

# Wilmot Softball Association – Committee Meeting

## MINUTES

MAY 21, 2020

7:00PM

ZOOM CALL

MEETING CALLED BY	WSA
TYPE OF MEETING	Zoom
FACILITATOR	Mike C
NOTE TAKER	Jason
TIMEKEEPER	Jason
ATTENDEES	PJ P, Ryan R, Scott S, Susan H, Tim B, Kevin H, Jay P, John V, Mike C, Chris F, Jen O, Todd S, Greg S, Sue S, Dwight B, Mike VDW
ABSENT	Michelle D, Shannon M, Deanna C, Mark M

### Call to Order

TIME: 7:00

#### OPENING

[MIKE]

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No new news on start date, still assumed to be July 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>- Grand Valley Girls League cancelled for 2020</li> <li>- Nationals are cancelled</li> <li>- Expect announcement from Softball Ontario about Provincials soon</li> <li>- Communications with Other centres within our local league group – Twin Centre, PDP and Ayr all on the fence waiting</li> </ul>
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TIME: 7:18

#### DRAFT COVID PROTOCOLS REVIEW

[MIKE]

DISCUSSION	<p><b>Potential Safety Rules:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 questions that frontline workers ask before entering/taking care of patients to identify potential COVID-19 - Have app available to teams/coaches for participants to take before they leave their residence</li> <li>- Have coaches re-assess at the field before each game</li> <li>- Temperature screening at entrances to parks, limiting entrances to 1 or 2. Extra staff would be required (City – extra cost, Host) to ensure security - <b>This is difficult to administer. Can this be removed? Needs better definition of the requirement.</b></li> <li>- Any player, parent, coach, umpire etc. showing symptoms should not show up at the park but if they fail the screening then they would not be permitted for the weekend.</li> <li>- Sanitizer on benches to allow for frequent handwashing ... in between innings/after at bats. We will need to cordon off the dugouts. Have the "bench" along the baseline/outfield fence, perhaps mark off "boxes" painted on the grass in 6' squares to ensure social distancing if this is still required at that point.</li> <li>- Put more balls into play and have a designated person on each bench "sanitize" the ball- This would require clean water. And soap. No spectators for older age groups or with limited spectators all must respect 6-foot rule, must bring own seats</li> <li>- No batting gloves. Handwashing/sanitizing is more efficient</li> <li>- In lieu of medical masks, (if recommended at that time) mandate team coloured balaclavas/bandanas for players, coaches and umpires. We have sourced someone who can do custom print for 1.50/piece or for 60 cents if not customized. <b>We are concerned with masks causing safety issues ie: impairing vision, breathing or contributing to overheating.</b></li> <li>- No shared helmets</li> <li>- No sunflower seeds gum, spitting etc.</li> <li>- Conferences at pitcher circle limited to one person who must remain outside the circle</li> <li>- Mound visits with catcher/coach both must remain outside circle, catcher must have glove in front of face</li> <li>- Players injured during the game must be positioned in safe area or at the other end of the dugout, younger ages the parent will need to remove the child from the field and place them in a safe place respecting the social distancing rules</li> </ul>
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- Each team will have a bucket, soap and water, cloth and towel, will also be provided their own game balls, each team is responsible for cleaning their balls between innings, and will be the supplier of the same while on defense, umpires will not handle the balls
- Catchers equipment, each catcher must have their own and should be disinfected after each game.
- Sharing of water bottles not allowed
- Picking up the hitter's bat will be the responsibility of the bench coach, must be cleaned after each use
- Each player must have their own, bat, helmet and or facemask which should be cleaned after each use
- No contact with coaches at 1st, 3rd, after home run etc.
- Team snacks, picnics, shared lunches, BBQ not allowed

#### Coaches Responsibilities

- Make sanitizing and disinfecting a requirement to participate
- Mandate strict rules to follow regulations
- Be a role model
- When coaching or giving one-on-one advice distance yourself from players
- Create a method to show support without having to high five – a practiced in sync clap/ collectively as a team, touch the dirt/ a cheer/ synchronically a hand gesture
- Do not encourage close conversations
- Support, enforce and encourage everyone to follow the safety guidelines that are put into place.

#### Things we will need if we play:

- Liability waivers for all player/parents to sign regarding the potential of contracting Covid 19 (We would ask for legal support on this item from Softball Ontario or OASA if they approve us to return to play.
- Inform coaches of new/added responsibilities – excise duty of care by enforcing the safety procedures outlined by the Ministry of Health/Softball Ontario

#### Legal Stuff

- Incorporation Documents
- Directors and Officers Insurance
- Duty of care – executive and coaches
- Can we implement?
- Communication to coaches.
- Do we play or not?
- Waivers
- How does any of this differ for us and/or coaches from a regular season?
- Is there an age limit where we would be comfortable enforcing rules.
- If the season is cancelled how could that affect numbers for next season and future seasons?

#### DISCUSSION POINTS FROM GROUP:

- **Chris** - Each team to provide own digital thermometer, every person entering park needs a mask, catcher better umpire and everyone get on base. No one in dugout, directional access into park (in out) min cleaning 1 per hour of washrooms, parents are allowed 6ft apart along outfield, no carpooling, no batting gloves, sunscreen not allowed at all?? Extend the season into September??, Petition softball Canada to change age groups to 12U
- **Todd** - Explained the reason for the change, hard for girls who play in the states. PWSA may provide waivers, may need to re do waiver after 14 days. Noted that prep before the game will be needed to allow games to happen on time.
- **GROUP** - Email from Ayr and Wilmot, presented questions by Mike What is our liability, volunteer and coach's liability. What are consequences if not followed, facilities to provide equipment cleaning and washrooms cleaning. What happens procedurally if someone contact the disease.
  - Ayr (Response) – All can be liable if they act in a negligent manner or fail to protect within a reasonable manner.
  - Wilmot (Response) – Same as above. Washing of balls and facilities they are not prepared to do this, so we would need to.
- **GROUP** - Comments about cleaning washrooms, every 2 hours from Wilmot. Questioned about needing to be quarantined if people are travelled. PWSA mentioned right now if you travelled to another province. Symptoms, quarantined, tested if positive whole team will need to quarantine for 14 days and everyone tested. Could be extended to entire league or teams and people at a game.
- **Sue** - Masks literature suggests that wearing a mask during physical activity could be problematic. Sunscreen – not supported by studies that Covid sticks to it. PWSA is leading the charge on these suggestions, need to vet with health center etc.
- **Kevin** – Wilmot noted safety concerns of wearing masks during play. Noted that sunscreen was something that someone threw out.
- **Dwight** – Want to play if we can, we need to understand lead time to get the league going. Changes are happening daily.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin</b> – Noted that most of the discussion is around rep, and we should consider house league would be very different. Need additional volunteers at house league level, should we look at it at different age groups. Look at liability and risk and look at what we are willing to put our kids through, need to keep in mind kids' best interest. When do we let go of the season?</li> <li>• <b>P.J.</b> - what was the player lost from our previous email about the season (15% loss) even across the board. We still have enough to make a season work for most age groups.</li> <li>• <b>Susan</b> - gave a run down of the number of player left and the number of teams.</li> <li>• <b>GROUP</b> - Talked about lead time to get the season going, coaches will be an issue with the increased responsibility. Need a couple weeks lead time to administer and figure out how we can accommodate the rules.</li> <li>• <b>Sue</b> – note that this is for kids to have fun, do the restrictions change this.</li> <li>• <b>Ryan</b> – update on OASA meeting, (PWSA to affiliate May 31<sup>st</sup>, may step back from this, and want to confirm on host locations) OASA to follow suit by mid June, and potential hosts.</li> <li>• <b>Jason</b> – Noted should we open batting cages? Group noted this may be a concern, could contact Township. Ryan will ask Township.</li> <li>• <b>Todd</b> - noted that the reason for Grand Valley cancelling was liability, as they are not Incorporated.</li> </ul>	
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	- Feedback in red added to points and sent PWSA	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Provide feedback to PWSA	Mike	ASAP

TIME: 8:11

**UMPIRES**

[MIKE]

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	- Dispute between Softball Ontario and umpires regarding insurance
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	- UIC's sent an email to all umpires to not register this year or request a refund.

<b>APPROXIMATE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</b>	16
<b>RESOURCES</b>	Agenda
<b>SPECIAL NOTES</b>	
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE:</b>	June 2nd, 2020
<b>MOTION TO ADJOURN:</b>	Kevin
<b>SECOND</b>	Ryan
<b>CARRIED</b>	8:18 PM