

Minutes of Division 1(Hansen) Division Meeting

July 6, 2023

Attendees: Darlene Pruden, Bruce Munro, Basil David, Carrie Runnalls, Jill Edgar

Frank Hanzmann, Gary Watt, Gord Stamp, Larry Dietrich, Pam Brown, Dwayne Brown

Absent: Janet Cruthers

Guest: Bill Donlevy (Board Member)

1. ESSPA Board Meeting – June 21, 2023

Division Coordinator highlighted items from the June 21st meeting. Coaches felt that if the AED will be in the meeting room, all coaches and First Aiders should have access to the room so the code needs to be shared.

The new gates on the dugouts swing out when there is a wind and can be dangerous for players running to catch a ball. Something needs to be done in order to make sure the gates are secured to the dugout. It was suggested we could use bungee cords. Larry Dietrich is going to look into something else and will get back to us. The coaches were also concerned with the trench or space left between the gate and walking out onto the diamond on diamond 4. This must be filled in because people are tripping coming out of the dugout.

2. ESSPA Website Updates

Coaches are complaining and asking why minutes of Board meetings, Division meetings, roster updates, tournaments, any new information is not being added to our websites. As the Division Coordinator indicated the Media position was moved to the Advertising and Recruitment Director which is Tracie Campbell. Sandy will work with Tracie to learn how to provide timely updates, advertise tournaments, volunteer information, etc.

Many of the Board positions have new people working in the positions and some are doing multiple jobs because positions weren't filled. Once again, we have a lot of people that complain about the Board but we don't see a lot of people attending the AGM meetings or wanted to volunteer and take on a position. You as coaches need to let your teams know that this league needs the support of everyone.

3. Division 1 Rule clarifications

Rule 9 – Courtesy runners and runner from home were discussed. The last available batter is confusing many and what it actually means. It doesn't necessarily mean the last batter out. When a player can't run from home and you have a courtesy runner, that runner can only run to first base

and must remain on first base until advanced by the next batter. In a few cases, we have had the courtesy runner continue to run to second base without thinking. If this happens the play is called dead and the runner returns to first base. If by chance the runner causes the defensive team to make a play on him/her and other runners advance, time will be called and all runners will be returned to their original base.

4. Spares/Guest Players

The Division Coordinator is trying to get new players interested in playing in the league that are not on a team to come to one of our games or to Division 2 (Brawner) games as a guest player to see what their skill level is and to experience a game in our league. The Coordinator watched a new player last week who played as a guest player in Division 2 and his skill level was very good. He could definitely play in Division 1 and we will have him come out and play a game in Division 1 if we can fit him in. The Coordinator encouraged coaches to use the spare list also. Some coaches indicated that it would help if the list could indicate what positions the spares prefer to play in since they don't always know them. That should be added in the future.

5. Playoffs – Format, Start Date, Time, Umpires, Spares

- **Playoff format**

6 Team Double Elimination. First and second place at the end of the regular season will get a bye in the first round. Third place will play the 6th place team, fourth place will play the 5th place team. Carrie Runnalls drafted a playoff format for our review but will also create another version for everyone's review and comments.

- **Dates**

Playoffs will start on August 10th and run to August 31st if needed.

- **Umpires for Playoffs**

Each team was asked to send the Coordinator at least 2 names of players that can umpire. The Coordinator will send the list of recommended umpires to all coaches to review and add or delete to create a final list of 6-8 umpires.

- **Spares for Playoffs**

No spares will be allowed for playoffs.

- **Time**

Games will start at 6:15pm and there will only be 1 game per day.

6. Review and Discussion of Letter received by the Mavericks and Use2Bees on Field Closures

Some of the coaches insist that the Board doesn't have the power or authority to impose consequences because they played on June 21st when the City of Edmonton closed all fields. There is no board policy in place regarding Field Closures or that we must follow the City of Edmonton's closure of fields. The Home Base Agreement doesn't indicate anything.

A long, sometimes heated discussion took place with coaches, the Division Coordinator and the Board representative. There are hard feelings from all parties involved. The Coordinator indicated that if they wanted to challenge the decision that they set up a meeting with the board and bring their concerns there. The Division Coordinator didn't vote in favor of any consequences because of the fact there were no policies in place and agreed with other coaches that this could have been handled in a different manner.

7. Rainout Games

All rainout games have been rescheduled to date. A coach wanted to know why an email was sent to say no more rainout games would be rescheduled. The Coordinator indicated that after the board meeting, the other Coordinators indicated that they wanted to start rescheduling their rainout games which would mean Division 1 wouldn't have the diamond space to reschedule games. Since that email, there have been no rainout games scheduled by the Co-ed Division so the Coordinator in Division 1 will reschedule rainouts only if there is some space available.

8. Policy on Field Conditions and Game Cancellations – 2023

A policy did exist on the ESSPA website at one time but was removed when the website was being changed. A new policy will be drafted using current information from AHS and the City of Edmonton in regards to Air Quality, Heat Warnings, Weather Advisories and Field Closures.

9. Player Evaluation List

An evaluation list will be prepared so that coaches can evaluate players throughout the rest of the season for their draft in 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm

