning Meeting

Date Created	Action Item	Assigned To	Due Date	Closed Date	Status
9/14/23	Send out email to membership regarding Division 1 & 2 fee options	Kerri			•
9/14/23	Get information on St. Albert’s billboard sign to see if we can advertise on it	Bill			•
9/14/23	Modifications to Field Closure & Game Cancellation policy made	Kerri			•
9/14/23	Post Field Closure & Game Cancellation policy to website	Sandy			•
9/14/23	Post Refund policy to website	Sandy			•
9/14/23	At end of season, harrow/cultivate shale infield on all diamonds to turn up the shale to let it settle over the winter	Grant/mt nc guys			•
9/14/23	Let NSA know we are interested in affiliating with them in 2024 and find out next steps	Barb			•
9/14/23	Send email to SPN letting them know of our decision not to renew with them next year	Kerri			•
9/14/23	Send courtesy email to UIC and Roger Carrier, letting them know of our decision to move	Kerri			•
9/14/23	Create posters outlining our new team information for posting on social media	Kerri			•
9/14/23	Adjust graphic that was used for boulevard signage	Kerri			•
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